

# GUIDANCE TO NORTHERN IRELAND WATER ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017

## Part 5 – Monitoring - Additional Provisions

### Regulation 17: Sampling New or Emergency Sources

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#### DOCUMENT CONTROL

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## PART 5

### MONITORING - ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

#### Regulation 17 – Sampling: new sources

- 1.1 Regulation 17 specifies the sampling requirements for:
- 1.1a **Category (a)** sources that have never previously been used for public water supply purposes; and
  - 1.1b **Category (b)** sources which have previously been used as a public water supply, but not for a period of 6 months preceding the date on which NI Water would propose to supply water from it.
- 1.2 Under the requirements of regulation 30, NI Water must carry out a risk assessment for both category (a) and (b) sources before using them to supply drinking water. The risk assessment should inform the monitoring required under regulation 17, in line with regulation 20(2).
- 1.3 NI Water must, for all Category (a) and Category (b) sources, complete and submit the relevant sections of the Information Return on New Sources [Annex A] along with the regulation 30 risk assessment to DWI at least 1 month in advance of their use. In an emergency situation NI Water may seek an exemption to use a source before the 1 month period (See 1.8).
- 1.4 Any new abstraction point identified by NI Water that is licensed for abstraction, represented by a sample point (as defined by regulation 20), and intended for drinking water supply is deemed to be a **category (a)** new source, and therefore subject to the sampling, risk assessment and reporting requirements in regulation 17. Sources used previously for private supply, or for non-domestic purposes, should also be treated as a new source for the purpose of regulation 17.
- 1.5 Regulations 17(2) to (4) require that sources in **category (a)** must be sampled before use for all parameters in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Regulations. NI Water must also consider any other element, organism or substance, identified through the risk assessment, which could cause the water supply to be unwholesome. NI Water must further ensure the necessary treatment is in place to prevent the supply of unwholesome water. The results from this sampling should be provided to the DWI, as part of its information return on new sources [Annex A – Section A.2].

- 1.6 Sources in **category (b)** must be sampled as soon as reasonably practicable after the source has been put into supply. The samples must be analysed for the parameters listed in Table A in Schedule 1; conductivity, pH and turbidity; along with any other parameter, organism, element or substance which could cause a risk to wholesomeness and whose concentration may have deteriorated since the source was last used. The results from this sampling should be provided to the DWI, as part of its information return on new sources [Annex A – Section A.2].
- 1.7 Under normal operating conditions NI Water’s risk assessment and the relevant sections of Annex A should be submitted to the Inspectorate at least one month before the company plans to use a **category (a)** source [Regulation 17(5)].
- 1.8 In order to maintain supplies **during an emergency**, regulation 17(6) permits the use of a new source, to prevent an unforeseen loss of supply, without the requirement to comply with the 1 month timescale detailed in regulation 17(5). When seeking an exemption from the 1 month rule for new sources, all the relevant sections of Annex A should be completed and provided to DWI prior to the source being put into supply.
- 1.9 Regulation 17(7) specifies that existing treatment works must be subject to a full regulation 30 risk assessment if a category (a) raw water source is introduced into the raw water supply to the works in order to maintain supplies during emergency. This risk assessment must be carried out before the treated water is used to supply consumers.
- 1.10 For an emergency source details would also be provided on why, as a matter of urgency, NI Water need to supply water from that source in order to prevent an unexpected interruption to a piped supply to consumers [Completion of Annex A – Section A.7].
- 1.11 NI Water should not bring a new source (including an emergency source) into use until confirmation has been obtained from DWI that the relevant information has been provided under Annex A: NI Water Information Return to DWI on New Sources.
- 1.12 If NI Water wishes to recommission an existing treatment works after any period, and it is not an emergency, then it is good practice to take and analyse samples for an appropriate suite of parameters and other substances, elements and organisms as determined by the risk assessment, to ensure that the water supply is wholesome, before any water is supplied from the works. This is irrespective of the time that the treatment works has been out of use.

## Annex A: NI Water Information Return to DWI on New Sources

NI Water should submit a report to DWI detailing the information requirements detailed below, at least 1 month in advance of utilising a new source, to [DWI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:DWI@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Ref	Information Requirement
A.1	Details of new source to include: name; type of source; 8 figure national grid reference of abstraction point; estimate of average total daily volume (m <sup>3</sup> /day)
A.2	Details on sampling and results to show compliance with regulation 17(2) to 17(4)
A.3	For sources previously used by NI Water, a summary of available past water quality data, plus an explanation as to why the source was stood down or abandoned.
A.4	The completion of a regulation 30 risk assessment and submission to DWI.
A.5	Details of all control measures, existing or planned, that mitigate risks associated with the new source. In the case of a source being used during an emergency specific details on the mitigations to protect public health.
A.6	Details of the commissioning plan for the source, to include details of the range and frequency of parameters to be sampled for on an annual basis.
A.7	For application under regulation 17(6) Emergency Scenarios: details on why, as a matter of urgency, NI Water is required to supply water from that source in order to prevent an unexpected interruption to a piped supply to consumers