



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Area 1A Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Enquiries: 0300 068 6400

E-mail: DWI.Enquiries@defra.gov.uk
DWI Website: www.dwi.gov.uk

Information Letter 03/2021

26 August 2021

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

Dear Sir or Madam

Radioactivity Notices (exemptions for monitoring) under the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended) (England) and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulation 2018 (Wales)

Background

1. The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018 (Wales) and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended) (England) include provisions for the Welsh Ministers and the Secretary of State to exempt water companies from regulatory compliance monitoring for radioactivity parameters.
2. The Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers may by notice ('radioactivity notice') served under regulation 6(12) (England) or 6(14) (Wales) notify a water undertaker, which supplies water to a water supply zone, that a radioactive parameter (calculated indicative dose, radon and tritium) need not be monitored (compliance monitoring) for the period specified if they are satisfied that, the parametric value for the parameter is not exceeded.
3. A radioactivity notice must, by written notice under regulation 6(14) (England) or 6(16) (Wales), be withdrawn if the parametric value for calculated indicative dose, radon or tritium is likely to be exceeded in water supplied to a water supply zone.
4. This information letter supersedes the requirements of Information Letter 05/2016.

Purpose

5. Water companies may apply to the Inspectorate for a radioactivity notice, for one or all of the radioactivity parameters, following the requirements laid out in this Information Letter and the associated Annex. The Inspectorate will then consider, on behalf of the Secretary of State or the Welsh Ministers, whether a radioactivity notice to allow an exemption of regulatory radioactivity monitoring, may be granted.

Conditions and Requirements for Radioactivity Monitoring Exemption Applications

6. The conditions and requirements for radioactivity monitoring exemptions are specified in Annex A of this information letter. The Annex is subject to version controls, whereby any future updates to the Annex will be referenced on the document and notified to companies via the company's listed day-to-day contact.
7. Where the regulation numbers vary between the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018 (Wales) and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended) (England), this is stipulated; where this is not indicated, the regulation numbering between the English and Welsh Regulations is the same.

Any enquiries about the content of this letter should be referred to Simon Benton, Principal Inspector by email (Simon.Benton@defra.gov.uk).

This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@defra.gov.uk . Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied.

Copies of this letter are being sent to: Christine McGourty, Chief Executive, Water UK; Sophie Broadfield, Deputy Director Water Services, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Eifiona Williams, Water Management Team, Welsh Government; Sue Petch, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Catriona Davis, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Alice Laycock and Emma Clancy, CCW; Alison Cullen, Ofwat; Anne Dacey, Environment Agency; Benedict Duncan, Food Standards Agency; and Stephen Robjohns at Public Health England.

Yours faithfully



Nick Adjei
Deputy Chief Inspector of Drinking Water