
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2017 No. 212

**The Water Supply (Water Quality)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**

PART 9

WATER TREATMENT

Contamination from pipes

32.—(1) Where there is a risk (“the prescribed risk”) that water supplied by the water undertaker would, for the reason mentioned in paragraph (2), after leaving that undertaker’s pipes—

- (a) contain a concentration of copper in excess of 2mg/litre; or
- (b) contain a concentration of lead in excess of 10µg/litre,

the water undertaker must, subject to paragraph (3), treat the water in such a way as will, in its opinion, eliminate the prescribed risk or reduce it to a minimum.

(2) The reason referred to in paragraph (1) is the presence in the water of a concentration of copper or lead which is attributable to the fact that copper or lead is the major component of such a pipe as is mentioned in Article 108(3)(a) of the 2006 Order, or its associated fittings.

(3) Paragraph (1) shall not require the water undertaker to treat water—

- (a) if the treatment is unlikely to achieve a significant reduction in the concentration of copper or lead; or
- (b) if treatment is not reasonably practicable.

(4) Where the water undertaker—

- (a) has reason to believe that water supplied by it for regulation 5(1) purposes from a pipe to which paragraph (5) applies contains, at the consumer’s tap, a concentration of lead which exceeds 10µg/l; and
- (b) has received from the owner of premises to which water is so supplied notice in writing —
 - (i) of the owner’s intention to replace so much of the pipe as belongs to them; and
 - (ii) of the owner’s desire that the water undertaker replaces the remainder of the pipe,

the water undertaker must modify or replace its part of the pipe.

(5) This regulation applies to a pipe—

- (a) of which the major component is lead;
- (b) which is subject to water pressure from a water main or would be so subject but for the closing of some valve; and
- (c) which belongs, as to part, to the water undertaker and, as to the remainder, to the owner of any premises to which the water undertaker supplies water for regulation 5(1) purposes.