



EPA DRINKING WATER ADVICE NOTE
Advice Note No. 16:
Guidance on the Enforcement of
the European Union
(Radioactive Substances in Drinking Water)
Regulations 2016 – S.I. 160 of 2016

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: *We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

Knowledge: *We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

Advocacy: *We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

Our Responsibilities

Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by coordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. *periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports*).

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. *major development plans*).

Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. *My Local Environment, Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Management and Structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Environmental Sustainability
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Evidence and Assessment
- Office of Radiological Protection
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This guidance is prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the European Union (Radioactive Substances in Drinking Water) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 160 of 2016). The regulations provide for the monitoring of water intended for human consumption to assess compliance with parametric values and in the event of an exceedance of the parametric values the undertaking of remedial action to improve the quality of water for the protection of human health from a radiation protection point of view. These regulations transpose the European Council Directive 2013/51/EURATOM of 22 October 2013.

The Regulations provide for the issuing of guidance by the EPA on the implementation of these Regulations as follows:

- ▼ Regulation 5(5) provides that the EPA may issue guidelines on the manner, frequency and method by which parameters in Part 1 of the Schedule shall be monitored and on the procedures to be adopted for assessing whether water for human consumption poses a risk to human health from a radiation point of view.
- ▼ Regulation 6(4) provides that the EPA may issue guidelines to assist Irish Water or the local authority in relation to the protection of human health.
- ▼ Regulation 7(5) provides that the EPA may issue guidance on the nature and timing of remedial, enforcement or other relevant action and Irish Water and local authorities shall take such guidelines fully into account when fulfilling their obligations.
- ▼ Regulation 9(3) provides that the EPA may issue guidelines in relation to exempted supplies which shall be binding.

The guidance contained in this document shall be considered as the guidelines issued under Regulations 5(5), 6(4) and 7(5). Irish Water and the local authorities should also have regard to the EPA Drinking Water Regulations Handbook.

2. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Regulation 5 deals with Monitoring and Assessment of water supplies.

A national surveillance monitoring programme will be conducted (2017-2022) by the EPA to determine whether the monitoring of water supplies is required at the frequencies outlined in Part 2 of the Schedule. It is the responsibility of Irish Water and local authorities to provide appropriate samples, as directed by the EPA. See Section on *National Surveillance Monitoring Programme for Radioactivity in Drinking Water* for further details.

Alternatively, Irish Water or the local authority may arrange for sampling and analysis of the relevant parameters using an alternative laboratory. However, such sampling will not be considered part of the national surveillance monitoring programme and therefore the frequency must be at that set in Table A of Part 2 of the Schedule of the Regulations. See Section on *Sampling and Analysis by Irish Water/Local Authority* for further details.

2.1

NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR RADIOACTIVITY IN DRINKING WATER

In order to determine the water supplies likely to exceed the parametric values for Indicative Dose and Radon a risk based approach to monitoring will be adopted, taking into consideration:

- ▼ The population served
- ▼ The volume supplied (m³/day)
- ▼ The type of water supply i.e. surface water or ground water supply

Using this risk based approach, a national surveillance monitoring programme of all regulated water supplies with a volume supplied of greater than 100 m³ per day shall be carried out over a six year period (2017 – 2022).

Based on the EPA's 2015 drinking water supply data there are 1,247 drinking water supply zones that are covered by S.I. 160 of 2016. These supplies comprise 771 public water supplies, 121 private supplies and 355 private group water schemes¹. A summary of these supplies are outlined in Table 1.

TABLE 1: Number and type of water supplies to be monitored (based on 2015 supply data).

Volume of Supplies to be monitored (m ³ /day)	Surface Water	Ground Water	Spring Water	Mixed	Supplies to be monitored
Volume > 10,000	29	0	1	0	30
1,000 < Volume ≤ 10,000	133	40	20	28	221
100 < Volume ≤ 1,000	180	186	68	34	468
10 ≤ Volume ≤ 100	74	378	70	6	528
Total	416	604	159	68	1,247

¹ The water supplies exempt from the S.I. are public group water schemes and supplies with an average volume of less than 10 m³ per day or serving fewer than 50 people.

