



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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DWI Information Letter 9/2003

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

Dear Sir or Madam

AUTHORISED AND AUTOMATIC SUPPLY POINT AUTHORISATIONS

Purpose

1. I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for submission of applications for supply point authorisations under the provisions of regulation 8 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 which apply to water companies whose areas of supply are wholly or mainly in England and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2001 which apply to water companies whose areas of supply are wholly or mainly in Wales (the new Regulations).

Background

2. The new Regulations come into force fully on 1 January 2004 and require water companies to conduct sampling at water treatment works, service reservoirs and sampling points (consumers' taps). They also permit, under certain conditions, sampling from supply points in place of sampling from consumers' taps. Water companies must be sure that all water supply zones are sampled for all parameters whether at supply point or customers taps.

Automatic supply point authorisations under Regulation 8(1)

3. Regulation 8(1) allows water companies to take samples for certain parameters from any appropriate supply point in place of samples from consumers' taps. Clearly the supply point must reasonably reflect the quality of water in the water supply zone and must meet the requirements of the Regulations. The Regulations specify these supply points as:

- a) any blending point;
 - b) the water leaving any service reservoir which receives water from a treatment works before its supply to any consumer; and
 - c) the water leaving any treatment works.
4. The parameters for which Regulation 8(1) is applicable are listed in Annex 1 of this letter. Subsequent to the Regulations the Inspectorate has issued Guidance that removes the nitrite parameter from the regulatory list.
 5. Water companies should decide at the beginning of each year if they wish to adopt automatic supply point monitoring for specified parameters. Once this decision has been made, supply point monitoring for those parameters must remain in place for the whole of that calendar year. This is to facilitate the necessary frequency checks on the compliance data.

Authorised supply point authorisations under Regulation 8(2)

6. For parameters other than those specified in regulation 8(1), water companies must apply for supply point authorisations under Regulation 8(2). Applications should be made to the Secretary of State or National Assembly for Wales as appropriate but in practice this will be the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). An application form for supply point authorisations is given in Annex 4 of this letter. A separate application must be completed for each water supply point. Water companies are encouraged to submit their applications electronically to peter.marsden@defra.gsi.gov.uk but postal applications will also be accepted (Peter Marsden, Drinking Water Inspectorate, 2/E1 Ashdown House, 123 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6DE).
7. The parameters for which it is unlikely that supply points authorisations will be granted and the reasons for this decision are given in Annex 2 to this letter.
8. Parameters for which supply point authorisations are likely to be granted are listed in Annex 3 to this letter. For these parameters water companies may also apply to use fixed sample taps fitted directly to principal distribution mains. Applications for the use of such sampling points should be included on the form in Annex 4 to this letter.
9. Applications for authorisations should be submitted to DWI by 30 September 2003. The information provided with the application should include details of the parameters to be monitored, the supply point to be used, the zones supplied and a reasoned justification of why the data produced is unlikely to differ in any material respect from data obtained at consumers' taps. Such justification will necessarily include pertinent details of the supply arrangements and past analytical data.
10. Once authorised, a water company must remain on supply point monitoring for the whole of the calendar year unless the authorisation is revoked under the terms of Regulation 8(4) to 8(6). Water companies do

not need to re-apply each year if they wish to continue with authorised supply point monitoring unless they intend to discontinue use of an authorised supply point for any parameters. In such cases water companies should notify DWI by 30 September in the year prior to the change taking effect. If DWI considers that any authorisation should be revoked it will normally notify the water company by the same date in respect of monitoring in the subsequent year unless immediate modification or revocation is necessary in the interests of public health.

11. Any references made to water supply zones as part of the application must be references to the water supply zones designated for the year 2004. Equally, any references to supply points must refer to the name and references to be used in the 2004 monitoring programme. Any changes to water supply zone designations for subsequent years which will affect supply point authorisations should be notified to the Inspectorate by 30 September of the year prior to the year the change takes effect.

Existing supply point authorisations

12. Existing supply point authorisations under Regulation 12 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 1989 will not be valid after 31 December 2003 since the 1989 Regulations will have been revoked. If the Company wishes to continue use of supply point monitoring and the parameter is not one that is covered by the provisions of Regulation 8(1) then it will have to apply for an authorisation under Regulation 8(2) as set out above.

Enquiries

13. Any general enquiries on this letter, or informal enquiries about applications for authorisation and formal applications should be addressed to Pete Marsden (020 7944 5975).
14. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Rodney Anderson, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Bob Macey, Environment Division, The National Assembly for Wales; Tim Hooton, Water Services Unit, Scottish Executive; Randal Scott, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; and Rowena Tye, Office of Water Services.
15. This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwienquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent. This letter may be freely copied.

Yours sincerely



Professor Jeni Colbourne
Chief Inspector

Annex 1
Annex 2
Annex 3
Annex 4