

## **Annex A: Explanatory notes on the scope and form of Distribution Operation and Maintenance Strategies**

### **CONTENTS**

1. Introduction
2. Background
3. Risk
4. Physical integrity and operability
5. Towards a more integrated approach
6. Scope
7. Main components of a Distribution Operation and Maintenance Strategy
8. Pro-active investigation and planned maintenance
  - 8.1 The approach
  - 8.2 The need for periodic system-wide appraisal
  - 8.3 Overall rates of activity
  - 8.3 Defining an approach
9. Monitoring and responsive maintenance
10. Control of operational activities
  - 10.1 Precautionary procedures related to risk
  - 10.2 Procedures where risk is assessed for individual actions
  - 10.3 Routine procedures that allow for generic assessment of risk
11. Regular inspection and maintenance
12. Cyclic review of the DOMS and its components
13. Application
14. Development of DOMS
15. Section 19 Undertakings and DOMS

APPENDIX I : Topics that may have an effect on water quality in distribution

## **1. Introduction**

DWI expects all water companies to develop and put into practice strategies for the operation and maintenance of their distribution systems to safeguard the quality of water reaching the consumer (Distribution Operation and Maintenance Strategies, DOMS). The purpose of this Annex is to form the basis for dialogue with water companies during the development of their DOMS.

## **2. Background**

Twelve years ago, many water companies were in the position where substantial parts of their distribution systems were in poor condition, leading to obvious water quality problems. Since then, the backlog of renovation work has been reduced and water companies are gradually moving to a position where needs are less obvious. This is undoubtedly a benefit, but it brings with it a technical challenge. In many systems, the emphasis now needs to be on ensuring that sufficient maintenance and rehabilitation is carried out to prevent future deterioration in water quality, and on managing the operation of the system so as to reduce the risk of episodes of unsatisfactory water quality, particularly those which are short-term intermittent problems for consumers. The Section 19 distribution Undertakings involved determining the need for renovation work to solve current problems: this stretched the capabilities of the available methods of measurement. Development of the DOMS will require further improvements in information, understanding and delivery, because they will need to be forward-looking. Also, they will involve integrating many aspects of the management of distribution systems: short-term, medium-term and long-term considerations, and all activities and practices that may affect any aspect of water quality.

## **3. Risk**

In a situation where the problems being addressed are anticipated problems or potential problems, common sense and efficiency require that action is directed to the problems which are mostly likely to occur and/or have the most serious consequences, i.e. a 'risk-based approach'. DWI expects some form of risk analysis or assessment to be used to inform the approaches adopted. The term risk assessment is applied to approaches that range from an informal consideration of the possible consequences of an action, through to a numerical discipline involving the quantification of the probabilities and consequences of the risks associated with various alternatives. For some of the minor operational decisions, the former may be adequate; for strategic decisions and forecasts, the latter would be desirable, particularly when determining such matters as the medium-term or long-term rate of renewal activity. This is discussed further in later sections.

## **4. Physical integrity and operability**

The physical integrity of the distribution system and the operability of its components can have an effect on water quality. In a system where water is treated to a high standard and monitored intensively at the treatment works, occurrences such as mains bursts, pressure losses, flow reversals, inability to operate valves and the like may represent an appreciable part of the risk of contaminated water reaching the consumer. Bursts and other physical failures pose a risk of microbiological contamination that is poorly quantified. Thus there is an argument for maintaining a robust distribution system for water quality reasons, and for taking action to reduce the effect of physical failures on water quality. DWI would like to see the risks to water quality posed by the physical unreliability of the distribution system addressed in DOMS. Specifically, DWI would encourage water companies to develop methods for appraising and minimising the risk of contamination posed by bursts and their repair.

