



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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Information Letter 01/2010

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

Dear Sir or Madam

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF ULTRAVIOLET (UV) IRRADIATION FOR THE DISINFECTION OF PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Purpose

1. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the publication of the guidance document entitled "*Guidance on the use of Ultraviolet (UV) irradiation for the Disinfection of Public Water Supplies*". The guidance document is enclosed with this letter and will be placed on the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk) in Adobe Acrobat® (pdf) format.

Background

2. The Inspectorate provides technical guidance to water suppliers (water undertakers and licensed suppliers) to assist in the fulfilment of their statutory obligations. The disinfection of public water supplies is a statutory requirement of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000/2001 (as amended). The regulations do not specify the method of disinfection to be employed in any particular circumstance. One method of disinfecting drinking water is through ultraviolet (UV) irradiation.
3. The design and operation of UV disinfection processes, and the impact of these on microbial pathogens differs from more commonly used processes that employ chemical inactivation such as chlorine. The document "*Guidance on the use of Ultraviolet (UV) irradiation for the Disinfection of Public Water Supplies*" provides guidance on issues that water suppliers should take into consideration in the design, operation and monitoring of UV disinfection systems. This guidance is applicable to both existing and new UV installations used for the disinfection of public drinking water supplies.
4. This guidance document will be revised and updated as appropriate. The current version will reside on the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk) and readers therefore advised to check the version number on any printed copy to ensure this is still current.

Enquiries

5. Any comments or enquiries about the current guidance document should be addressed to Dr Steven Lambert (Steven.Lambert@defra.gsi.gov.uk) or myself using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Circulation

6. This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.informationletters@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied.
7. 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; Olwen Minney, Water Management Team, Welsh Assembly Government; Colin McLaren, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Margaret Herron, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Noel Wheatley, for Office of Water Services; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at the Health Protection Agency

Yours faithfully



Dr Jim Foster
Deputy Chief Inspector (Science & Strategy)