



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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Information Letter 04/2017

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Regulatory Sampling Programme

Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1787 updated Annexes II and III to Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption. Member States were required to transpose the requirements by 27 October 2017. The amendments are being transposed into The Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations (England) and The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Wales). We are writing to confirm that unfortunately the planned date for the introduction of these regulations will not now be met and we anticipate that both set of regulations will be laid in the first few months of 2018.

Revised Annex II no longer includes reduced sampling frequencies, but Water Companies and water supply licencees will be able to apply to DWI for monitoring variations. In order to be considered they will need to meet a number of criteria. Firstly, they must demonstrate that their risk assessments meet the requirements of EN 15975-2 (security of drinking water supply, guidelines for risk and crisis management) or other such international standard. In addition, they will need to demonstrate that the results of samples collected at regular intervals over a period of at least three years are all less than 60% (for reduction) or 30% (for cessation) of the parametric value. The sampling frequency may be reduced or a parameter removed from the list of parameters to be monitored only if the risk assessment confirms that no factor that can be reasonably anticipated is likely to cause deterioration of the quality of water supplied for human consumption.

A process for certification/accreditation of risk assessment methodologies against a new Water Industry Standard is still under development and so it is

unlikely that companies will be able to comply with all of the above requirements immediately. Therefore, in setting their sampling programmes for 2018 they may either plan to increase the frequency of all parameters currently on a reduced frequency from 1/1/2018 in anticipation, or they may plan to introduce this change part way through the year once the regulations come into force.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Michael Roberts, Chief Executive, Water UK; Catherine Harrold, Water Resources Management, Efficiency, Innovation, Drainage & Sewers, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Eifiona Williams, Water Management Team, Welsh Government; Sue Petch, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; David O'Neill, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Wei Xiao, Ofwat; Helen Wakeham, Environment Agency; Benedict Duncan, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at Public Health England.

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 Laura Moss.

Yours faithfully



Marcus Rink
Chief Inspector of Drinking Water