

# **Water (Prevention of Water Pollution) (Wastewater Conveyance System) Regulations<sup>1</sup>**

*This is an unofficial translation. The binding version is the official Hebrew text. Readers are consequently advised to consult qualified professional counsel before making any decision in connection with the enactment, which is presented in translated for their general information only.*

By my powers under section 20D(a)(2) of the Water Law, 5719-1959 (hereinafter – the Law), section 5 of the Abatement of Nuisances Law, 5721-1961, and section 62B(a) of the Public Health Ordinance, 1940, after consulting with the Government Water and Sewage Authority and with the Minister of Health, with the approval of the Knesset Internal Affairs and Environment Committee, I make the following Regulations:

## **Objective**

1. The objective of these Regulations is to prevent leaks from wastewater conveyance systems in order to protect water sources, ecosystems, biodiversity and other natural resources and to prevent environmental hazards, *inter alia* by imposing charges and issuing directives in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

## **Definitions**

2. In these Regulations

"Protected area" – as defined in the Public Health (Sanitary Conditions for Potable Water Drilling) Regulations, 5755-1995.

"Owner" or "holder" of a property – as defined in the Local Authorities (Sewerage) Law, 5722-1962.

"Leak" – any dripping, release or flow of wastewater into the environment from a wastewater conveyance system.

"The commissioner" – anyone appointed by the Minister of Environmental Protection from among the employees of his ministry for purposes of all or any of these Regulations.

"The Water Authority Director" – the Director of the Government Water and Sewage Authority appointed under section 124S of the Law.

"Wastewater conveyance system" or "system" – pipelines, including connectors, pumping stations and delivery lines, as well as all their facilities, serving for the collection and conveyance of wastewater.

"Drainage system" – a system of pipes and channels serving for drainage as defined in the Drainage and Protection from Floods Law, 5718-1957.

"Environmental hazard" – as defined in the Freedom of Information (Public Access to Environmental Information) Regulations, 5769-2009.

"Water source" – as defined in section 20A of the Law.

"Lifespan" – lifespan of a pipeline as specified in column B in the Schedule.

"Pipeline" – pipes or conduits for the collection and conveyance of wastewater, excluding a private pipeline of a property owner or holder.

"Main pipe" – a pipeline with a diameter of more than 8 inches.

"Health authority" – an employee of the Ministry of Health appointed by the Director General of the Ministry of Health for purposes of all or any of these Regulations.

"Local authority" – municipality, local council, regional council or local committee within its jurisdiction, conurbation, water association or company as defined in section 2 of the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law, 5761-2001 (hereinafter – the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law), as the case may be.

"Wastewater" – liquid waste or waste that is disposed of by piping, including solids in a suspension and dissolved solids.

"Pumping station" – an installation including all its components serving, *inter alia*, for the transfer of wastewater from one place to another in a wastewater conveyance system.

## **Duty to Operate and Maintain a Wastewater Conveyance System**

3. A local authority shall operate and maintain a wastewater conveyance system owned or held by it, at all times, in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations, in an efficient and reliable manner, and shall ensure the prevention leaks and environmental hazards.

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## Coordination and Reporting Duty between Local Authorities

4. (a) In this regulation –

"Disposing local authority" – a local authority that disposes of wastewater, *inter alia* by means of a wastewater conveyance system that is not owned or held by it.

"Receiving local authority" – a local authority that receives the wastewater of a disposing local authority in a wastewater conveyance system that is owned or held by it.

(b) A disposing local authority shall do each of these:

(1) It shall report in good time to a receiving local authority any significant change in the quantity of wastewater it is disposing of, and shall coordinate this matter with it.

(2) It shall coordinate with a receiving local authority any change in the system owned or held by it that could cause leaks or environmental hazards in the system of the receiving local authority.

(3) It shall coordinate with a receiving local authority the implementation of plans in accordance with regulation 6(a)(1) to (3), or sewage system rehabilitation and development plans prepared by a company as defined in section 2 of the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law, which were approved by the commissioner as defined in section 110(a) of the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law (in these Regulations – the corporations commissioner) pursuant to section 112 of said law, as the case may be, as required for the prevention of leaks and environmental hazards.

(c) A receiving local authority shall report immediately to a disposing local authority any change in the system owned or held by it that could cause leaks or environmental hazards, and shall coordinate with it the implementation of plans in accordance with regulation 6(a)(1) to (3), or sewage system rehabilitation and development plans prepared by a company as stated in subregulation (b)(3), which were approved by the corporations commissioner pursuant to section 112 of said law, as the case may be, as required for the prevention of leaks and environmental hazards.

## Duty to Keep Data on a Wastewater Conveyance System

5. (a) A local authority that owns or holds a wastewater conveyance system shall keep, at all times, current data on a wastewater conveyance system, in a computerized manner and on a geographical data system, including all of the these:

(1) A diagram of pipelines on a scale of at least 1:2,500.

