
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2015 No. 351

**The Water Framework Directive (Classification,
Priority Substances and Shellfish Waters)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015**

Classification of surface waters

20.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Department must classify each body of surface water identified for the purposes of regulation 5 of the 2003 Regulations according to its ecological status, or its ecological potential as the case may be, and its chemical status.

(2) The Department must classify—

- (a) the ecological status of bodies of surface water in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 2;
- (b) the chemical status of bodies of surface water in accordance with Part 2 of Schedule 2;
- (c) the ecological potential of heavily modified and artificial bodies of surface water in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 2.

(3) The results of classification in accordance with paragraph (1) and paragraph (2) must be reported within each river basin management plan as follows—

- (a) a map for the relevant river basin district illustrating the classification of the ecological status for each body of surface water, colour-coded in accordance with Table 1 of Schedule 4;
- (b) a map for the relevant river basin district illustrating the classification of the ecological potential of each body of surface water designated as artificial or heavily modified, colour-coded in accordance with Table 2 of Schedule 4;
- (c) a black dot on the relevant map produced under sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) to indicate each body of surface water where failure to achieve good status or good ecological potential is due to non-compliance with one or more of the environmental quality standards that have been established for relevant specific pollutants;
- (d) a map for the relevant river basin district illustrating the classification of chemical status for each body of surface water, colour-coded in accordance with Table 3 of Schedule 4.

(4) The overall status of bodies of surface water must be determined in accordance with Part 5 of Schedule 2.

(5) The Department must review the classification required by paragraph (1) at least once in every six years in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.