

L.N. 299 of 2017

**FOOD SAFETY ACT  
(CAP. 449)**

**Water Intended for Human Consumption (Amendment)  
Regulations, 2017**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by article 10 of the Food Safety Act, the Minister responsible for Health has made the following regulations:-

1. The title of these regulations is the Water Intended for Human Consumption (Amendment) Regulations, 2017 and they shall be read and construed as one with the Water Intended for Human Consumption Regulations, hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations".

Citation.

S.L. 449.57.

2. Regulation 2 of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following:

Substitutes regulation 2 of the principal regulations.

"Scope and applicability.

2. (1) These regulations transpose the provisions of:

(a) Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November, 1998, on the quality of water intended for human consumption;

(b) Council Directive 2015/1787 of 6 October 2015 amending Annexes II and III to Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption.

(2) These regulations concern the quality of water intended for human consumption, with the objective to protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and to set in place a regime that provides protection to persons consuming the water and shall apply to any water supplied by a water supplier."

3. Schedule II of the principal regulations shall be substituted by the following:

Substitutes Schedule II of the principal regulations.

"SCHEDULE II  
(Regulation 8)

Monitoring  
PART A

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General objectives and monitoring programmes for water intended for human consumption

1. Monitoring programmes for water intended for human consumption must:

(a) verify that the measures in place to control risks to human health throughout the water supply chain from the catchment area through abstraction, treatment and storage to distribution are working effectively and that water at the point of compliance is wholesome and clean;

(b) provide information on the quality of the water supplied for human consumption to demonstrate that the obligations set out in regulations 5 and 6 in the principal regulations, and the parametric values laid down in Schedule I, are being met;

(c) identify the most appropriate means of mitigating the risk to human health.

2. Pursuant to regulation 8(2), the competent authority shall establish monitoring programmes complying with the parameters and frequencies set out in Part B of this schedule which consist of:

(a) collection and analysis of discrete water samples; or

(b) measurements recorded by a continuous monitoring process.

In addition, monitoring programmes may consist of:

(a) inspections of records of the functionality and maintenance status of equipment; and/or

(b) inspections of the catchment area, water abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution infrastructure.

3. Monitoring programmes may be based on a risk assessment as set out in Part C of this schedule.

4. The competent authority shall ensure that monitoring programmes are reviewed on a continuous basis and updated or reconfirmed at least every 5 years.

## PART B

### Parameters and frequencies

## 1. General framework

A monitoring programme must take into account the parameters referred to in regulation 6, including those that are important for assessing the impact of domestic distribution systems on the quality of water at the point of compliance, as set out in regulation 7(1). When choosing appropriate parameters for monitoring, local conditions for each water supply must be taken into consideration.

The competent authority shall ensure that the parameters listed in point 2 are monitored at the relevant sampling frequencies as set out in point 3.

## 2. List of parameters

### Group A parameters

The following parameters (Group A) shall be monitored in accordance with the monitoring frequencies set out in Table 1 of point 3:

(a) *Escheichia coli* (*E. coli*), coliform bacteria, colony count 22°C, colour, turbidity, taste, odour, pH, conductivity;

(b) other parameters identified as relevant in the monitoring programme, in accordance with regulation 6(3) and, where relevant, through a risk assessment as set out in Part C.

Under specific circumstances, the following parameters shall be added to the Group A Parameters:

(a) ammonium and nitrite, if chlorination is used;

(b) aluminium and iron, if used as water treatment chemicals.

### Group B parameters

In order to determine compliance with all parametric values set in these regulations, all other parameters not analysed under Group A and set in accordance with regulation 6 shall be monitored at least at the frequencies set out in Table 1 of point 3.

## 3. Sampling frequencies

Table 1  
Minimum frequency of sampling and analysis for compliance

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monitoring

Volume of water distributed or produced each day within a supply zone (See Notes 1 and 2) m <sup>3</sup>		Group A parameters number of samples per year (See Note 3)	Group B parameters number of samples per year
	≤ 100	> 0 (See Note 4)	> 0 (See Note 4)
> 100	≤ 1,000	4	1
> 1,000	≤ 10,000	4 + 3 For each 1,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d and part thereof of the total volume	1 + 1 For each 4,500 m <sup>3</sup> /d and part thereof of the total volume
> 10,000	≤ 100,000		3 + 1 For each 10,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d and part thereof of the total volume
> 100,000			12 + 1 For each 25,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d and part thereof of the total volume

*Note 1:* A supply zone is a geographically defined area within which water intended for human consumption comes from one or more sources and water quality may be considered as being approximately uniform.

