



Notification Number: 2006/250/UK

## The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2006

Date received : 25/05/2006  
End of Standstill : 29/08/2006 ( 27/11/2006)  
Issue of comments by : Commission, Commission, Spain  
Issue of detailed opinion by : Italy

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2006) D/51206  
Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification -  
Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação -  
Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 2006/0250/UK.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata -  
Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora -  
Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien  
- Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud -  
Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist.

(MSG: 200601206.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2006 0250 UK EN 29-08-2006 25-05-2006 UK NOTIF 29-08-2006

#### 2. Member State

United Kingdom

#### 3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical Regulations Directorate

#### 3. Originating Department

Food Standards Agency

#### 4. Notification Number

2006/0250/UK - C50A



## 5. Title

The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2006

## 6. Products Concerned

Natural mineral water, spring water and bottled drinking water

## 7. Notification Under Another Act

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## 8. Main Content

These draft UK Regulations consolidate the requirements laid down in the existing Regulations, which implement Directives 80/777/EEC (as amended) and 98/83/EC (as amended), the latter as it relates to bottled water for human consumption. Schedule 8 of these draft Regulations contains a requirement that spring waters and bottled waters which have been softened or desalinated, must not have its hardness reduced below a certain level. In these draft Regulations the level is measured as 60 mg/litre of the calcium ion (the main component of water hardness). This requirement applies to all softened/desalinated spring waters and bottled drinking waters sold in the UK.

## 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

There is a significant body of epidemiological evidence that demonstrates an inverse relationship between drinking water hardness and the incidence of cardiovascular disease (CVD). The UK has one of the highest rates of cardiovascular disease mortality in Europe and in 2004 CVD accounted for just over 216,000 deaths (British Heart Foundation, 2006), and was the second most commonly reported longstanding illness in Great Britain (ONS, 2005). Furthermore the popularity of bottled water with consumers is increasing as exemplified by the increase in total volume sales (+26.6 %) of spring water and bottled drinking water between 2001 and 2005. The protective effect of water hardness is therefore a beneficial health measure for the UK and it is therefore important to set this minimum hardness requirement.

## 10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

c) 2005/0019/UK

f) World Health Organisation, 2006, Hardness in Drinking-water, Background document for development of WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality, WHO/SDE/WSH/03.04/06.  
[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/dwq/chemicals/hardness.pdf](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/chemicals/hardness.pdf)

Catling, L., Abubakar, I., Lake, I., Swift, L. and Hunter, P. (University of East Anglia and Drinking Water Inspectorate), 2005, Review of evidence for relationship between incidence of cardiovascular disease and water hardness, Final Report for DWI/70/2/176:  
<http://www.dwi.gov.uk/research/Water%20hardness%20final%20report1.pdf>

Cardiovascular Review Group - Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA), 1994, Nutritional Aspects of cardiovascular Disease, Report on Health and Social Subjects, 46, (Section 6.91), p. 143, HMSO, UK.



**11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

No

**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

**15. Impact assessment**

Impact Assessment not available

**16. TBT and SPS aspects**

TBT Aspect

Yes

SPS Aspect

No

The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure in the sense of Annex A of the SPS Agreement.

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