

POLICY NOTE

THE BATHING WATERS (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2012

SSI 2012/243

These Regulations amend the Bathing Waters (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (SSI 2008/170) (“the 2008 Regulations”) to clarify some points to further transpose Directive 2006/7/EC concerning the management of bathing water quality. The European Commission considered that these points were originally inadequately transposed. These Regulations also transpose Commission Implementing Decision 2011/321/EU which establishes symbols for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition or advice against bathing.

The points of clarification are in respect of the requirements of SEPA and Local Authorities in carrying out their monitoring and public information duties at designated bathing waters and include further detail on:

- the definition of ‘short-term pollution’
- identifying the reasons for failure to reach ‘sufficient’ status at ‘poor’ bathing waters
- implementation of measures to prevent, reduce or eliminate the cause of pollution at ‘poor’ bathing waters
- dissemination of information on bathing waters including classification of bathing waters and advice against bathing
- management measures at bathing waters subject to short-term pollution.

These amendments are due to come into force in October 2012. The requirement for bathing water classification signs will take effect from end of the 2015 bathing water season in accordance with regulation 10 of the 2008 Regulations.