



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Ground Floor, SW
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Enquiries: 0330 041 6501

Email: reg31.enquiries@defra.gov.uk

DWI Website: www.dwi.gov.uk

DWI Ref: R31-06/2026

20 July 2026

To: Board Level and Day to Day Contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies
and Water Companies in England and Wales

To whom it may concern

Update of regulation 31 letter R31-05/2026

Prohibition of Use – Fabricated Pipework and Fittings coated with Resicoat R4-FB HKC71R manufactured by Freeflow Pipesystems Ltd (DWI 56/4/817)

1. The approved product Fabricated Pipework and Fittings coated with Resicoat R4-FB HKC71R manufactured by Freeflow Pipesystems Ltd (DWI 56/4/817) had been revoked from the list of approved products with immediate effect on 22 June 2026. An associated regulation 31 letter (R31-05/2026) was issued to water companies telling them what was required with regards the revocation.
2. Following review and assessment of the available evidence, including relevant dates identifying when the product issues began, the original revocation has been rescinded and replaced with a prohibition notice.
3. A prohibition notice permits the Secretary of State to prohibit the use of, or the installation of a product under specific circumstances.
4. For this specific product approval, any stocks of the product or any pipework installed but yet to be commissioned or bought into supply can be used for distribution of drinking water or water intended for human consumption if they have been delivered before **8 February 2026**. This includes any stocks awaiting installation.
5. The prohibition requires that stocks that were delivered after **8 February 2026** shall be quarantined to ensure they are not mistakenly installed. An

installation of the product that was received after the specified date of the prohibition will be deemed as an offence under regulation 33.

6. If any pipes have been delivered, installed and commissioned between the start of the prohibition and 15 July 2026 please contact the reg31.enquiries@defra.gov.uk mailbox for further guidance.
7. Freeflow Pipesystems Ltd have in place a process for completing orders received via the use of one of two other regulation 31 (4)(a) approved suppliers during the period of the prohibition from 22 June 2026 onwards. The company should be providing evidence that the products supplied by them have been coated at either Leyfos Plastics Limited or Northpoint Ltd.
8. To ensure full control and traceability, Freeflow Pipesystems Ltd has established a documented process. Upon completion of each order, Leyfos Plastics Limited or Northpoint Ltd will provide a Certificate of Conformity confirming that the coating has been completed by one of the above named approved applicator. Freeflow Pipesystems will issue this certificate together with Leyfos Plastics Limited or Northpoint Ltd regulation 31 (4)(a) approval documentation and their Instructions for Use document as supporting evidence.
9. Please contact the product manufacturer, Freeflow Pipesystems Ltd, should you require further details regarding the issues surrounding this prohibition.
10. This letter applies only to products used with drinking water, other products produced by this company are not affected.

Copies of this letter have been sent to David Henderson, Chief Executive, Water UK; David Reynolds, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland and Berni Corr, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland.

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



Brenda Caymen
Principal Inspector