
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2017 No. 211

The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

PART 2

Water Standards, Risk Assessments and Surveys

Wholesomeness

5. Water is wholesome if all the following conditions are met—
- (a) it is free from any micro-organisms and parasites and from any substances which, in numbers or concentrations, constitute a potential risk to human health;
 - (b) it meets the concentrations and values specified in Part 1 of Schedule 1; and
 - (c) in the water:
$$\frac{\text{nitrate (mg/l)}}{50} + \frac{\text{nitrite (mg/l)}}{3} \leq 1$$

Use of products or substances in private supplies

6.—(1) Any product or substance used in the preparation or distribution of a private supply of water, or impurities associated with such products or substances, must not be present in water at the point at which a sample is taken in accordance with regulation 12 that would make it unwholesome or constitute a potential risk to human health.

(2) Where disinfection forms part of the preparation or distribution of a private supply, the relevant person must—

- (a) design, operate and maintain the disinfection process so as to keep disinfection by-products as low as possible without compromising the effectiveness of the disinfection;
- (b) ensure that the effectiveness of the disinfection process is maintained; and
- (c) verify the effectiveness of the disinfection process.

Requirement to carry out a risk assessment

7.—(1) The Department must carry out an assessment (“a risk assessment”) of the potential risks associated with each private supply to which these Regulations apply other than a supply to a single private dwelling.

(2) The Department must carry out a risk assessment within six months of a private supply being identified as a private water supply under regulation 3.

(3) The Department may enter into an arrangement for any competent person to carry out a risk assessment on its behalf for the purposes of this regulation.

(4) The Department may provide for any such competent person to be reimbursed.

- (5) A risk assessment must be based on the general principles of a risk assessment set out in international standards such as EN 15975-2 concerning “security of drinking water supply, guidelines for risk and crisis management”(1);
- (6) A risk assessment must take into account the results from the monitoring programmes—
- (a) established under these regulations; and
 - (b) under regulation 11 (monitoring) of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017(2) in respect of bodies of water identified under regulation 8 of those Regulations (bodies of water used for the abstraction of drinking water).
- (7) The Department must review and, where necessary, update the risk assessment—
- (a) as soon as possible in the event that it becomes aware of the likelihood of a—
 - (i) deterioration of the quality of the water supply; or
 - (ii) modification to, or extension of, the supply system from which the water is supplied, which is relevant for the protection of human health and was not previously taken into account; or
 - (b) when monitoring programmes are reviewed under regulation 9.
- (8) A risk assessment arranged under paragraph (3) must be approved by the Department.

Radon Representative Surveys

- 8.—(1) The Department must carry out a representative survey in accordance with paragraph (2) to determine the likelihood of a supply failing the radon maximum concentration or value specified in Schedule 1 Part 2;
- (2) The representative survey under paragraph (1) must be designed in such a way—
- (a) as to be capable of determining the scale and nature of likely exposures to radon in water intended for human consumption originating from different types of groundwater sources and wells in different geological areas; and
 - (b) that underlying parameters, especially the geology and hydrology of the area, radioactivity of rock or soil, and well type, can be identified and used to direct further action to areas of likely high exposure.

(1) This standard was approved by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) on 5th July 2013. Under reference BS EN 15975-2:2013, it is published as a UK standard by the British Standards Institution (ISBN 978 0 580 84737 0).

(2) [S.R. 2017 No. 81](#)