



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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Advice Letter 01/2024

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To: Board Level and Day to Day Contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales

Revised guidance on regulation 8 of The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016, and The Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2017 (the Regulations)

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to inform you that the Inspectorate has revised the published guidance on regulation 8 of The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016, as amended and The Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2017. The previous guidance was removed from the Inspectorate's website whilst the review was undertaken. The [new guidance](#) was published on 31 January 2024. A corresponding [questions and answers](#) document was published alongside it. I draw your attention to the provisions under sections 51D, 66I and 174 of the Water Industry Act 1991 which are explained in the guidance, as they are relevant to water companies.

Regulation 8

Regulation 8 relates to the monitoring and risk assessment requirements where water supplied by a water undertaker or licensed supplier is further distributed by a person other than a water undertaker or licensed supplier. These supply arrangements are referred to as regulation 8 supplies.

Regulation 8 supplies are unusual in that the source water has already been treated to a wholesome standard by a water undertaker or licensed supplier. Other private supply sources by contrast are derived from raw water sources that are received directly from the catchment.

Why a revision of regulation 8 guidance was necessary

The guidance that was replaced set out to provide principles common to all regulation 8 supplies. Defra's review has identified that in so doing, some supplies that fall within scope of regulation 8 may not have been correctly identified.

Impact of the revised guidance

The revised guidance may result in an increase in the number of supplies falling within the scope of regulation 8 for some local authority areas. Where this is the case, all additional regulation 8 supplies must be added to the local authority's regulation 14 private water supply records and regulated as necessary. Local authorities may contact water companies to clarify/confirm supply arrangements where they believe a regulation 8 supply exists, while fulfilling the requirements of the Regulations and the Water Industry Act 1991. Please provide assistance on these occasions.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification on this guidance, please contact Annabelle Edwards using the details above.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Sam Larsen, Chief Executive, Water UK; Martin Woolhead, Deputy Director, Water Sector Delivery, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Eifiona Williams, Water Management Team, Welsh Government; Matthew Bower, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Berni Corr, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Karen Gibbs and Mike Keil, CCW; Alison Cullen and Paul Martin, Ofwat; Anne Dacey and Richard Thompson, Environment Agency; Nadeem Raja, Food Standards Agency; Stephen Robjohns, UK Health Security Agency.

Yours sincerely



Annabelle Edwards
Principal Inspector