



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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Information Letter 04/08

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales

Dear Sir/Madam

REGULATION 31

1. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the new arrangements for making water companies aware of the Secretary of State's List of Approved Products.

Background

2. Historically the Inspectorate published in hardcopy the Secretary of State's List of Approved Products. Water companies require this information to enable them to comply with Regulation 31 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (England) 2001 (Wales). The annual list has been the official source of information about approvals that have been granted or refused, approvals that have been revoked or modified, and details of any Prohibition Notices issued every year.

Following dialogue with users of the list during 2007 the Inspectorate ceased issuing unconsolidated updates to the list and instead moved to updating the list published on the DWI website, as required. The current list is available on the website - <http://www.dwi.gov.uk/31/approvedproducts/soslist.shtm>.

A printed hardcopy version of the list is no longer available from the Inspectorate, but, of course, users are able to download and print a copy of the list published on the website. When taking this action it is important for users to regularly check the website to ensure that their working hardcopy of the list in use is the most up-to-date version.

Recent Changes to the List

3. The title of the annual list has now been altered to “List of Approved Products” to better reflect its purpose which is to detail those products approved under Regulation 31. In addition the following changes have been introduced;
 - there is no longer an annual report on the activities of the Committee on Products and Processes for use in Public Water Supply (CPP) because the Committee was disbanded with effect from 1st April 2007.
 - addition of section B.1.11 – pipes suitable for total immersion in water
 - removal of section B.2.4 – treatment chemicals (for emergency use) – this is now covered by Section A.6
 - change of title of section E.4 from “Other products used for physical treatment of water” to “Other products used for the treatment of water”
 - change the titles of Appendices to Annexes
 - Annex 1 – section 1.1 – change the title to “List of products refused approval”
 - addition to Annex 1 of a new section 1.8 “Additional products approved since December 2006” to highlight those products which have been approved in the preceding period and are consolidated into the main text of the list in 2008. Subsequently this Annex title will change to “Additional products approved in the last 12 months”
 - deletion of Appendix 3 “Contractors approved for in-situ application of polymeric coatings” – the approval and listing of these contractors is no longer a matter for the Inspectorate (it is handled by Water UK on behalf of the industry)
 - renaming of Appendix 4 as Annex 3 – this is now only a list of Manufacturers’ and suppliers’ addresses.

Proposed change to the listing of disinfectants

4. The Inspectorate is currently reviewing how Disinfectants for Emergency Use (Section A.6 of the list) are listed. This relates to problems that have arisen as a consequence of inappropriate use being made of the Regulation 31 approval of disinfectants and related products in the context of the maintenance of building water systems.

The Inspectorate is in dialogue with the Health Protection Agency with a view to ensuring that appropriate advice is available to local authorities and primary care trusts in relation to the discharge of their duties in respect of the maintenance of various types of public building water systems. We will

advise you further once this review is completed, but in the meantime your attention is drawn to the fact that the inclusion of any product in this section of the list only indicates that it must be used in accordance with the "Instructions for Use" and any "Conditions of Use", in order to meet the requirements of Regulation 31.

Any wider interpretation should not be inferred from a product listing and the Inspectorate would be grateful if water companies could ensure that any advice they give to customers, whether in domestic or non-domestic situations, about building water system maintenance emphasises that Regulation 31 approvals relate **only** to the safety of products when used by water companies in connection with their public water supply duties. It is important that water company staff know that Regulation 31 approvals do not give any indication as to the effectiveness or merits of a product in relation to any use within a building water system. Regrettably the Inspectorate is not in a position to control the way information about Regulation 31 approvals of products are used by other parties in the conduct of their business.

Feedback

5. The Inspectorate aims to present the list in a way which is useful to water company staff responsible for dealing with Regulation 31 compliance. Feedback from users on any aspect of the list is welcomed, especially ideas regarding how it can be improved. During 2008 we intend to add a feedback form to the area of our website where the list is published and we encourage your company to use this form to make us aware of your views.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Richard Wood, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Natalie Howes, Climate Change and Water Division, Welsh Assembly Government; Colin McLaren, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Randal Scott, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Rowena Tye for Office of Water Services; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Gary Coleman at the Health Protection Agency.

This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed directly to Joanna Hunt.

Yours faithfully



Joanna Hunt
Inspector