## **5. Towards a more integrated approach**

In developing a strategy that addresses both operation and maintenance, it is acknowledged, not just that both may affect water quality, and a potential problem may be addressed by either or both, but also that there is a balance to be struck between them, and the balance between activities may vary between water companies and according to local circumstances. For example, as loose deposits are removed and pipe condition improved, there is likely to be a smaller risk of causing discoloured water by low level changes to the network such as rezoning. This may enable operational procedures to be more flexible as the system becomes more robust.

The large programmes of work for the S19 distribution Undertakings were (and for several water companies still are) a response to what should be a relatively unusual circumstance: a large backlog of substantive maintenance work, principally affecting water quality. They were dealt with in what perhaps should be an unusual way, as programmes isolated from other aspects of service and serviceability. Water companies should now be moving towards a more normal circumstance, that of maintaining the performance and reliability of a system that is already in reasonable condition, taking all aspects of service and serviceability into account. DWI expects funding arrangements to a more integrated approach to providing effective and appropriate solutions.

Integration of DOMS into the PR04 process, and into operation and maintenance practice, also implies internal integration within water companies when dealing with strategic asset management to safeguard water quality. For example, risk studies may best be carried out by multi-disciplinary teams, co-ordinated centrally to achieve a consistent, objective and transparent approach. The impact on water quality should be seen as part of the overall process, which will also include consideration of loss of supply, low pressure, health and safety etc. Best practice in this area is evolving, but there are a number of documented recent case studies, which water companies are encouraged to emulate (e.g. the 'Common Framework'<sup>3</sup>, Volume 4, and Risk Assessment for Environmental Professionals, CIWEM, 2001). The forthcoming Capital Maintenance Planning Good Practice Manual from UKWIR will also be a helpful guide.

## 6. Scope

The remit of DWI is restricted to water quality. For practical reasons, DWI will presently restrict its attention to strategies concerning the distribution system. Thus, the scope of the strategies envisaged includes actions taken in the distribution system which may affect water quality, either for better or worse, and aspects of water quality affected by the condition or operation of the distribution system. It includes all elements of the supply system downstream of treatment works, including trunk mains, service reservoirs and tanks, pumping within distribution, and the small diameter reticulation. Relevant water quality considerations comprise microbiological quality (including indicator organisms, pathogens, disinfectant decay and growth of biofilms), discoloured water (including iron, manganese and turbidity), taste and odour, pH, leachates from or through materials used in the distribution system (including benzo-3,4-pyrene) and infestations by small animals. The water quality aspects of structural integrity should be included, such as the potential for contamination from mains bursts, and the water quality implications of activities for other purposes, such as leakage control.

There are a few water quality problems where the symptoms may appear in distribution, but cause and solution both lie elsewhere, e.g. THM formation. These would not be included in the scope of the DOMS. The presence of lead at consumers' taps will be dealt with by means of separate strategies, but there may be some interaction between the two strategies, e.g. the possible effect of orthophosphate dosing on the behaviour of iron in the distribution system and on the formation of biofilms.

Inevitably, consideration of many aspects of water quality can only be carried out effectively if these boundaries are crossed; for example when investigating taste and odour problems, one may need to consider all possible causes from raw water to consumers' installations. The implication of the scope defined above is that the treatment works is assumed to supply water of defined characteristics to the distribution system. If water companies develop strategies that cover the operation and maintenance of treatment works, either integrated with the DOMS or as a separate entity, DWI would not presently wish to comment on those aspects not covered by the scope as defined above. Also, water companies may find it convenient or efficient to combine actions considered here with work done for other reasons. For example, they may conduct Distribution Zone Studies into all aspects of service, and to integrate remedial action for water quality and other reasons. DWI would encourage such synergies, but will confine its attention to water quality aspects.

## 7. Main components of a Distribution Operation and Maintenance Strategy

DWI considers that an effective approach is likely to comprise all of the following main components:

- pro-active investigations of water quality within a supply system leading to, *inter alia*, programmes of planned maintenance work where necessary,

- monitoring of actual or impending water quality problems at a local level leading to timely responsive maintenance (say within the current year),
- control of operational activities
  - risk assessment preceding individual actions, and
  - standard procedures where risks do not vary appreciably,
- regular inspection and maintenance related to risks to water quality, and
- cyclic review of the DOMS and its components.

