



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Room M06, 55 Whitehall
London SW1A 2EY

Enquiries: 030 0068 6400
Facsimile: 030 0068 6401

E-mail: Jim.Foster@defra.gsi.gov.uk
DWI Website: <http://www.dwi.gov.uk>

24 May 2010

Information Letter 06/2010

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies, Water Companies and licensed water suppliers in England and Wales

Dear Sir/Madam

CONSULTATION ON UPDATE DWI GUIDANCE ON THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS

Purpose

1. This letter is to inform stakeholders of the publication of revised version of the Inspectorate's guidance on the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations. Attached to this letter is a consultation draft of the guidance document on which the Inspectorate is seeking comments. The arrangements for consultation are detailed below.

Background

2. In line with good regulatory practice the Inspectorate provides guidance on the interpretation of regulations to assist those responsible for their implementation. The current guidance document on the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations in England and Wales was published in October 2008 and is available on the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk).
3. The Inspectorate is committed to ensuring that its guidance documents are updated in the light of experience and in the event of significant changes. On 20 April 2010 new regulations came into force amending the current Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations. The guidance document has therefore been updated to reflect the amendments to these regulations. The Inspectorate has also taken the opportunity to revise contents of the existing document to reflect developments in knowledge and advice and guidance issued since October 2008. The key changes in the draft document are:

- Provision of guidance on the amendments made to the regulations following the coming into force of the Water Supply Regulations 2010 in England (Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 in Wales)
 - Further clarification on regulation 26 (disinfection and treatment), including the new requirement to minimise disinfection by-products and verify the effectiveness of disinfection;
 - Updated guidance on monitoring for radioactivity parameters and the actions to be taken in the event of a screening value being exceeded;
 - Re-formatting of the document to provide a structure that aligns more closely with that of the regulations.
4. The consultation draft relates to the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations as they apply to water undertakers and licensed suppliers operating wholly or mainly in England. The Inspectorate will prepare a separate final guidance document for the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 as they apply to undertakers and licensed suppliers operating wholly or mainly in Wales. The technical content of the two documents will be identical, however the referencing to regulation numbers and Ministers will differ slightly so as to reflect the regulations in country to which they apply. The guidance document for Wales will therefore be prepared once the wording of the attached consultation draft has been reviewed and finalised. The Inspectorate is seeking feedback from Welsh undertakers and licensed suppliers on the technical content of this document whilst accepting that the internal referencing of the final Welsh guidance document will differ in some places.

Consultation process

5. The attached consultation draft will be made available on the Inspectorate's website www.dwi.gov.uk from the date of this letter until the end of June 2010.
6. The Inspectorate welcomes comments from all stakeholders who are directly or indirectly involved in the implementation of the regulations, in particular water undertakers and licensed suppliers.
7. The Inspectorate has agreed with WaterUK that a dedicated task and finish group will collate comments from its members and then discuss these directly with the Inspectorate. Members may of course wish to provide separate comments in addition to the WaterUK response.
8. Comments on the draft guidance document should be sent direct to me using the contact details at the head of this letter by the **30 June 2010**. The Inspectorate will then aim to publish the final version of the updated guidance documents for both England and Wales in July 2010.

9. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Mike Walker, 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, Ofwat; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at the Health Protection Agency.
10. 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 me using the contact details above.

Yours faithfully



Dr Jim Foster
Deputy Chief Inspector (Science & Strategy)