

## INTRODUCTION

**The products in the Secretary of State's approved list have only been assessed for safety for use in water supplies; they have not been assessed for fitness for purpose, or for use in buildings. The Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) operates a specific approval scheme for products used in buildings - <http://www.wras.co.uk/Directory/>**

Section 69 of the Water Industry Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003, gave the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Ministers powers to make regulations controlling substances, processes and/or products that are used in the treatment and provision of public water supplies. Section 76B of the Water (Scotland) Act 1980 gives Scottish Ministers similar powers.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) carries out the approval process for the Authorities for the whole of the United Kingdom, under the relevant Regulations. DWI accepts applications for approval of products used both before the treatment works, and in water distribution systems up to the point of delivery to premises.

The relevant regulations concern the introduction of substances and products (including construction products) and processes for use in the treatment and provision of drinking water supplies. They implement the requirements of Article 10 of the European Union Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, in respect to substances and materials used in the preparation and distribution of water up to the point of delivery to premises. They do not transpose the requirements of the Directive with regard to the premises (water supply systems within buildings). In England and Wales these requirements are dealt with by the water industry Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (WRAS) under the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999. In Scotland these are dealt with by Scottish Water's Water Byelaws 2004.

Under the relevant regulations drinking water suppliers shall not apply or introduce any substance or product into public drinking water supplies unless the requirements of the relevant regulations are met.

**Processes coming under these requirements are NOT included in this publication.** For further details please see Regulation 32.

Further information on how applications for approval are dealt with by the DWI are given in [Advice Sheet 1](#)

When assessing applications for approval, DWI relies on the expertise of its Inspectors and expert advisers who are experienced in toxicology, chemistry, engineering, water treatment, water distribution and public health.

### ***Basis of approval***

**DWI cannot advise on approval of products that will not be placed on the United Kingdom market.**

When considering an application for approval, DWI considers only whether the use of a substance or product will adversely affect the quality of the water supplied, or cause a risk to the health of consumers; assessment of fitness for purpose is not covered.

Applications are considered for all construction products used in contact with water in water treatment processes, water supply pipelines (including raw water pipelines) and drinking and water storage, and in water installations of raw water intended for human consumption. In addition DWI considers water

treatment chemicals and filtration media that are not covered by a published BS EN standard<sup>1</sup>; products (individual chemicals or filter media) that conform to a BS EN standard may be used without the approval of the Authorities in accordance with any appropriate additional National conditions of use. New approvals granted have a 5 year approval before review and reconsideration.

**It is important to note that approval of products does not give any indication as to the effectiveness or merits of the products in relation to any use.**

Approved products have not been assessed for suitability for use with regeneration chemicals associated with some water treatment processes; for such applications, specific testing after exposure to the appropriate aggressive chemicals should be undertaken.

### ***Products Approved Under Previous Regulations<sup>2</sup>***

Approvals given under what are revoked Regulations are continued in effect by the combination of sections 17(2)(b) and 23 of the Interpretation Act 1978. So far as relevant, the effect of these provisions is that anything (including the approval of a substance or product) done under the previous Regulations that could have been done under present Regulations is taken to have been done under the latter Regulations.

For advice on Natural or Traditional products please refer to [Advice Sheet 10](#)

### ***Review of Approved Products***

**Listed Products** – products listed within the current listing are subject to a review. This is currently covered through a 5 year implementation plan, in-line with our policy on new approvals being 5 years. A letter will be sent to the approval holder requesting information required for re-approval. If information is not received then the process for removal from the listing will start. Full details on the current expectations for re-approval can be found in [Advice Sheet 1](#).