These are discussed in the following sections.

## **8. Pro-active investigation and planned maintenance**

### 8.1 The approach

DWI assumes a need for water companies to have in place a programme of strategic investigations of water quality leading to programmes of planned maintenance work where necessary. Each investigation would probably cover a fairly extensive area (a WSZ or similar), and should have a medium-term horizon (say 5 – 7 years). The work that results from these investigations would depend on their findings: modifications to treatment may be called for, as well as improvements to distribution. Specifically, it is expected that it may include programmes of mains renovation work. The intention should be that, taken together, these investigations and the consequent work result in the safeguarding of water quality into the medium or long term in a robust distribution system.

In principle, the approach DWI would wish to see adopted would comprise

- identification of the risks to water quality (including burst mains and ingress due to pressure changes)
- determining the levels of risk for the various aspects of poor water quality which the water company is prepared to carry,
- investigating the performance and characteristics of the network,
- forecasting future performance, and
- identifying a level of pro-active maintenance that is consistent with economically preventing actual risks from exceeding acceptable levels in the long term.

In the medium term (say within 5 years), DWI expects approaches to be consistent with the type of risk based approach described in “Capital Maintenance Planning: A Common Framework” (UKWIR). However, in practice the appropriateness of serviceability indicators, current forecasting techniques and the availability of suitable data are likely to constrain the full and proper use of the ‘Common Framework’ approach. There is an urgent need for development of effective methods and collection of suitable data.

Meanwhile, for many aspects of water quality, an interim approach is likely to be mainly based on asset performance data and indicators of serviceability, with judgements being made by water companies about the likelihood of episodes of poor water quality up to a medium-term planning horizon (say 5 – 7 years). (Long-term predictions are likely to be poor, so long horizons are likely to be ineffective or wasteful.) These judgements may be informed by comparisons with similar situations. DWI would encourage integration with other aspects of performance –

leakage, hydraulic performance, reliability of supply etc. DWI expects the approach developed to be compatible with the views of Ofwat expressed in the letter to managing directors, MD161, which requires water companies to take account of risk in determining an economic level of capital maintenance activity. DWI expects water companies to use DOMS as an integral part of the 'Common Framework' approach to take account of historic data on service performance, and to take a forward look by considering the risk of failure to meet requirements to justify appropriate and economic maintenance activity as part of submissions for Periodic Review 2004.

## 8.2 The need for periodic system-wide appraisal

Some approaches to maintenance concentrate on the characteristics of individual assets. Interventions (inspection, testing and/or maintenance) are scheduled on a periodic basis, depending on such characteristics as rates of deterioration and rates of increase in the likelihood of failure. The asset is considered largely in isolation from other components of the system of which it is a part, and large numbers of such assets can be programmed for attention as a more or less continual stream of jobs. Such an approach is appropriate where the asset can be regarded as failing discretely (see Section 11).

However, important aspects of the performance of distribution systems are the result of the contribution of many components of the system, and there are alternative ways of maintaining or restoring satisfactory performance. Most obviously, discoloured water at the consumer's tap can arise as a result of the interaction between the water entering the system from the treatment works and the pipework and other components of the distribution system. Characteristics contributing to the quality of water supplied include changes in the quality of the treated water, the condition and degree of deterioration of a very large number of pipelines and many aspects of the operation of the distribution system. Deterioration is usually gradual and its effects cumulative. Thus, to speak of the failure of a component of the system and a need for its maintenance is only meaningful in a particular context. Understanding that context is not straightforward, and attempting to do so separately for individual components is likely to lead to a mechanistic and over simplistic approach.

