

Text consolidated by Valsts valodas centrs (State Language Centre) with amending regulations of:  
20 March 2012 [shall come into force from 23 March 2012].

If a whole or part of a paragraph has been amended, the date of the amending regulation appears in square brackets at the end of the paragraph. If a whole paragraph or sub-paragraph has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted paragraph or sub-paragraph.

Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No 1354

Adopted 24 November 2009

## **Regulations Regarding Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Maps and Flood Risk Management Plan**

*Issued pursuant to  
Section 9, Paragraph six of the Water Management Law*

### **I. General Provision**

1. This Regulation prescribes the content and type of the information to be provided in the preliminary flood risk assessment (hereinafter – assessment), the flood hazard maps, the flood risk maps and the flood risk management plan, as well as the additional information to be included upon updating the referred to documents.

### **II. Content and Type of Information to be Provided in the Assessment**

2. The State limited liability company “Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre” (hereinafter – Centre) shall carry out an assessment on the basis of the information available regarding layout of bodies of surface water and their hydrological and morphological characterisation, topographical plans and maps of adjacent territories, data on the planned (permitted) use of the area specified in the spatial plan, studies on the impact of climate changes on occurrence of floods and other corresponding information.

3. The following shall be included in the assessment:

3.1. a map of the river basin district including the catchment areas and borders of bodies of surface water (rivers, lakes or coastal areas), their topography, as well as the current and planned (permitted) use specified in the local government spatial plan;

3.2. a description of the floods which have occurred in the past and which had significant adverse impacts on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity or repetition of which would cause serious adverse effects, if measures for the prevention thereof are not implemented, a description of the extent and conveyance routes of such flood, as well as an assessment of the adverse impacts they have entailed;

3.3. a short analysis on the potential adverse consequences of future floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, in addition to the information referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Regulation also taking into account the characteristics of the particular area subject to flood risk, the flooding areas specified in accordance with the Protection Zone Law – natural flood retention areas, the effectiveness of

existing hydrotechnical flood defence structures, the position of populated areas and areas of economic activities;

3.4. textual and graphic flood risk analysis, also including agricultural polders and territories adjacent to hydroelectric power stations and showing in the map such conclusions made regarding areas, in which flood risk exists or may occur.

[20 March 2012]

### **III. Content and Type of Information to be Provided in Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps**

4. The Centre shall prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps in digital form at certainty of scale no less than the certainty of local government spatial plan scale.

5. In the flood hazard maps the Centre shall indicate the areas subject to flood risk and a flood risk scenario:

5.1. floods with a low probability – extraordinary, extreme floods repeating once in 200 years or less often;

5.2. floods with a medium probability – floods repeating once in 100 years or less often;

5.3. floods with a high probability – floods repeating once in 10 years or less often.

6. The Centre shall indicate the following information in flood hazard maps for bodies of surface water, adjacent areas of which are subject to flood risk, regarding each flood risk scenario referred to in Paragraph 5 of this Regulation:

6.1. the size of the area subject to flood risk;

6.2. the average water depth or water level in the body of surface water;

6.3. where appropriate, the average water flow velocity or the relevant water flow.

7. The Centre shall indicate the potential adverse consequences of floods for each of the flood risk scenarios referred to in Paragraph 5 of this Regulation, taking into account the following parameters:

7.1. the indicative number of inhabitants potentially affected;

7.2. type of economic activity of the area potentially affected;

7.3. installations, in which the Category A polluting activities specified in Annex 1 to the Law On Pollution are carried out and flooding of which may cause environmental pollution or have adverse impact on human health;

7.4. the protected areas specified in the Water Management Law – water bodies which contain recreational objects or bathing waters, specially protected nature territories, as well as sources of water, which are used or are planned to be used for extraction of drinking water by more than 50 natural persons or in which the average amount of water extraction exceeds 10 m<sup>3</sup> per day;

7.5. other significant information on the particular body of surface water – flood defence hydrotechnical structures and hydrotechnical structures regulating water level, areas where floods with a high content of transported sediments and debris floods can occur, as well as information on other significant sources of environmental pollution.

[20 March 2012]

8. The Centre shall prepare flood hazard maps for coastal areas, which are sufficiently well protected from the impact of floods, and areas, which overflow due to the rise of groundwater or during incessant rain, only for the flood risk scenario specified in Sub-paragraph 5.1 of this Regulation.

#### **IV. Content and Type of Information to be Provided in the Flood Risk Management Plan**

9. In conformity with the requirements specified in the Water Management Law, the Centre shall determine flood risk management objectives for areas, in which flood risk exists or may occur, for all the flood risk scenarios referred to in Paragraph 5 of this Regulation in order to reduce the flooding risk, the potential adverse impacts of floods on human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity, as well as draw up a flood risk management plan (hereinafter – plan). The plan shall include measures for achieving such objectives, and it shall be integrated in the river basin management plan.