*Note 2:* The volumes are calculated as averages taken over a calendar year. The number of inhabitants in a supply zone may be used instead of the volume of water to determine the minimum frequency, assuming water consumption of 200 l/(day\*capita).

*Note 3:* The frequency indicated is calculated as follows: e.g. 4,300 m<sup>3</sup>/d = 16 samples (four for the first 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d + 12 for additional 3,300 m<sup>3</sup>/d).

*Note 4:* The competent authorities that have decided to exempt individual supplies under regulation 4(2)(b) shall apply these frequencies only for supply zones that distribute between 10 and 100 m<sup>3</sup> per day. For these supply zones the frequency for Group A parameters shall be 4 samples per year and for Group B parameters shall be 1 sample every 2 years.

PART C  
Risk assessment

1. The competent authority may provide for the possibility to derogate from the parameters and sampling frequencies in Part B, provided that a risk assessment is performed in accordance with this Part.

2. The risk assessment referred to in point 1 shall be based on the general principles of risk assessment set out in relation to international standards such as EN 15975-2 concerning "security of drinking water supply, guidelines for risk and crisis management".

3. The risk assessment shall take into account the results from the monitoring programmes established by the second sub-paragraph of Article 7(1), and Article 8 of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as transposed in regulation 7(1) and regulation 8 of the Water Policy Framework Regulations, for bodies of water intended under regulation 7(1) that provide more than 100 m<sup>3</sup> a day on average, in accordance with Annex V to those regulations.

4. Based on the results of the risk assessment, the list of parameters in point 2 of Part B shall be extended and/or the sampling frequencies in point 3 of Part B increased, where any of the following conditions is fulfilled:

(a) the list of parameters or frequencies set in this Schedule is not sufficient to fulfil the obligations imposed under regulation 8(1);

(b) additional monitoring is required for the purpose of regulation 8(6);

(c) it is necessary to provide the necessary assurance set out in point (1)(a) of Part A.

5. Based on the results of the risk assessment, the list of parameters set out in point 2 of Part B and the sampling frequencies set out in point 3 of Part B may be reduced provided the following conditions are met:

(a) the frequency of sampling for *E. coli* must not be reduced below the one laid down in point 3 of Part B under any circumstances;

(b) for all other parameters:

(i) the location and frequency of sampling shall be

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determined in relation to the parameter's origin, as well as the variability and long-term trend of its concentration, taking into account regulation 7;

(ii) to reduce the minimum sampling frequency of a parameter, as set out in point 3 of Part B, the results obtained from samples collected at regular intervals over a period of at least 3 years from sampling points representative of the whole supply zone must all be less than 60% of the parametric value;

(iii) to remove a parameter from the list of parameters to be monitored, as set out in point 2 of Part B, the results obtained from samples collected at regular intervals over a period of at least 3 years from points representative of the whole supply zone must all be less than 30% of the parametric value;

(iv) the removal of a particular parameter set out in point 2 of Part B from the list of parameters to be monitored shall be based on the result of the risk assessment, informed by the results of monitoring of sources of water intended for human consumption and confirming that human health is protected from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption, as laid down in regulation 2;

(v) the sampling frequency may be reduced or a parameter removed from the list of parameters to be monitored as set out in points (ii) and (iii) only if the risk assessment confirms that no factor that can be reasonably anticipated is likely to cause deterioration of the quality of water intended for human consumption.

6. The competent authority shall ensure:

(a) risk assessments are approved by it and/or by any other competent authority; and

(b) information is available showing that a risk assessment has been carried out, together with a summary of its results.

#### PART D

##### Sampling methods and sampling points

1. Sampling points shall be determined so as to ensure

compliance with the points of compliance as defined in regulation 7(1). In the case of a distribution network, the competent authority may take samples within the supply zone or at the treatment works for particular parameters if it can demonstrate that there would be no adverse change to the measured value of the parameter concerned. As far as possible, the number of samples shall be distributed equally in time and location.

