



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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DWI Information Letter 04/2021

6 September 2021

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

Dear Sir/Madam

CODE OF PRACTICE ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES 2021

Background

1. Approximately 10% (by population) of drinking water supplies in England are artificially fluoridated, but there are no supplies fluoridated in Wales. Where artificial fluoridation takes place, water undertakers are expected to comply with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Technical Aspects of Fluoridation of Water Supplies.
2. The current Code of Practice on Technical Aspects of Fluoridation of Water Supplies was published in 2016.
3. The review process was carried out over the past year and has been led by the Inspectorate. It involved cooperation with stakeholders from Public Health England (as current organisation) and representative of companies that are currently fluoridating water supplies; the Inspectorate has consequently produced a revised Code of Practice that reflects the existing technological and legal position of drinking water fluoridation, in association with the role, responsibilities and Industry requirements of PHE.

Purpose

4. The purpose of this letter is to inform both the water industry and health community of the publication of the Code of Practice on Technical Aspects of Fluoridation of Water Supplies 2021, which supersedes the 2016 document. The Code of Practice is available on the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk) in Adobe® (pdf) format.

5. The Inspectorate expects water undertakers (and licensed water suppliers) to meet the minimum requirements specified in the revised Code of Practice. It is expected that water undertakers will have their own policies and procedures in place to support the implementation of the revised Code which may, where appropriate, exceed the requirements.
6. The revised Code of Practice applies to all existing fluoridation installations as well as any installations designed, constructed or operated after the date of this letter. Existing installations currently being operated and maintained to the standards required by the 2016 Code should be reviewed as they may require improvements to meet the requirements of the revised Code of Practice.
7. Where water undertakers already have fluoridation installations in operation, they should assess and document their compliance with the revised Code of Practice. Where installations do not meet the requirements of the revised Code of Practice, undertakers must ensure compliance with these requirements as soon as is practicable.
8. The Code of Practice will be reviewed and revised in the light of new information. It is anticipated that this review will take place no sooner than five-year intervals unless a significant change in circumstances necessitates earlier revision.

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. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed directly to Mike Turrell by email to Mike.Turrell@defra.gov.uk.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Christine McGourty, Chief Executive, Water UK; Davide Minotti, 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 and Anna Ireland at Public Health England.

Yours sincerely



Marcus Rink
Chief Inspector of Water