Following from this, DWI sees a need for periodic investigation and appraisal on a system-by-system basis, in which aspects of the operation, performance, specification, condition, age and deterioration of assets can be considered in context, and an attempt made to understand the functioning of the system. It is in the context of the functioning of the system that the serviceability of assets can be meaningfully assessed. What would constitute 'the system' may vary with the complexity of supply arrangements. Generally, the area should be large enough to allow real thought to be applied efficiently to processes of deterioration, causes of impending problems and potential solutions. In the simple situation where a single treatment works serves a distribution system of moderate size, these could conveniently comprise 'the system'. Multiple sources or very large areas served may call for a different approach.

### 8.3 Overall rates of activity

While the need for work and its nature are best identified by periodic zonal investigations, DWI expects water companies to aggregate the results of these local findings and decisions to provide information on rates of activity across the whole water company area and across broad categories of asset, such as an annual rate of renewal of pipework. The long-term implications of these rates should be considered.

### 8.4 Defining an approach

DWI does not wish to prescribe in detail the approach to be adopted, for example, different water companies may find it beneficial to investigate different geographic areas or different combinations of aspects of water quality, but DWI expects to see water companies' approaches defined broadly in the following ways.

- The definition of areas to be monitored and areas to be investigated. These may be different. It may be sensible to investigate at one time the processes of deterioration in a relatively large area with a common water source. However, the objective of the DOMS should be, not merely to keep average water quality in any large area acceptable but, as far as is practicable, to prevent individual consumers receiving unsatisfactory water. Thus, areas for monitoring performance may need to be smaller.
- A programme of monitoring of performance and condition, including regular sampling, assessment of compliance with standards and water company internal criteria, consumer complaints, incidents and events and "serviceability indicators".
- A trigger for detailed investigation of an area. This could be the exceedence of internal operating criteria, a fixed programme, or a combination of the two. Thus it may include methods of monitoring system performance and condition, a periodic structured review of several kinds of data, and a mechanism for ranking areas for detailed investigation.
- The scope of investigations with respect to aspects of water quality and other aspects of service included. A system approach from input to the distribution system to consumer's tap is favoured (see 8.2 above), including quantification of performance and consideration of causes such as output from treatment works, corrosivity, particulates etc.
- A suite of methods or approaches for detailed investigation, including
  - ascertaining the significant processes of deterioration and causes of problems,
  - assessing the risk of future water quality problems on the basis of current information,
  - assessing current and projected performance with respect to relevant water quality parameters against internally defined criteria.
- Appraisal of suitable preventive actions, including capital and operational solutions, taking account of whole life costs, and demonstrating the need for any actions proposed. The actions may include any of the following:
  - programmes of 'capital' maintenance work,
  - programmes of 'operational' maintenance activity,
  - reconsideration of requirements for treated water quality, or
  - reconsideration of operational procedures.

- A system for ranking actions, giving priority to protection of public health and drinking water quality requirements.
- An appraisal and feedback mechanism to give evidence that programmes of work and operational changes have been successful, and to provide data for subsequent review of the effectiveness of the process.
- A mechanism for providing assurance that sufficient is being done to safeguard water quality into the medium or long term. This will involve comparing rates of deterioration with levels of activity. It will be necessary to develop methods for this purpose, and to arrange for the relevant data to be collected (but see Section 14).

## **9. Monitoring and responsive maintenance**

Successful application of pro-active investigation and maintenance described in Section 8 above should mean that the incidence of actual problems is low, but it would be unrealistic to expect it to be zero. Thus, there is also likely to be a need for timely reaction to actual or impending water quality problems. This would entail arrangements for monitoring quality related parameters, and for responsive maintenance and correction of faults, for example where an internal operating criterion or water quality standard is exceeded, or complaints about water quality are made. These actions are, in general, likely to be more local and/or more short-term (mostly within the current year, and certainly within the 5 year cycle) than those resulting from the strategic, pro-active investigations described in Section 8 above. DWI expects to see water companies' approaches defined in the following ways.

