



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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6 October 2008

Information Letter 10/08

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

Dear Sir/Madam

GUIDANCE ON THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS 2000 (ENGLAND) & 2001 (WALES) incorporating the WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2007

Purpose

This letter is to inform you of the publication of the latest version (3rd Edition – October 2008) of the Inspectorate's Guidance document on the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (England) & 2001 (Wales).

Background

Following the enactment of the Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 some of the regulations have ceased to have effect (as they were transitional arrangements which have date expired), whilst others have been revoked and replaced with new regulations. However the majority remain in force unchanged or with minor changes. The Guidance document has been updated to take into account the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. The document is attached to this Information Letter and may be freely downloaded in PDF format from the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk).

In line with the Inspectorate's standard approach to development of guidance, the document has been produced in consultation with the regulated industry. The Inspectorate has sought and received comments on draft amendments to the document from the industry's national representative body (WaterUK); individual water companies and suppliers. In addition the Inspectorate has met with representatives of the industry to discuss specific sections of the document.

Using the Guidance

The third edition comes into effect from the date of this letter. As with previous versions it is intended as guidance and does not purport to offer any authoritative interpretation of the Regulations. It is recognised some of the advice contained within it will need to be modified or updated in light of experience gained with implementing the Amendment Regulations or as and when further guidance on interpretation of the Drinking Water Directive is published by the European Commission. The Guidance will be reviewed and updated on a rolling basis as and when the need arises. The master copy of the Guidance document has been placed on the Drinking Water Inspectorate website (www.dwi.gov.uk) and only that version will receive any periodic updates. Changes to the Guidance will be notified by e-mail.

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; Kevin Ridout, for Office of Water Services; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt 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 allocated Company Inspector or to myself.

Yours faithfully



Dr Jim Foster
Deputy Chief Inspector (Science & Strategy)