



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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To: Water company day to day contacts

To whom it may concern

Update to requirements for approval of Ion Exchange Resins under regulation 31 (4) (a) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended) (England) and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018 (Wales)

Purpose

1. This update is to follow on from the letter published 02/12/2024 (Ref R31-02/2024) regarding the approval of in process ion exchange resins under regulation 31 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations.
2. We will be extending the required approval period for all non-regulation 31 approved resins until 31/12/2026. This is due to the availability of designated test laboratories to undertake the required testing for regulation 31 approvals.

Action required

3. Where ion exchange resins are currently being used and not listed, users are reminded to ensure that these products do not have a detrimental effect on water quality by demonstrating that the water treated by the resins meet the requirements of the relevant Regulations.
4. If you have not notified the Inspectorate of the resins currently being used, including resin name, resin manufacturer and resin type. Please do so at your earliest convenience.

5. We recommend that companies update the relevant regulation 27 submissions as appropriate, for the use of non-regulation 31 approved ion exchange resins within the water treatment processes being utilised.
6. Companies should have available any monitoring data covering the period from 2021 when the first Information Letter was published up to present day and remain demonstrable until approval granted. This information may be requested by the Inspectorate as a demonstration that compliance to the information has been met.

Monitoring required

7. Monitoring undertaken to demonstrate that water treated by ion exchange resins should consider the regeneration intervals and organic leaching of the monomeric constituents from the resin.
8. Copies of this letter have been sent to David Reynolds, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland, Bernie Corr, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland and David Henderson, Chief Executive, Water UK.
9. Responses to this letter should be directed to reg31.enquiries@defra.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent, but the letter may be freely copied and will be available on the Inspectorate's website.

Yours sincerely



Joanna Hunt
Inspector