- Arrangements for suitable monitoring and frequent reviews of data or other means of quickly flagging problems.
- The definition of triggers for identifying water quality as being unsatisfactory, including internal operating criteria and levels of consumer complaints, as well as water quality standards.
- Methods of investigation appropriate to the scale of the identified problem.
- A means of determining whether a 'strategic' investigation is required.
- A system for assigning priority to remedial action.
- A feedback mechanism to give evidence that the work was successful, and to provide data for subsequent review.

## **10. Control of operational activities**

### 10.1 Precautionary procedures related to risk

A very large number of activities can have a deliberate or unintended effect on water quality in the distribution system. DWI expects water companies to review the water quality implications of these activities, to identify and assess the risks to water quality involved, and to have procedures in place to mitigate the significant risks. The approach adopted should be consistent with the risks and with the serviceability of the system: a fragile system requires sensitive operation whereas a robust system may allow more flexible operation.

Where the risks may vary appreciably between instances of the same type of action, it is helpful to assess the risks associated with individual actions (Section 10.2). For example, where boundary valves are to be opened, the likelihood of a discoloured water event will vary markedly depending on the disposition of the mains concerned, the flows they normally carry and the flows they are expected to carry after the valve is opened. On the other hand, where the risks associated with individual actions do not vary appreciably between instances of the same type of action, or it is unrealistic to attempt to assess them individually, it would be appropriate to apply standard routine procedures (Section 10.3). In effect, the risk assessment is applied generically, and the routine procedure is developed to take account of its results. For example, except in extreme cases, it would be unrealistic to attempt to assess the risk of microbiological contamination while repairing individual local distribution mains (as distinct from subsequent microbiological testing). A routine procedure for cleanliness and disinfection should be applied; failure to do so for any reason should be an internally reportable occurrence.

## 10.2 Procedures where risk is assessed for individual actions

The term risk assessment is applied to approaches that range from an informal consideration of the possible consequences of an action, through to a numerical discipline involving the quantification of the probabilities and consequences of the risks associated with various alternatives. In the context of the operation of distribution systems, there is probably most scope for strengthening these assessments by incorporating hydraulic calculations. These provide such information as whether velocities in a particular main are likely to be high enough to re-suspend deposits, and the geographic spread of effects.

DWI expects to see a requirement for risk assessment to precede a range of operational activities. DWI also expects to see a graded approach, the rigour of the assessment varying with the scale of potential consequences. For example,

- for the opening of a small diameter boundary valve, a 'tick box' approach might be suitable,
- for bringing a previously isolated main back into use, a method statement might be suitable, and
- for the introduction of new source to an area, one might expect to see a documented comparison of alternatives with supporting data, and a detailed execution plan including provision for contingencies.

Procedures should provide for escalation as the apparent risk of an operation increases, allowing more data, more rigorous calculation, more expertise, and/or more senior decision makers to be called on.

For a number of activities, a combination of risk assessment and routine operational procedure (see 10.3 below) may be appropriate.

DWI expects water company procedures on these risk assessments to include

- the categories of work that should be subject to them,
- a graded approach
- a mechanism for escalation

- methodologies appropriate to different types and scales of work, including data to be considered, guidance on appropriate calculations or software to use,
- precautions to consider to mitigate consequences in various circumstances,
- reference to further sources of information or advice,
- assessment of alternatives and preparation of execution plans for high risk, large scale or high level activities, and
- a feedback mechanism to help in refining the process for the future.

### 10.3 Routine procedures which allow for generic assessment of risk

DWI expects water company arrangements for these routine operational activities to specify

- the categories of work that should be subject to them,
- the underlying findings and assumptions concerning risks to water quality,
- a written procedure or task instruction for each type of task, including any precautions to take in various circumstances for water quality reasons, and
- a feedback mechanism to help in refining the task definition for the future.

For the DOMS, it would be sufficient to refer to the relevant written procedures or task instructions, together with a brief description of the risks identified and the key features of the procedure to counter them.