The proposed schedule for the national surveillance monitoring programme for the period 2017 to 2022 is outlined in Table 2.

TABLE 2: Proposed schedule for the National Surveillance Monitoring Programme (2017-2022)

Year	Supplies to be monitored (m ³ /day)	Estimated Number of Supplies
2017	Volume > 1,000	251
2018	100 < Volume ≤ 1,000 Surface Water and Mixed Supplies	214
2019	100 < Volume < 1,000 Ground Water Supplies	186
2020	100 < Volume < 1,000 Spring Water Supplies and 10 ≤ Volume ≤ 100 Surface Water, Spring Water and Mixed Supplies	218
2021 2022	10 ≤ Volume ≤ 100 Ground Water Supplies	378

The sampling and analysis should be undertaken in line with the methodology described in Appendix 1.

In the event that the EPA laboratory identifies a water supply with a Indicative Dose (ID) > 0.1 mSv/year or a radon in water activity concentration > 500 Bq/l the water supplier (Irish Water or the local authority) and the Drinking Water Team of the EPA will be notified of the exceedance immediately. Where a failure of a parameter in Part 1 of the schedule has been detected it may be necessary for the local authority or Irish Water to increase monitoring for that parameter in the affected water supply.

2.2

SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS BY IRISH WATER/LOCAL AUTHORITY

If Irish Water or a Local Authority opts to perform its own analyses, all drinking water supplies shall be monitored for Indicative Dose using the methodology described in Appendix 1. In addition, monitoring of radon concentrations shall be undertaken for all groundwater and spring water supplies and compared to a parametric value of 500 Bq/l.

Monitoring of drinking water supplies for tritium or artificially occurring radionuclides in Irish water supplies is not required at this time as there are currently no significant sources of tritium or artificial radioactivity in the catchments of Irish water supplies. Radon in water is not likely to be an issue in surface water supplies as radon gas is easily diffused into outdoor air. Therefore, the monitoring of surface water supplies for radon is not required at this time.

Where one or more parametric value is exceeded in monitored supplies, or supplies where treatment has been installed to ensure compliance, the monitoring frequencies set out in Table A of Part 2 of the Schedule shall apply for the parameter that is exceeded.

All exceedances of the parametric values listed in Part 1 of the schedule to the Regulations shall be notified as described below. Where a failure of a parameter in Part 1 of the schedule has been detected it may be necessary for the local authority or Irish Water to increase monitoring for that parameter in the affected water supply.

Where Irish Water and local authorities are not relying on the national surveillance monitoring programme they should have arrangements with the laboratory they are using for immediate notification of any result that does not comply with a standard.

3. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF AN EXCEEDANCE

Regulation 5(6) provides powers to the EPA to issue a direction to Irish Water or a local authority as it considers necessary to ensure Irish Water or a local authority are performing their monitoring and assessment functions in accordance with the regulations.

Regulation 5(8) provides for an offence if Irish Water or a local authority fail to comply with a direction.

Regulation 5(9) provides that Regulation 18 of the EU Drinking Water Regulations 2014 shall apply to these regulations with any necessary modifications. This provides for the power to apply to the High Court.

The EPA recommends that Irish Water or a local authority have written procedures for dealing with exceedances of the parametric values in Part 1 of the schedule to the Regulations. These procedures should cover the protection of human health, investigations of exceedances and remedial action.

3.1

PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH

Regulation 6 deals with circumstances where there may be a potential danger to human health due to the failure to meet a standard as specified in Part 1 of the schedule to the Regulations.

Regulation 6 requires Irish Water or a local authority to:

- ▼ firstly, consult and agree with the Health Service Executive whether there is a potential danger to human health from a radiation protection point of view;
- ▼ restrict or prohibit use of water or take other action to protect consumers, if such a potential danger to human health exists;
- ▼ ensure consumers are informed of the above actions; and
- ▼ ensure the EPA is promptly notified.