2. Sampling at the point of compliance shall meet the following requirements:

(a) compliance samples for certain chemical parameters (in particular copper, lead and nickel) shall be taken at the consumer's tap without prior flushing. A random daytime sample of one litre volume is to be taken. As an alternative, the competent authority may use fixed stagnation time methods that better reflect its national situation, provided that, at the supply zone level, this does not result in fewer cases of non-compliance than using the random daytime method;

(b) compliance samples for microbiological parameters at the point of compliance shall be taken and handled according to EN ISO 19458, sampling purpose B.

3. Sampling in the distribution network, with the exception of sampling at the consumers' tap, shall be in accordance with ISO 5667-5. For microbiological parameters, sampling in the distribution network shall be taken and handled according to EN ISO 19458, sampling purpose A."

4. Schedule III of the principal regulations shall be amended as follows:

Amends  
Schedule III of  
the principal  
regulations.

(a) the introductory paragraph thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"The competent authority shall ensure that the methods of analysis used for the purposes of monitoring and demonstrating compliance with these regulations are validated and documented in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025 or other equivalent standards accepted at international level. The competent authority shall ensure that laboratories or parties contracted by laboratories apply quality management system in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17025 or other equivalent standards accepted at international level.

In the absence of an analytical method meeting the

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minimum performance criteria set out in Part B, the competent authority shall ensure that monitoring is carried out using best available techniques not entailing excessive costs.";

(b) the heading of item 1 thereof up to including "Note 1" shall be substituted by the following:

"PART A  
MICROBIOLOGICAL PARAMETERS FOR WHICH  
METHODS OF ANALYSIS ARE SPECIFIED;

The methods for microbiological parameters are:

(a) *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) and coliform bacteria (EN ISO 9308-1 or EN ISO 9308-2)

(b) *Enterococci* (EN ISO 7899-2)

(c) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (EN ISO 16266)

(d) enumeration of culturable microorganisms – colony count 22°C (EN ISO 6222)

(e) enumeration of culturable microorganisms – colony count 36°C (EN ISO 6222)

(f) *Clostridium perfringens* including spores (EN ISO 14189).";

(c) items 2, 2.1 and 2.2 thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"PART B

Chemical and indicator parameters for which performance characteristics are specified

**1. Chemical and indicator parameters**

For the parameters set out in Table 1, the specified performance characteristics are that the method of analysis used must, as a minimum, be capable of measuring concentrations equal to the parametric value with a limit of quantification, as defined in Article 2(2) of Commission Directive 2009/90/EC of 31 July 2009 laying down, pursuant to Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, technical specifications for

chemical analysis and monitoring of water status, of 30% or less of the relevant parametric value and an uncertainty of measurement as specified in Table 1. The result shall be expressed using at least the same number of significant figures as for the parametric value considered in Parts B and C of Schedule I.

Until 31 December 2019 the competent authority may allow for the use of "trueness", "precision" and "limit of detection" as specified in Table 2, as an alternative set of performance characteristics to "limit of quantification" and "uncertainty of measurement" as specified respectively in the first paragraph and Table 1.

The uncertainty of measurement laid down in Table 1 shall not be used as an additional tolerance to the parametric values set out in Schedule I.

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Table 1  
Minimum performance characteristic "Uncertainty of measurement"

Parameters	Uncertainty of measurement (See Note 1) % of the parametric value (except for pH)	Notes
Aluminium	25	
Ammonium	40	
Antimony	40	
Arsenic	30	
Benzo(a)pyrene	50	<i>See Note 5</i>
Benzene	40	
Boron	25	
Bromate	40	
Cadmium	25	
Chloride	15	
Chromium	30	
Conductivity	20	
Copper	25	
Cyanide	30	<i>See Note 6</i>
1,2-dichloroethane	40	
Fluoride	20	
Hydrogen ion concentration pH (expressed in pH units)	0,2	<i>See Note 7</i>
Iron	30	
Lead	25	
Manganese	30	
Mercury	30	
Nickel	25	
Nitrate	15	
Nitrite	20	
Oxidisability	50	<i>See Note 8</i>
Pesticides	30	<i>See Note 9</i>
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	50	<i>See Note 10</i>
Selenium	40	
Sodium	15	
Sulphate	15	
Tetrachloroethene	30	<i>See Note 11</i>
Trichloroethene	40	<i>See Note 11</i>
Trihalomethanes – total	40	<i>See Note 10</i>
Total organic carbon (TOC)	30	<i>See Note 12</i>
Turbidity	30	<i>See Note 13</i>

