



Notification Number: 2003/425/UK

## Restriction on the continuous dosing of hydrogen peroxide containing silver compounds as a disinfectant for drinking water.

Date received : 25/11/2003

End of Standstill :

Invocation of the Emergency Procedure : Yes

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2003) D/52230

Directive 98/34/EC

Notifikation - Notifizierung - Γνωστοποίηση - Notificación - Notifikation - Notifica - Kennisgeving - Notificação - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 2003/0425/UK.

Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - No abre el plazo - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Geen termijnbegin - Nao inicia o prazo - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist.

(MSG: 200302230.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2003 0425 UK EN 25-11-2003 UK NOTIF

#### 2. Member State

United Kingdom.

#### 3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical Regulations Directorate

#### 3. Originating Department

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

#### 4. Notification Number

2003/0425/UK – C70A

#### 5. Title

Restriction on the continuous dosing of hydrogen peroxide containing silver compounds as a disinfectant for



drinking water.

## 6. Products Concerned

Products conforming to EN 902:2000 that contain silver compounds included as an ingredient.

## 7. Notification Under Another Act

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## 8. Main Content

The draft regulation (letter of November 2003 from the Drinking Water Inspectorate to water companies) will prevent water companies from using continuously, as a drinking water disinfectant, products that conform to EN 902:2000 and contain silver compounds.

Keywords – Hydrogen peroxide, silver, restriction, disinfectant

## 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Hydrogen peroxide conforming to EN 902:2000 and containing a silver compound as an activator is being offered as a treatment for public water supplies that are required to comply with the requirements of the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC).

DEFRA's toxicology advisers have advised that there is inadequate toxicological data to allow confidence that silver compounds are safe for continuous use in drinking water. DEFRA has also received an Austrian evaluation of the effectiveness of hydrogen peroxide containing silver as a drinking water disinfectant that shows the product is ineffective in use. The regulation is a precautionary measure to avoid continuous exposure of consumers to silver and its compounds and possible exposure to pathogens.

## 10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- a) Toxicological opinion attached (Austrian evaluation of microbicidal effect of hydrogen peroxide, silver and the combination of both in water).
- b) Not applicable
- c) Not applicable
- d) Not applicable
- e) No basic texts
- f) The draft does not seek to limit the general marketing or use of a chemical substance; it limits only the point and duration of its application. Products conforming to EN 902:2000 may be used in the UK for cleaning of water works equipment or as an oxidising agent in the treatment of raw water. The draft restricts one specific use of a product that was not foreseen when the European standard was developed i.e. continuous use as a disinfectant when silver is included as an activator.

## 11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

Yes

## 12. Grounds for the Emergency

The draft seeks to protect public health. It is necessary to implement the measure immediately as hydrogen peroxide containing silver as an activator is being offered for sale in the UK for continuous use in the disinfection of drinking water.



**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

**15. Impact assessment**

No RIA is available for this measure.

**16. TBT and SPS aspects**

TBT and SPS Aspects

TBT Aspect

No. The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

SPS Aspect

No. The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

David O'Sullivan  
General Secretary  
European Commission

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sent to :

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