*[20 March 2012]*

10. Upon developing flood risk management objectives and plan, the characteristics of the catchment area of the particular body of surface water, the potential extent and conveyance routes of floods, the areas naturally retaining floods, for example, natural flood-lands, the environmental quality objectives specified in the river basin management plan in accordance with the Water Management Law, the management and use of areas subject to flood risk (including soil and water), the textural and spatial data of the spatial plan and of the information system of the Immovable Property State Cadastre, the environmental protection, the water transport and port infrastructure objects, as well as the approximate costs of the measures intended for achieving flood risk management objectives and the anticipated results thereof shall be taken into account.

*[20 March 2012]*

11. The plan shall cover all aspects of flood risk management, including preventive and preparedness measures that are directed towards prevention or reduction of flood risk, including flood forecasts and early warning systems. In selecting measures, controlled flooding of particular areas during floods and the preservation or restoration of natural regime in wetland areas, as well as other measures, which promote sustainable land use in the potentially flooding areas, may also be provided for. The measures included in the plan may not significantly increase flood risk outside the territory of Latvia, unless the countries contained in the relevant international river basin district have not jointly agreed on implementation of such measures.

*[20 March 2012]*

12. The plan shall include:

12.1. a map of the relevant river basin district, in which the conclusions of the preliminary flood risk assessment are presented and which indicates the areas referred to in Sub-paragraph 3.4 of this Regulation, to which the plan applies;

12.2. the flood hazard map and the flood risk map;

12.3. the conclusions made on the basis of the maps referred to;

12.4. a description of the flood risk management objectives;

12.5. measures for achievement of risk management objectives in priority order, the authorities responsible for implementation of measures, the approximate costs and the time period for execution thereof;

12.6. a summary regarding measures intended for achievement of risk management objectives in priority order, including measures specified in:

12.6.1. Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of this Regulation;

12.6.2. the regulatory enactments regarding environmental impact assessment;

12.6.3. the regulatory enactments regarding assessment and reduction of industrial accident risk;

12.6.4. the regulatory enactments regarding strategic environmental impact assessment;

12.6.5. the regulatory enactments regarding water management;

12.6.6. other regulatory enactments in the field of flood risk management;

12.7. information regarding the methodology used by the countries contained in the international river basin district for cost-effectiveness evaluation in relation to measures with cross-border impact, if such methodology has been drawn up;

12.8. a detailed flood risk management plan that has been co-ordinated at the level of the countries contained in the international river basin district, if the drawing up thereof has been recognised as necessary during intergovernmental co-operation in accordance with the Water Management Law.

*[20 March 2012]*

13. In addition to the information referred to in Paragraph 11 of this Regulation a description of implementing the plan shall be appended to the plan. The description shall:

13.1. justify granting of priority to the measures referred to in Sub-paragraph 12.5 of this Regulation;

13.2. describe the way of selecting the implementation results of the plan;

13.3. indicate the measures for informing the public regarding the plan and include a summary of measures and results of public discussion of the plan;

13.4. include a list of institutions, which are responsible for implementation of the measures intended in the plan;

13.5. characterise the way of ensuring the co-operation specified in the Water Management Law in the international river basin district and the link with the objectives, action and measures intended in the referred to Law.

*[20 March 2012]*

## **V. Additional Information to be Included in the Updated Assessment, Flood Hazard Maps, Flood Risk Maps and Plan**

14. The results of long-term studies on the impact of climate changes on occurrence of floods shall be included in the updated assessment.

15. Flood hazard maps and flood risk maps shall be reviewed and updated, if the assessment has been updated and the latest hydrological monitoring results show that flood risk increases, or additional topographical survey of areas adjacent to water bodies has been carried out.

16. The following shall be included in the updated plan:

16.1. a report on amendments made after publishing the previous version of the plan and information on the updated assessment and maps referred to in Paragraphs 14 and 15 of this Regulation;

16.2. a description and assessment of the results of implementing the plan;

16.3. a report on the measures included in the previous plan, which have not been implemented, and an explanation of causes;

16.4. a report on additional measures, which have been taken for the prevention or reduction of flood risk after approval of the previous plan.

## **VI. Closing Provisions**

17. Within the meaning of this Regulation an assessment is the National Programme for Flood Risk Assessment and Management 2008-2015 (approved by Cabinet Order No. 830 of 20

December 2007, *On the National Programme for Flood Assessment and Management 2008-2015*.

18. The assessment referred to in Paragraph 2 of this Regulation shall be revised and, if necessary, updated until 22 December 2018 and afterwards – once in six years.

19. The flood hazard maps and flood risk maps referred to in Paragraph 15 of this Regulation shall be revised and, if necessary, updated until 22 December 2019 and afterwards – once in six years.

20. The plan referred to in Paragraph 16 of this Regulation shall be revised and, if necessary, updated until 22 December 2021.

### **Informative Reference to the European Union Directive**

This Regulation contains legal norms arising from Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks.

Prime Minister

V. Dombrovskis

Minister for the Environment

R. Vējonis