*Acrylamide, epichlorohydrin and vinyl chloride to be controlled by product specification.*

Table 2  
Minimum performance characteristics "Trueness", "precision" and  
"limit of detection" may be used until 31 December 2019

Parameters	Trueness (See Note 2) % of the parametric value (except for pH)	Precision (See Note 3) % of the parametric value (except for pH)	Limit of detection (See Note 4) % of the parametric value (except for pH)	Notes
Aluminium	10	10	10	
Ammonium	10	10	10	
Antimony	25	25	25	
Arsenic	10	10	10	
Benzo(a)pyrene	25	25	25	
Benzene	25	25	25	
Boron	10	10	10	
Bromate	25	25	25	
Cadmium	10	10	10	
Chloride	10	10	10	
Chromium	10	10	10	
Conductivity	10	10	10	
Copper	10	10	10	
Cyanide	10	10	10	See Note 6
1,2-dichloroethane	25	25	10	
Fluoride	10	10	10	
Hydrogen ion concentration pH (expressed in pH units)	0,2	0,2		See Note 7
Iron	10	10	10	
Lead	10	10	10	
Manganese	10	10	10	
Mercury	20	10	20	
Nickel	10	10	10	
Nitrate	10	10	10	
Nitrite	10	10	10	
Oxidisability	25	25	10	See Note 8
Pesticides	25	25	25	See Note 9
Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons	25	25	25	See Note 10
Selenium	10	10	10	
Sodium	10	10	10	
Sulphate	10	10	10	
Tetrachloroethene	25	25	10	See Note 11
Trichloroethene	25	25	10	See Note 11
Trihalomethanes – total	25	25	10	See Note 10
Turbidity	25	25	25	

*Acrylamide, epichlorohydrin and vinyl chloride to be controlled by product specification.*

## 2. Notes to Table 1 and 2

<i>Note 1</i>	Uncertainty of measurement is a non-negative parameter characterising the dispersion of the quantity values being attributed to a measurand, based on the information used. The performance criterion for measurement uncertainty ( $k = 2$ ) is the percentage of the parametric value stated in the table or better. Measurement uncertainty shall be estimated at the level of the parametric value, unless otherwise specified.
<i>Note 2</i>	Trueness is a measure of systematic error, i.e. the difference between the mean value of the large number of repeated measurements and the true value. Further specifications are those set out in ISO 5725.
<i>Note 3</i>	Precision is a measure of random error and is usually expressed as the standard deviation (within and between batches) of the spread of results from the mean. Acceptable precision is twice the relative standard deviation. This term is further specified in ISO 5725.
<i>Note 4</i>	Limit of detection is either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- three times the standard deviation within a batch of a natural sample containing a low concentration of the parameter, or</li> <li>- five times the standard deviation of a blank sample (within a batch).</li> </ul>
<i>Note 5</i>	If the value of uncertainty of measurement cannot be met, the best available technique should be selected (up to 60%).
<i>Note 6</i>	The method determines total cyanide in all forms.
<i>Note 7</i>	Values for trueness, precision and uncertainty of measurement are expressed in pH units.
<i>Note 8</i>	Reference method: EN ISO 8467
<i>Note 9</i>	The performance characteristics for individual pesticides are given as an indication. Values for the uncertainty of measurement as low as 30% can be achieved for several pesticides, higher values up to 80% may be allowed for a number of pesticides.
<i>Note 10</i>	The performance characteristics apply to individual substances, specified at 25% of the parametric value in Part B of Schedule I.
<i>Note 11</i>	The performance characteristics apply to individual substances, specified at 50% of the parametric value in Part B of Schedule I.
<i>Note 12</i>	The uncertainty of measurement should be estimated at the level of 3 mg/l of the total organic carbon (TOC). CEN 1484 Guidelines for the determination of TOC and dissolved organic carbon (DOC) shall be used.
<i>Note 13</i>	The uncertainty of measurement should be estimated at the level of 1,0 NTU (nephelo-metric turbidity units) in accordance with EN ISO 7027. <sup>3</sup>

"; and

(d) item 3 thereof shall be deleted.

