

County Manager

26th July 2010

Ref: Circular DW – 01/10

**Re: EPA Handbooks on the Implementation of the European Communities
(Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations 2007.**

Dear County Manager

A guidance handbook on the Implementation of the Regulations for Water Services Authorities for Public Water Supplies and a handbook on the Implementation of the Regulations for Private Water Supplies have been prepared under the European Communities (Drinking Water) (No.2) Regulations 2007 (S.I. No. 278 of 2007).

The purpose of this circular letter is to advise your local authority about the publication by the Environmental Protection Agency of these two guidance handbooks on the implementation of the Drinking Water Regulations.

The handbooks contain guidance for local authorities and water suppliers on the implementation of the Drinking Water Regulations, including statutory and binding guidance on certain issues as is required under the Regulations. WSA's shall take such guidelines fully into account when fulfilling its obligations under the Regulations.

Two parallel handbooks were prepared, one to assist private water suppliers and WSAs to implement the Regulations in respect of private water supplies and the second handbook to cover public water supplies including the role of the EPA as the supervisory authority. The two handbooks together replace the previous handbook 'European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000 (S.I. 439 of 2000), A Handbook on Implementation for Sanitary Authorities', published by the EPA in 2004.

The handbooks also replace and incorporate the guidance booklets number 1 to 4 published by the EPA in the last two years. The drinking water guidance booklets that are replaced are as follows:

- a) Guidance Booklet No.1. Guidance for local authorities on Regulation 9 and Regulation 10 of EC (Drinking Water)(No.2) Regulations 2007.
- b) Guidance Booklet No.2. Annual reporting of drinking water monitoring results.
- c) Guidance Booklet No.3. Guidance for local authorities on the Remedial Action List for public water supplies.
- d) Guidance Booklet No.4. Risk Screening for *Cryptosporidium*.

The guidance in the handbooks also replaces some of the guidance that was developed by the Environmental Enforcement Network under the National Drinking Water Working Group on *Cryptosporidium*. Specifically the guidance in the handbooks now replaces the guidance on “*Cryptosporidium* Risk Assessment” that was developed by subgroup 1 and the guidance on “*Cryptosporidium* Monitoring and Technologies” that was developed by subgroup 3. These working group guidance documents are now removed from the EEN website (<http://www.enforcementnetwork.ie>) and are now covered by the relevant sections of the handbooks.

The handbooks have been developed by the EPA’s Office of Environmental Enforcement in co-operation with the Water Services Training Group. A Steering Group supervised the preparation of the handbooks and reviewed its contents. The Steering Group consisted of representatives from the City and County Managers Association, Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government, Health Service Executive, National Federation of Group Water Schemes, WSTG and the EPA.

As part of the roll out of the handbooks a series of training courses was run by the Water Services Training Group and the EPA at different venues across the country.

One printed copy of each handbook is enclosed with this circular. Please advise the relevant staff in your local authority that these handbooks are also available to download from the EPA website <http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/water/drinking/>

The handbooks are published in a format that allows any future revisions or new sections to be incorporated. Your local authority will be notified of any revisions that occur and for reference purposes the most up to date version of the handbooks and the individual sections will be available on the EPA website www.epa.ie.

The EPA is also taking this opportunity to issue a reminder about the other drinking water guidance documents that are listed below and that have been published by the EPA. All of these guidance documents are available to download from the EPA website www.epa.ie. The EPA advises that all Water Services Authorities should have regard to the guidance in these documents when managing their drinking water supplies.

1. Advice Note No.1: Lead Compliance Monitoring and Surveys.
2. Advice Note No.2: Action Programmes to restore the quality of drinking water impacted by lead pipes and lead plumbing.

3. Advice Note No.3: *E coli* in Drinking Water.
4. Advice Note No.4: Disinfection By-Products in Drinking Water.
5. Advice Note No.5: Turbidity in Drinking Water.
6. Advice Note No 6: Restoring Public Water Supplies Affected by Flooding.
7. Water Treatment Manual: Coagulation, Flocculation & Clarification (2002).
8. Water Treatment Manual: Disinfection (1998).
9. Water Treatment Manual: Filtration (1995).
10. EPA Circular Letter 2009 on World Health Organisation Drinking Water Safety Plans: *Water Safety Plan Manual: Step-by-step risk management for drinking-water suppliers*. Available at http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2009/9789241562638_eng.pdf

Yours sincerely

Mr. Gerard O'Leary
Programme Manager
Office of Environmental Enforcement

Enc:

1. European Communities (Drinking Water)(No.2) Regulations 2007. A Handbook on the Implementation of the Regulations for Water Service Authorities for Public Water Supplies.
2. European Communities (Drinking Water)(No.2) Regulations 2007. A Handbook on the Implementation of the Regulations for Water Service Authorities for Private Water Supplies.