In considering the action to be taken, Irish Water or a local authority must have regard, in consultation and agreement with the HSE, to the risk to human health that would be caused by the interruption of supply or restriction of use.

Irish Water and local authorities should have documented written procedures for the issue of the advice to consumers including pre-prepared leaflets for issue to consumers should they be required. Leaflets should be very clear, use simple language and may need to be provided in languages other than English. EPA provides advice for radon in drinking water at <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/radiation/radonindrinkingwaterbrochure.html>.

Where a supervisory authority (either EPA or a local authority), subject to the advice of the HSE, is of the opinion that an exceedance of a parametric value in Part 1 of the Schedule, in water intended for human consumption, constitutes, or may constitute, a risk to human health from a radiation protection point of view, the supervisory authority shall issue such direction to the relevant water supplier as it considers necessary to ensure that appropriate measures are taken for the purposes of preventing, limiting, eliminating or abating such risk, and the water supplier shall comply with such a direction.

The EPA's role, as outlined in Regulation 6, is to ensure where there is a risk to human health, that where necessary it directs Irish Water (in consultation and agreement with the HSE) to take the appropriate action to prevent, limit, abate or eliminate the risk to human health.

3.2 ASSESSMENT OF FAILURES, INVESTIGATIONS AND REMEDIAL ACTION

Regulation 7 deals with the assessment of any failure to meet the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the Schedule, subsequent investigations and remedial actions.

Irish Water is required by Regulation 7(1)(a) to ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the schedule in its water supply is immediately assessed to determine whether the exceedance poses a risk to human health which requires action.

A local authority is required by regulation 7(1)(b) to ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the schedule in a water supply for which it is a supervisory authority is immediately assessed to determine whether the exceedance poses a risk to human health which requires action.

Irish Water and local authorities must investigate the cause of any failure to meet the parametric values in Part 1 of the Schedule. Having identified the cause or suspected cause of the failure Irish Water or a local authority must determine the specific actions that are to be taken to prevent, limit, eliminate or abate the cause of the failure.

In some cases it may not be possible to take actions to address the cause of the failure within the short to medium term or it may not be possible at all. In such cases, replacement of the source may be necessary. However, in all cases every effort must be made to ensure compliance with the parametric values.

Irish Water and local authorities should develop and implement written procedures to assess exceedances and ensure relevant personnel and stakeholders are aware of these procedures. These procedures should include, as a minimum, the contact details of HSE personnel, the detail of additional information that should be communicated to the HSE and the detail of agreed actions to be taken in the event of a failure to meet the parametric values.

Irish Water and local authorities should familiarise themselves with the document **Management of initial notification of a drinking water issue of potential danger to human health** published in 2016², recognises the key role that the HSE has in assessing and advising Irish Water, local authorities and the EPA on potential risks to human health. The primary purpose of the document is to ensure increased consistency of approach from and between the HSE staff of different professional backgrounds who are involved with drinking water safety throughout Ireland.

Where a water supplier discovers a failure to meet the values specified in Part 1 of the schedule in its water supply, that person shall notify the relevant supervisory authority for that supply of the failure and of the results of its investigations. Each water supplier shall maintain a record of any incidence of failure to meet the parametric values. Irish Water must notify the EPA **no later than 11:00am on the next working day** of a failure to meet the parametric values, using the EPA's online notification system at <http://web.epa.ie/odwn/login.aspx>. Irish Water must consult with the HSE to establish the level of risk to human health and agreed with the HSE any actions required prior to notifying the EPA. Where the EPA considers the information in the notification as insufficient, further information may be requested.

2 http://www.lenus.ie/hse/bitstream/10147/618917/2/HSE+drinking+water+inital+notification+management_July+2016.pdf

A water supplier commits an offence if that person fails to notify the relevant supervisory authority of a failure of the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the Schedule [Regulation 7(3)].