**New toxicological information** - From time to time the DWI is made aware of new toxicological information on specific substances, usually from other recognised national or international bodies. DWI will review this information, and where necessary seek expert toxicological advice concerning the impact of this data on currently approved products containing those substances. If it is found that this information indicates that some approved products could pose a potential risk to human health, DWI may require some retesting of them. This process is set out in [Advice Sheet 1](#), Section 7.2 and 9.2

**Changes to approved products** - Approval holders are advised to keep changes to a minimum, but it is recognised that sometimes changes are necessary. If the approval holder makes any change to an approved product, this must be notified to DWI as soon as possible so that an assessment of the implications of the change can be made. Major changes may mean that DWI will require further information and/or testing to determine whether the approval of the product can be maintained. It is for DWI to assess the significance of the change; some minor changes may require no further action. Further details are given in [Advice Sheet 4](#)

In some cases any of the above could lead to revocation of approval of the product.

**Breaches of any condition of approval would be grounds for revocation of that approval.**

### ***The Annual List of Approved Products***

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<sup>1</sup> See Annex 2.

<sup>2</sup> Or the 15<sup>th</sup> Statement of the Committee on Chemicals and Materials of Constructions for use in Public Water Supply and Swimming Pools (Department of the Environment) March 1989 – issued before implementation of the previous Regulations.

This list has been substantially improved to include more details of the product approval such as reference to the IFU and the expiry date. Products that are not showing an expiry date are currently going through our review process and it is expected that all products will soon have expiry dates

The relevant Regulations require that a list of all the substances and products approved or refused and all approvals revoked or modified, shall be published, at least once a year.

This list is regularly updated by DWI throughout the year, and includes details of changes to approved products and additions to the List. The list is posted on the DWI website:

<https://www.dwi.gov.uk/drinking-water-products/resources-for-water-companies/approved-considered-products/>

### **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Please see the DWI website (<https://www.dwi.gov.uk/drinking-water-products/resources-for-water-companies/approved-considered-products/>) for the most up-to-date list. Printed copies of this list may not be up-to-date.

### ***Chemicals and Filter Materials***

The products listed in Section A are for use by drinking water suppliers, and cover:-

- Chemicals that can be used for the treatment and disinfection of water intended for human consumption;
- Chemicals that can be used for the treatment of assets, eg surface disinfection; and
- Filter media used in the large scale filtration of water, but not part of specific units, eg cartridge filters, membrane filtration units etc.

Two series of relevant European Standards (EN) have been published -

- Chemicals used for treatment of water intended for human consumption
- Products used for treatment of water intended for human consumption

As a consequence of the introduction of these EN standards treatment chemicals or products that conform with an appropriate EN standard, and that are used in accordance with any specific national condition of use (see Annex 2, sections 2.1 and 2.2 respectively) may be used without the approval of the Authorities. These standards are published by the British Standards Institute (BSi) as BS EN Standards and are available through BSi.

**Products that conform to an appropriate EN standard are not subject to the approval process and are no longer listed in this publication.** When new appropriate EN standards are published, products currently listed and conform to the appropriate new EN standard, will be removed from this section and temporarily listed in Annex 1.

The chemicals and products in Part A are either, not covered by a relevant EN standard, or do not conform fully to the scope and/or requirements of a published EN.

**The products listed have only been assessed for their safety for use in drinking water supplies, when used in accordance with the relevant Instructions for Use. These products have NOT been assessed for –**

- a) their efficacy or fitness for purpose in respect of any use; or**
- b) their suitability for use in building water systems, including in terms of their safety when used in such systems.**

***IMPORTANT NOTE***

Where a product based on a treatment chemical meeting the requirements of a relevant EN standard also contains other ingredients, whether or not these other ingredients meet the requirements of relevant EN standards, a formal review of the product by DWI is required before use – see Sections 1.4 and 3 of [Advice Sheet 3](#)

***Biocidal Products Regulations***

Approval holders and water companies should be aware that products or substances that claim to have a biocidal effect or are used as biocides may require authorisation under the Biocidal Products Regulation. HSE is the UK competent authority for the Biocidal Products Regulation and so any queries about whether that legislation applies to a specific product or substance should be addressed to [biocidesenquiries@hse.gov.uk](mailto:biocidesenquiries@hse.gov.uk)