## **11.Regular inspection and maintenance**

These are recurrent activities scheduled on the calendar. Often, they are likely to be small jobs carried out on parts of the system most easily dealt with in isolation, and are appropriate where the asset can be regarded as failing discretely. For example, it may be appropriate to test the operability and marking of sluice valves at a fixed interval, carrying out any repairs as needed. Some water companies also expect to carry out a more substantial proportion of their maintenance activity by means of regular programmes of cleaning, tailored to the needs of individual areas. DWI expects the choice of this approach for a particular task, and the frequencies adopted, to be related to the likelihood and consequence of risks to water quality.

DWI expects water company procedures on these regular tasks to include

- the categories of work that should be subject to them,
- the underlying findings and assumptions concerning risks to water quality,
- the frequency for each task,
- a written procedure or task instruction for each type of task, including any precautions to take in various circumstances for water quality reasons, and
- a feedback mechanism to help in refining the task definition and frequency for the future.

For the routine precautionary tasks such as valve testing, it would be sufficient to refer in the DOMS to the relevant written procedures or task instructions, together with very brief description of key features. Where a substantial proportion of the cleaning is scheduled, the means by which programmes and frequencies are derived should be outlined in the DOMS.

## 12. Cyclic review of the DOMS and its components

The DOMS should be subject to review on a periodic basis. It is recognised that some parts of the DOMS may be new and will need proving in practice, and all parts should be subject to change as circumstances change or methods improve.

- Review of the DOMS may identify gaps requiring new or modified procedures.
- Changes in other water company policies and practices may have an effect on the DOMS.
- The collection of data on the functioning and effectiveness of individual procedures will allow their modification or refinement as necessary.
- Review of data on the overall performance of the network may prompt a change of approach. For example, the water company may reconsider whether mains cleaning should be mainly responsive, a scheduled activity, or both.
- The balance between activities may change. For example, as loose deposits are removed and pipe condition improved, there is likely to be a lower risk of causing discoloured water by low level changes to the network such as rezoning. This may allow operational procedures to be relaxed as the system becomes more robust.

## 13. Application

There is no definitive list of the activities that should be dealt with in each of the above ways, and, while there may be much common ground between water companies, there may be quite valid alternative ways of tackling the same topic. For example, one water company may decide, given its water types and other circumstances, to opt for regular cleaning of service reservoirs, say every five years. Another water company may opt for regular remote inspection and measurement of sediment, say every three years, and to determine the need for cleaning on the basis of the results.

A list of topics to consider is given in Appendix I as an *aide mémoire*. This is neither a definitive requirement, nor a complete list of the topics that should be considered. However, DWI expects water companies to address most of them, mainly by means of prescribed procedures as described in Section 10. Water companies are likely already to have practices in place for most of these topics, although it would be beneficial to review their effectiveness in maintaining water quality from time to time.

## 14. Development of DOMS

The DOMS touch on many aspects of a water company's organisation and activities. DWI recognises that they will take time to develop and implement, and that they will continue to evolve. In early versions, DWI expects to see evidence that the water company is addressing all of the issues outlined above. However, DWI acknowledges that there may be gaps in detail; DWI encourages water companies not to wait until all elements are in place, but to discuss with it early working versions, and to implement those parts they consider viable. In particular, water companies may not yet have developed methods or have available data to

determine whether levels of activity are sufficient for the long term. However, DWI expects the issue to be addressed now in order that a process may be put into place and data collected so that improved assessments may be made in the medium term.

## **15. Section 19 Undertakings and DOMS**

Several water companies have Section 19 distribution system Undertakings covering defined Water Supply Zones. These Undertakings are to carry out renovation of pipework using Pre- and Post-Renovation Assessment methodologies. There is likely to be considerable overlap between the scope of these Undertakings and the pro-active investigation and maintenance described in Section 8. It could be argued that the risk of poor water quality is higher in those zones still within the Section 19 Undertaking, so that there is a greater need there for the precautionary measures described in Section 10. Accordingly, it would be appropriate to apply attention under Section 8 to Water Supply Zones *not* subject to a Section 19 Undertaking, and to apply attention under Sections 9 to 12 to all Water Supply Zones.

