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guardians of drinking water quality

24 August 2001

Information Letter 13/2001

To: Board Level Contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales

Dear Sir/Madam

WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2001 (SI 2001/2885)

1. I enclose a copy of the Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/2885) which were made by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) on 8 August 2001, laid before Parliament on 15 August 2001and will come into force on 5 September 2001.

2. The main purpose of these Amendment Regulations is to correct errors in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (SI 2000/3184) (the 2000 Regulations) which were laid before Parliament on 8 December 2000.

3. In the interests of clarity, DEFRA has also taken the opportunity to make some minor technical or other drafting amendments to the 2000 Regulations.

4. All the amendments are described in the Explanatory Note. Water companies may wish to note particularly the following:

   i) the revised definition of precision and trueness in Regulation 16(6)(b) (see 5);

   ii) the revised wording of Regulation 35(5)(e)and (f), 35(6)(e) and (f) and 35(7)(e) and (f) which means that water companies no longer have to include in their reports to local authorities the minimum, mean and maximum concentrations for coliform bacteria, E coli, enterococci and Clostridium perfringens (including spores) (see 9);

   iii) the inclusion of the hydrogen ion parameter in Schedule 2 (see 11);

iv) the inclusion of colony counts in Schedule 3 Table 1(see 12);

v) the inclusion of tetrachloromethane* in Schedule 3 Table 2 (see 13); and

vi) new note (iia) referring to item 16 nitrite in Schedule 3 Table 3 (see 14).

5. The Statutory Instrument may be viewed on the Stationary Office website in the usual way, by selecting the relevant heading (S.I. Numbers 2800 - 2899) on the page for Statutory Instruments made during 2001: see page http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/stat.htm#2001.

6. It may also be viewed, together with all the key Instruments relating to the European Directive and domestic regulatory standards of public and private water supplies, and monitoring, on the Inspectorate's website at page http://www.dwi.gov.uk/regs/index.htm (under the heading "Publications", and sub-heading "Regulations").

7. Enquiries on this letter should be addressed to David Drury (020 7944 5976) or Peter Jiggins (020 7944 5978).

8. Copies of this letter are being sent to Rupert Kruger, Environmental Scientific Advisor, Water UK; Rodney Anderson, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions; Bob Macey, Environment Division, The National Assembly for Wales; Tim Hooton, Water Services Unit, Scottish Executive; Randal Scott, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Bill Emery, Director of Costs & Performance and Chief Engineer, Office of Water Services; and Ailsa Wight, Unit Head (PH6.2), Department of Health.

9. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter using the attached slip and reply paid envelope.

Yours faithfully

M J Rouse
Chief Inspector