(2) The type of pipeline as specified in column A in the Schedule, as well as details of the components of the wastewater conveyance system, including its facilities and the materials from which it is made.

(3) The date on which every existing main pipe was laid or the estimated date of laying such a pipe if the exact date on which the pipe was laid is not known.

(4) The condition of every main pipe rated as: "1" – good; "2" – requires regular monitoring; "3" – requires treatment, rehabilitation or replacement. Such rating shall be performed according to guidelines to be determined by the commissioner, which shall relate, *inter alia*, to the pipe's age, type and lifespan, the quantity of wastewater passing through it and the danger of exposure to corrosion.

(5) Details of the suitability of the wastewater conveyance system's parts to the existing wastewater discharges, including higher discharges due to rain, rated as: "1" – suitable; "2" – borderline; "3" – actual leaking during peak discharges or during rain.

(6) Mapping of connections of drainage systems to wastewater conveyance systems.

(7) Mapping of connections of wastewater conveyance systems to drainage systems.

(8) Mapping of protected areas, if any are found within the bounds of the wastewater conveyance system.

(b) A local authority that owns or holds a wastewater conveyance system which is located within the jurisdiction of another local authority, shall provide data as stated in subregulation (a) to the local authority within whose jurisdiction the system is located. A local authority within whose jurisdiction a wastewater conveyance system owned or held by another local authority is located shall keep the aforementioned data.

(c) Data as stated in subregulation (a) shall be open to the inspection of the commissioner, the health authority and the Water Authority Director and shall be provided upon the demand of any of them at any time.

## Duty to Prepare and Implement Plans

6. (a) A local authority that owns or holds a wastewater conveyance system shall prepare and implement plans as detailed hereinafter, based on the data of the wastewater conveyance system as stated in regulation 5 –

(1) Upgrading of the pipeline, taking into account the pipeline's age relative to its lifespan, the quantity of wastewater passing through it and the danger of its exposure to corrosion. This plan requires the

commissioner's approval. A pipeline from PVC, polyethylene or reinforced polyester shall be replaced at the end of its lifespan, unless the commissioner is satisfied, pursuant to a written request of a local authority, that there is no actual likelihood of an environmental hazard or injury to ecosystems and other natural resources, and taking into consideration the condition of the pipeline. The commissioner shall extend the lifespan of the pipeline for a further period as determined by him.

(2) Disconnection of a drainage system from a wastewater conveyance system, or disconnection of a wastewater conveyance system from a drainage system, which shall be implemented within two years from the effective date of these Regulations, and in any event, the disconnection shall be implemented no later than six months from the date of preparation of a plan for the disconnection of a particular pipe or channel of a drainage system from a pipeline of a wastewater conveyance system or of a plan for the disconnection of a particular pipeline of a wastewater conveyance system from a pipe or channel of a drainage system.

(3) Emergency actions in case of a leak on main lines and for the prevention thereof. The plan shall establish emergency measures, including the building of parallel pipelines, installation of reserve pumps and bypasses.

(4) Regular maintenance of the wastewater conveyance system as stated in regulation 8(a), including also a description of the control and supervision system for the condition of the pipelines, including frequency of checks.

(b) Notwithstanding that stated in subregulation (a)(2), with respect to the disconnection of a drainage system from a wastewater conveyance system, a local authority that is not the owner or holder of the drainage system shall ensure that no runoff flows into the wastewater conveyance system owned or held by it, and it shall coordinate a plan for disconnecting the drainage system from the wastewater conveyance system with the owner or holder of the drainage system.

(c) Plans as stated in subregulation (a) and a report on the implementation thereof shall be submitted to the commissioner, to the health authority and to the Water Authority Director, upon demand.

(d) A company as defined in section 2 of the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law, that prepared sewage system rehabilitation and development plans, and whose plans were approved pursuant to section 112 of the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law by the corporations commissioner, shall be deemed to have prepared plans in accordance with this regulation. A copy of such plans and a report on their implementation shall be submitted to the commissioner upon demand. Where a company submitted plans pursuant to the provisions of the Water and Sewerage Corporations Law as stated in this regulation, and the plan was approved by the corporations commissioner in accordance with the provisions of said law, after the effective date of this regulation, it shall be deemed to have prepared plans in accordance with this regulation – starting from the date of receipt of the corporations commissioner's approval. A copy of such plans and a report on their implementation shall be submitted to the commissioner upon demand.

### **Duty to Operate and Maintain a Pumping Station**

7. A local authority shall maintain and operate a wastewater pumping station according to guidelines to be issued by the commissioner on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, as revised from time to time.

