1994 No. 221

WATER AND SEWERAGE

The Water Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994

Made	*17th June 1994*
Coming into operation . .	*1st October 1994*

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The Department of the Environment, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Articles 2, 3A, 3B and 3C of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1973(**a**), and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

(**a**) S.I. 1973/70 (N.I. 2) as amended by the Water and Sewerage Services (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 (S.I. 1993/3165 (N.I. 16)) Art. 4; Art. 2 is cited because it contains a definition of "prescribed"

PART I

GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Water Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1994 and shall come into operation on 1st October 1994.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

"the Order" means the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1973;

"consumer" means a person to whom water is supplied by the Department in discharge of its duties under Article 3A(a) of the Order;

"the Department" means the Department of the Environment;

"disinfected" means subjected to a process which removes or renders inactive pathogenic micro-organisms so as to satisfy the requirements of Part II, in respect of the parameters listed in Table C; and cognate expressions (with the exception of the term "residual disinfectant") shall be construed accordingly;

"ground water" means any water contained in underground strata, or in

(i) a well, borehole or similar work sunk into underground strata, including any adit or passage constructed in connection with the well, borehole or work for facilitating the collection of water in the well, borehole, or work, or,

(ii) any excavation into underground strata where the level of water in the excavation depends wholly or mainly on water entering it from the strata;

"parameter" means a property, element, organism or substance listed in the second column of the Tables in Schedule 1 or in the first column of Tables 1 to 4, 6 and 7 in Schedule 2;

"pesticides and related products" means any fungicide, herbicide or insecticide and polychlorinated biphenyls and terphenyls;

"prescribed concentration or value", in relation to any parameter, means the maximum or minimum concentration or value specified in relation to that parameter in the Tables in Schedule 1 as measured by reference to the unit of measurement so specified;

"sampling point" means the point, being a consumer's tap, that is determined for the purposes of Part IV;

"service reservoir" means a reservoir (including a water tower) which contains water that has been treated with a view to complying with regulation 22, but does not include a reservoir at a treatment works;

(a) Art. 3A was inserted by Art. 4(2) of S.I. 1993/3165 (N.I. 16)

"supply point" means any point, not being a sampling point, from which the Department authorises samples to be taken in accordance with regulation 12, for the purposes of regulation 10;

"underground strata" has the same meaning as in section 30 of the Water Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**a**);

"water supply zone" means an area that is designated by the Department for the purposes of these regulations, being an area in which, in the Department's estimation, not more than 50,000 people reside and in which all the premises supplied with water for domestic or food production purposes are normally supplied from the same source or combination of sources;

"year" means calendar year.

(2) Any reference in these regulations to a Table followed by a letter or number is a reference to the Table that bears that letter or number in Schedule 1 or 2.

(3) In these regulations the abbreviations listed in the following Table are used—

"mg/l"	—	milligrammes per litre;
"ng/l"	—	nanogrammes per litre;
"µg/l"	—	microgrammes per litre;
"µS/cm	—	microsiemens per centimetre;
"Pt/Co scale"	—	platinum cobalt scale;
"PCV"	—	prescribed concentration or value; and
"m^3/d"	—	cubic metres per day.

PART II

REQUIREMENTS FOR WHOLESOMENESS

Requirements for wholesomeness

3.—(1) This regulation has effect subject to Part III.

(2) Subject to paragraph (7), water supplied to any premises for domestic or food production purposes shall be regarded as wholesome for the purposes of Part II of the Order—

(*a*) if the requirements of paragraph (3) are satisfied; and

(*b*) where the water has been softened or desalinated and is to be supplied for drinking, cooking or food production purposes, the requirements of paragraph (4) are also satisfied.

(3) The requirements of this paragraph are—

(*a*) that the water does not contain any element, organism or substance (other than a parameter) at a concentration or value which would be detrimental to public health;

(**a**) 1972 c. 5 (N.I.)

(*b*) that the water does not contain any element, organism or substance (whether or not a parameter) at a concentration or value which, in conjunction with any other element, organism or substance it contains (whether or not a parameter), would be detrimental to public health;

(*c*) subject to paragraphs (5) to (8), that the water does not contain concentrations or values of the parameters listed in Tables A to C in excess of the prescribed concentrations or values;

(*d*) that samples taken in respect of the parameters listed in Table D from water supplied to the water supply zone in question have established that the average concentrations or values of those parameters over the preceding 12 months did not exceed those specified in that Table; and

(*e*) that samples taken from water supplied to the water supply zone in question have established that the average concentrations over the 3 preceding months of trihalomethanes (being the aggregate of the concentrations of trichloromethane, dichlorobromomethane, dibromochloromethane and tribromomethane) did not exceed 100 μg/l or where (by virtue of regulation 13(4)) less than 4 samples are taken in any year, no sample contained a concentration of trihalomethanes in excess of 100μg/l.

(4) The requirements of this paragraph are that the water's hardness or its alkalinity is not below the relevant minimum specified in Table E.

(5) Water shall not be regarded as unwholesome by virtue of paragraph (3)(*c*) by reason of a sodium concentration exceeding that specified in relation to item 9 in Table A (sodium) if 80% of the results of analysis of all the samples, taken in accordance with these regulations within the preceding 36 months from sampling points within the water supply zone in question, demonstrate a concentration of sodium within the relevant maximum specified in that Table.

(6) Water shall not be regarded as unwholesome by virtue of paragraph (3)(*c*) by reason of the presence in it of any total coliforms (item 1 of Table C)—

(*a*) in a case where 50 or more samples have been taken in accordance with these regulations within the preceding 12 months from sampling points within the water supply zone in question, if the results of analysis of all those samples establish that in 95% of those samples coliforms were absent; or

(*b*) in a case where less than 50 samples have been so taken within the preceding 12 months, if the results of analysis of the last 50 samples so taken establish that in 48 of those samples coliforms were absent.

(7) Subject to paragraph (8), water supplied to any premises for domestic or food production purposes shall be regarded as unwholesome, if, on transfer from a treatment works or service reservoir for supply for such purposes, it contains a concentration of any of the parameters listed in Table C in excess of the prescribed concentration.

(8) Water transferred from a service reservoir for supply for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (7) shall not be regarded as unwholesome by reason of the presence in it of any coliforms (item 1 of Table C) if the results of