**Attachment:** APPENDIX I : Topics that may have an effect on water quality in distribution

## APPENDIX I : Topics that may have an effect on water quality in distribution

Abnormal finished water quality

Access to distribution system by water company personnel and water company contractors

Access to distribution system by external users e.g. local authority, fire service, contractors

Alternative supplies – prepared plans for programmed work (e.g. service reservoir maintenance) and unprogrammed events (e.g. major bursts)

Animals - monitoring populations in distribution system

Animals – controlling infestations

Animals – restricting growth in populations in distribution system

Asset records

Asset condition data – collection and availability

Biofilm formation

Bowser filling

Burst mains – isolation

Burst mains – repair and disinfection

Burst mains – recharging and reconnection

Change in supply arrangements – high level e.g. change in source or treatment

Change in supply arrangements – permanent

Change in supply arrangements – temporary

Cleaning of mains- systematic unidirectional flushing

Cleaning of mains- swabbing

Cleaning of mains- air scouring

Deposition / resuspension propensity in mains

Design standards for new assets

Design of system - access points for cleaning e.g. swab insertion

Design of system – ‘age’ of water

Design of system – bypasses on control valves etc. needing maintenance

Design of system – minimise dead ends

Design of system – incorporate washouts at zone boundaries

Disinfectant residues – acceptable values

Disinfection - secondary dosing of disinfectant in distribution

Disinfection of new mains, rehabilitated mains and repaired mains

Disinfection and installation of fittings

Disinfection of large diameter mains

Execution plans – for high-risk activities

Future demands and changes

Finished water specification – particulates, corrosivity, AOC or TOC

Fire fighting, fire brigade flow tests

Fluctuation in demand – design to avoid tidal flow in reticulation

Hydrants and standpipes - operation

Hydrants - maintenance

Hygiene code

Incidents and events - management

Integration of supply systems

Intermittent pumping regimes

Leakage control operations - formation of metered districts

Leakage control operations – step tests and waste metering  
Leakage control operations – zero pressure testing  
Leakage control operations - pressure reduction schemes  
Mains – inspection of sensitive and/or trunk mains  
Materials – policy for use of materials to avoid leachates or migration, including  
    Regulation 25 and Water Fitting Regulations  
Mixing of different supplies  
New or refurbished mains, fittings, meters, etc., installation and commissioning  
Power failures  
Pressure reduction  
Pumping regimes  
Pumping stations - operation  
Rezoning  
Recharging of mains  
Recommissioning of mains that have been out of service  
Rehabilitation of mains – methods  
Rehabilitation of mains – execution  
Restricted Area working, Restricted Operation working  
Reviews of water quality data  
Rezoning  
Sampling programmes  
Sensitive consumers  
Sensitive mains  
Sequestrants (silicates, polyphosphates) – dosing for control of discoloured water  
Service reservoirs and tanks – design, including existing reservoirs  
Service reservoirs and tanks – external inspection, maintaining vents, overflows and  
    access covers  
Service reservoirs and tanks – isolation and providing alternative supplies  
Service reservoirs and tanks – internal inspection and integrity testing  
Service reservoirs and tanks - cleaning, disinfection and maintaining structure  
Service reservoirs and tanks - operation (throughput, diurnal variation in levels etc.)  
Trunk mains – surface inspection, testing operability of valves etc.  
Trunk mains – internal condition  
Trunk mains - operation  
Trunk mains - reliability  
Unusual demands  
Valves – inspection and maintenance of sluice valves  
Valves – operation of sluice valves  
Valves – inspection and maintenance of air valves  
Valves – inspection, maintenance and operation of control valves (PRVs, PSVs,  
    NRVs)  
Valves – register of critical valves and their status  
Valves – recording status  
Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations- enforcement