Where monitoring shows that the quality of water intended for human consumption does not meet the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the Schedule and poses a risk to human health from a radiation protection point of view, the supervisory authority shall ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken by the water supplier in order to comply with requirements for the protection of human health from a radiation protection point of view.

Where remedial action is taken in relation to a water supply, the water supplier shall ensure that consumers are informed of such action.

3.3

INTERVENTION BY SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

Regulation 8(1) provides powers to a supervisory authority (either EPA or a local authority) to issue such direction to a water supplier as it considers necessary, having exercised its powers under the Regulations and considered any information furnished to it or otherwise coming into its possession in consequence of that exercise, with a view to achieving satisfactory compliance of water supplied for human consumption from a radiation point of view.

3.3.1 EXEMPTED SUPPLIES

Each relevant local authority shall take measures to notify the population served by an exempted supply of the fact that these Regulations do not apply to such a supply and action that can be taken to protect human health from a radiation point of view. Where it is apparent to a local authority that a potential danger to human health arises from the quality of an exempted supply from a radiation protection point of view, a local authority shall ensure that consumers of that supply are given appropriate advice promptly. A local authority commits an offence if it fails to notify a population. The EPA Advice Note No. 12: **Exempted Drinking Water Supplies** shall be considered as the EPA guidance under Regulation 9(3) (available at <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/drinkingwater/advicenoten12.html>).

3.3.2 DIRECTIONS

Regulation 10(1) provides powers to a supervisory authority (either EPA or a local authority) to give such directions as it considers appropriate for the purposes of its functions under the Regulations and a person commits an offence if that person fails to comply with such a direction.

3.3.3 INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Regulation 11 provides for application to the High Court by a supervisory authority. Where the Court is satisfied that a person has failed to comply with a direction, or a requirement of, the Court may, by order, direct the person to comply with the direction or requirements and make such other provision, including costs, as the Court considers appropriate.

3.4 PROSECUTIONS AND PENALTIES

Regulation 15 provides that a prosecution for an offence under these Regulations may be taken by the EPA, Irish Water or relevant local authority. A person guilty of an offence under Regulation 5(8), 6(5), 6(6), 7(3), 7(8), 9(4), 10(2) or 12(3) is liable on summary conviction to a Class A fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or both, or on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €500,000, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 years or both.

3.5 REPORTING

The EPA's annual drinking water report will contain data and information on the compliance levels of radioactivity parameters based on monitoring undertaken from 2017.

APPENDIX 1: SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

The sample should be taken at the appropriate location as having regard to the following:

- ▼ Where a water supply zone is served by a single water treatment plant the sample should be taken as the water leaves the water treatment plant.
- ▼ Where a single water treatment plant supplies water to multiple water supply zones the sample should be taken as the water leaves the water treatment plant. A single sample will be sufficient to cover all water supply zones and it is not necessary to take one sample for each water supply zone.
- ▼ Where multiple sources supply water to a water supply zone the sample should be taken as follows:
 - If the water supplied to consumers is mixed and treated prior to supply and the ratio of mixing of the sources is fixed, the sample should be taken at the final water leaving the water treatment plant.
 - If the water supplied to consumers is mixed prior to supply and the ratio of mixing of the sources is variable (i.e. different boreholes at different times) a sample should be taken at each of the sources.
 - If the water is supplied to consumers before mixing (e.g. consumers supplied prior to a reservoir or different boreholes serving different parts of the water supply zone) a sample should be taken at each of the sources.

