



## DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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Information Letter 09/2010

**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

### **REVISED DWI GUIDANCE ON THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS**

#### **Purpose**

1. This letter is to inform you of the publication of revised guidance documents on implementation of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (as amended) in England and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 in Wales.

#### **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 previous guidance document on the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations in England and Wales was published in October 2008 and was made available on the Inspectorate's website ([www.dwi.gov.uk](http://www.dwi.gov.uk)).
3. On 20 April 2010 new regulations came into force amending the current Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations. The inspectorate's guidance 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 guidance has been informed by the various responses that the Inspectorate received from a consultation exercise conducted earlier this year. On this occasion separate documents have been prepared for England and Wales. Whilst the advice and guidance contained within these is identical, the documents themselves reflect the differences in numbering of the regulations between the two sets of national legislation.
5. Four documents form the annexes to this letter as follows:
- **Annex 1 – The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (as amended) unofficial consolidated version.** This is an unofficial document prepared by the Inspectorate for ease of reference purposes only and has no legal standing. The document incorporates the various legislative amendments that have been made to the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 since they were first enacted. Companies should refer to the original (and amending) Statutory Instruments as the definitive legal documents.
  - **Annex 2 – Guidance on the implementation of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (as amended) in England.** This is the Inspectorate’s primary guidance document on the drinking water quality legislation relating to water undertakers and licensed suppliers operating wholly or mainly in England.
  - **Annex 3 – the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 (Wales)**
  - **Annex 4 – Guidance on the implementation of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 in Wales.** This is the Inspectorate’s primary guidance document on the drinking water quality legislation relating to water undertakers and licensed suppliers operating wholly or mainly in Wales.

6. These guidance documents come into effect from the date of this letter. As with previous versions they are intended as guidance and do not purport to offer any authoritative interpretation of the Regulations. It is recognised that some of the advice contained within them will need to be modified or updated in light of experience, or if 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. Master copies of the Guidance documents have been placed on the Inspectorate's website ([www.dwi.gov.uk](http://www.dwi.gov.uk)) and only those versions will receive any periodic updates. Changes to the Guidance will be notified by e-mail.
7. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; John Bourne, 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.
8. 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](mailto: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)**