### **Periodic Inspection and Maintenance**

8. (a) A local authority shall conduct a periodic inspection of the system and shall perform action as detailed hereinafter:

(1) It shall maintain the wastewater conveyance system on a regular basis, in a manner preventing blockages, leaks and environmental hazards, including harmful sanitary hazards.

(2) It shall inspect a pipeline with a diameter of more than 12 inches by CCTV photography, or by an equivalent method approved by the commissioner, at least once in five years. Where the results of the inspection indicate the existence of defects in such a pipeline, the local authority shall report this immediately to the commissioner and the line shall be immediately replaced or repaired according to his demand.

(3) It shall conduct once a year an inspection by CCTV photography, or by an equivalent method approved by the commissioner, of at least 2 percent of the main pipes whose actual life is greater than their lifespan. Where the results of the inspection indicate the existence of defects in the main pipe, the local authority shall report this immediately to the commissioner and the line shall be immediately replaced or repaired according to his demand.

(b) The commissioner or the Water Authority Director, after consulting with each other, may direct a local authority to install monitoring and control means in a wastewater conveyance system, for the purpose of preventing leaks, taking into consideration *inter alia* the risk of an environmental hazard and the characteristics of the wastewater

conveyance system.

(c) A local authority shall keep the periodic inspection and maintenance data for a period of no less than seven years, and they shall be open to the inspection of the commissioner, the health authority and the Water Authority Director and shall be submitted upon the demand of any of them at any time.

(d) A local authority shall keep an operating and maintenance log for a wastewater conveyance system, setting out therein the maintenance works carried out by it under subregulation (a)(1), the leaks in the wastewater conveyance system as well as the findings of the inspections it conducted on a pipeline as stated in subregulation (a)(1) and (3).

(e) A local authority shall regularly update the data specified in regulation 5 according to the changes and the results of the inspections conducted pursuant to subregulation (a)(2) and (3).

### **Supervision**

9. A local authority shall conduct a tour at least once a week along the route of the main lines in unbuilt areas and at the drainage system line outlets, to examine the integrity of manholes and covers and locate leaks, slides and changes in the land, and it shall document the findings of such tours.

### **Leak Handling Procedure**

10. (a) A local authority shall establish a procedure for handling leaks according to principles to be determined by the commissioner and published on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, and it shall act in accordance therewith and submit it to the commission upon demand.

(b) In case of a leak from a pipeline, including a private pipeline of a property owner or holder, a local authority shall take measures for the immediate discontinuation thereof and shall repair the pipeline in order to prevent water contamination and environmental hazards, in accordance with its powers under any law.

(c) Where a leak is discovered from a pumping station or from a main line, a local authority shall act as follows:

(1) It shall report the leak without delay, including by telephone –

(a) to the commissioner;

(b) to the health authority, if the leak is in a protected area or into the sea;

(c) to the Water Authority Director, if the leak is into or near a water source or in a protected area.

(2) It shall submit to those listed in paragraph (1), as the case may be, within 24 hours from the discovery of the leak, a written report by fax or by email, including the following details:

(a) the source of the leak, its location and scope and its geographical point of reference;

(b) the date and time when the leak occurred or was discovered;

(c) the reason for the leak, if it is known, and its description;

(d) actions taken by it and which it intends to take to repair the leak.

(3) It shall submit within two weeks from the discovery of the leak, to the commissioner, to the health authority and to the Water Authority Director, as the case may be, data on the quantity of wastewater that leaked and the actions taken by it to discontinue the leak and prevent its recurrence.

(d) Where an environmental hazard was caused due to a leak, or, in the commissioner's opinion, there is a reasonable likelihood that such a hazard will be caused, the local authority shall take measures as required for its prevention or discontinuation and for the restoration of the *status quo anti*.

### **Duty of Publication**

11. A local authority shall publish on its website and shall make available for public inspection at its offices the following:

(1) Data as per regulation 5(a)(4).

(2) Periodic inspection and maintenance data as per regulation 8(c).

(3) A leak handling procedure as per regulation 10(a).

(4) A report on any leak as per regulation 10(c)(2).

### **Effective Date**

12. (a) These Regulations shall come into effect thirty days after the day of their publication.

(b) Notwithstanding that stated in subregulation (a), the effective date of –

(1) Regulation 5 shall be six months after the day of publication of these Regulations.

(2) Regulation 6 shall be twelve months after the day of publication of these Regulations.

(3) Regulation 8(a)(2) shall be on January 1, 2014 (29 Tevet 5774).

## **Schedule**

(Regulations 2, 5(a)(4) and 6(a)(1))

<b>Column A</b> Pipeline Type	<b>Column B</b> Lifespan in Years
Asbestos cement	30
Concrete	30
Steel	10 to 15
P.V.C.	20 to 25
Polyethylene (various types)	25 to 40
Reinforced polyester (GRP)	15 to 30

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