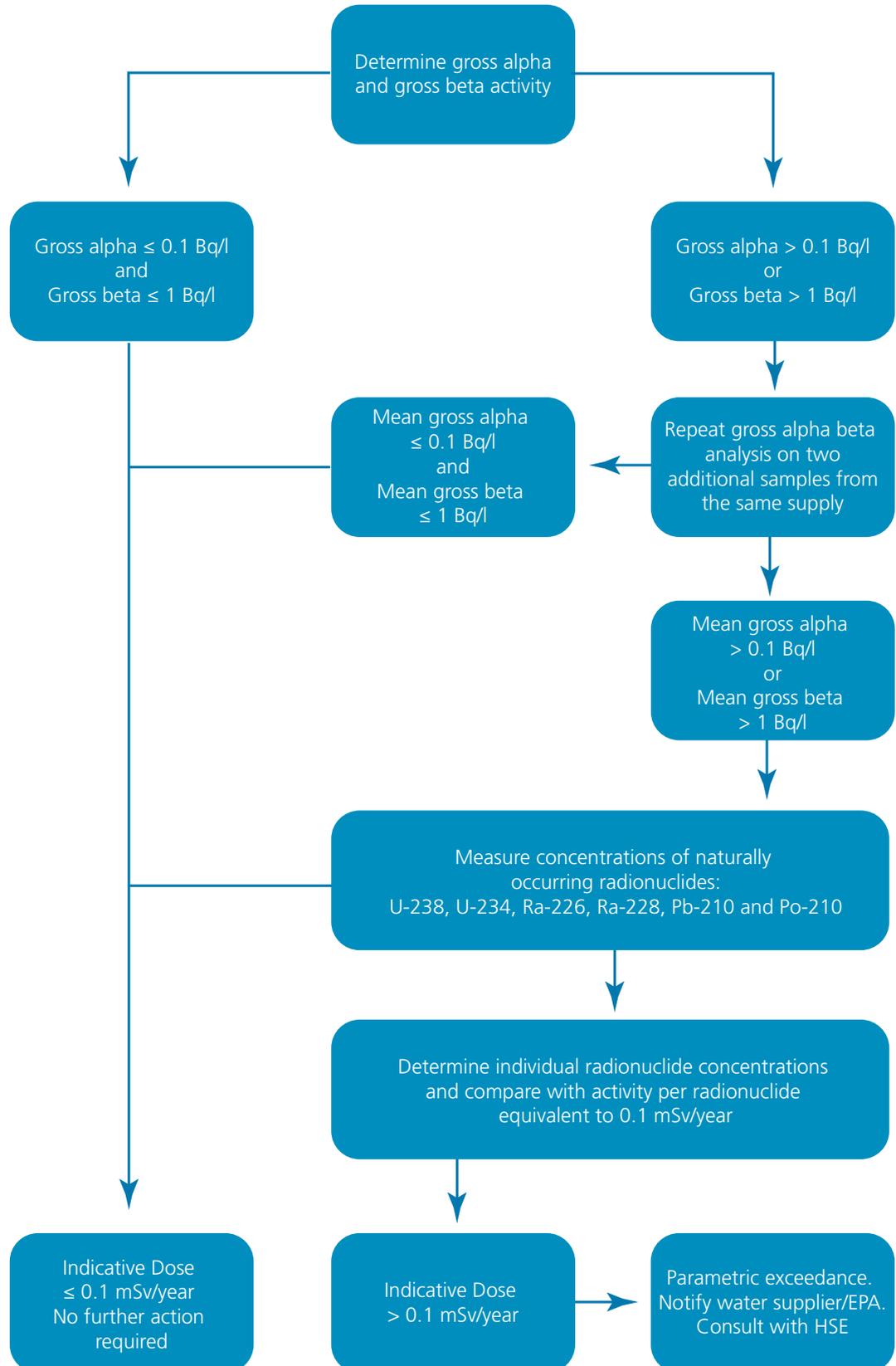
The methodology applied for determining Indicative Dose is a two stage process:

1. Initial screening for gross alpha and beta activity to determine whether the activity concentrations are below levels at which no further action is required; and
2. If these screening levels are exceeded, investigation of the concentrations of individual radionuclides.
3. This is summarised in Figure 1. The recommended screening level for gross alpha and gross beta activity are 0.1 Bq/l and 1.0 Bq/l respectively.

