



# National Federation of Group Water Schemes

Society Ltd.

24 Old Cross Square, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan. Tel:047-72766

www.nfgws.ie

## European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014

### Statutory Instrument, S.I. No. 122 Of 2014

The new EU (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 were signed into law on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and came into operation with immediate effect. The previous drinking water regulations (2007) were revoked in their entirety.

The 2014 regulations are effectively an update of the 2007 regulations to reflect the provisions of Section 7 of the Water Services (No.2) Act 2013 which provide that certain water services functions, which were the responsibility of the water services authorities, are transferred to Irish Water.

The 2014 regulations recognise Irish Water as the provider of public drinking water supplies formerly supplied by Local Authorities. They also recognise the continuing role of the Local Authority as the supervisory authority for drinking water supplies other than those of Irish Water (including Group Water Schemes). The "Sanitary Authority" terminology has been replaced throughout by Local Authority or Irish Water as appropriate.

There are a number of other small but important amendments to the regulations as follows;

#### 1. Regulation 6 (2) under the heading Duties in relation to water on premises

**6 (2)** The owner of a premises where water is supplied for human consumption as part of a commercial or public activity (including but not limited to schools, hospitals and restaurants) shall maintain the domestic distribution system of the premises in such condition that it does not cause, contribute to, or give rise to a risk of non-compliance of that water with a parametric value specified in Table A or Table B of Part 1 of the Schedule **or in Table C where there is a risk to public health.**

The highlighted additional clause extends the duties of owners to include responsibilities in relation to the Table C indicator parameters.

#### 2. Regulation 10 (1) & (2) under the heading Remedial action

**10. (1)** (a) Irish Water shall ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the Schedule **or the detection of pathogenic micro-organisms or parasites** in its water supply is immediately investigated so as to identify the cause of such failure.

(b) Each relevant local authority shall ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values specified in Part 1 of the Schedule **or the detection of pathogenic micro-organisms or parasites** in a water supply for which it is a supervisory authority, is immediately investigated by the relevant water supplier so as to identify the cause of such failure.

**10 (2)** For the purposes of paragraph (1), where a water supplier discovers a failure to meet the values specified in Part 1 of the Schedule **or detects pathogenic micro-organisms or parasites** in its water supply, that person shall notify the relevant supervisory authority for that supply in accordance with such guidelines as the Agency may issue for that purpose.

The highlighted additional clause specifically includes the presence of pathogenic micro-organism or parasites (such as cryptosporidium), in addition to failures to comply with Tables A, B & C parametric values, as requiring immediate investigation and notification to the relevant supervisory authority.