If the radioactivity concentrations of supplies are below these screening values, then the water source is considered to be in compliance, i.e. that the radiation dose arising from one year's consumption of drinking water does not exceed 0.1 mSv. Such drinking water is considered acceptable for human consumption from a radiological perspective and any action to reduce radioactivity is deemed unnecessary.

INDICATIVE DOSE MEASUREMENTS

FIGURE 1. Flow chart of Indicative Dose Procedure



Where a screening level is exceeded on an individual sample, then further analysis is required. Two additional samples from the same supply will be analysed for gross alpha and gross beta activity. If the mean gross alpha activity or mean gross beta activity from these three samples are below the respective screening levels for gross alpha and gross beta activity then no further action is required. However, if either of the respective screening levels for gross alpha or gross beta activity are exceeded then additional analyses to identify the radionuclide(s) contributing to the elevated gross alpha or gross beta activity are required. As there are currently no sources of artificial radioactivity in catchments areas, the activity concentrations of the following naturally occurring radionuclides should be determined: uranium-238, uranium-234, radium-226, radium-228, lead-210 and polonium-210.

The results for the individual radionuclides should then be compared to the Derived Concentration for radioactivity in water set out in Table 3. The Derived Concentration represents the activity concentration that represents a radiation dose of 0.1 mSv based on an assumed annual intake of 730 litres of the water supply that has exceeded the parametric value(s). If the individual radionuclides detected are less than their corresponding Derived Concentration then it can be assumed that the Indicative Dose is less than the parametric value of 0.1 mSv and no further investigation is required. Where they are above 0.1 mSv the water supplier (Irish Water or the local authority) and the EPA will be notified of the exceedance immediately. The exceedance will be investigated by the EPA, in accordance with EPA procedures.

TABLE 3. Derived Concentrations for radioactivity in water intended for human consumption (EC, 2013)

Nuclide	Derived Concentration (Bq/l)
Uranium-238	3.0
Uranium-234	2.8
Radium-226	0.5
Radium-228	0.2
Lead-210	0.2
Polonium-210	0.1

RADON MEASUREMENTS

Monitoring of radon concentrations shall be undertaken for all groundwater and spring water supplies and compared to a parametric value of 500 Bq/l.

The parametric value for radon in European Council Directive 2013/51/EURATOM of 22 October 2013 is 100 Bq/l but it states that: **“Member States may set a level for radon which is judged inappropriate to be exceeded and below which optimisation of protection should be continued, without compromising water supply on a national or regional scale”**.

In accordance with the statement above, the Regulations have adopted a parametric value of 500 Bq/l. The parametric value of 500 Bq/l is deemed suitable to optimise the protection of the public from radon in water without compromising water supply on a national or regional scale.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ó éifeachtaí díobhálacha na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialú: Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maíthe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.

Eolas: Soláthraimid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírithé agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.

Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maíthe, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

- Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:
- saoráidí dramhaíola (*m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola*);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíoch ar scála mór (*m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta*);
- an diantalmhaíocht (*m.sh. muca, éanlaith*);
- úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (OGM);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíochta*);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitiril;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarás áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhíríú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídíonn an ciseal ózón.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscíú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéal uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairiscíú a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairiscíú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairiscíú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (*m.sh. tuairiscíú tréimhsiúil ar staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí*).

Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gáis cheaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainaitheint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeraíde, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (*m.sh. mórphleananna forbartha*).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéal radaíochta, measúnacht a dhéanamh ar nochtadh mhuintir na hÉireann don radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taimí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (*m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, léarscáileanna radóin*).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig um Inmharthanacht Comhshaoil
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Fianaise is Measúnú
- An Oifig um Cosaint Raideolaíoch
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair inní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

PO Box 3000,

Johnstown Castle,

Co. Wexford, Ireland

T +353 53 916 0600

F +353 53 916 0699

E info@epa.ie

W www.epa.ie

LoCall 1890 33 55 99

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