



Notification Number: 1999/28/UK

Water Industry, England and Wales, Secretary of State Specifications for Water Fittings.

Date received : 19/01/1999
End of Standstill : 22/04/1999 (22/07/1999)
Issue of comments by : Denmark, Spain
Issue of detailed opinion by : France, Germany

Message

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TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (99) D/50174
DIRECTIVE 98/34/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS
ANMÄLAN : 99/0028/UK.

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1. Structured Information Line

TLX 001 IND- 99 0028 UK- EN ----- 990119 --- ---

2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical
Regulations Directorate

3. Originating Department



Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

4. Notification Number

99/0028/UK

5. Title

Water Industry, England and Wales, Secretary of State
Specifications for Water Fittings.

6. Products Concerned

The Secretary of State Specifications for Water Fittings will be made under the Water Regulations 98/0338/UK, which were notified to the Commission in July 1998. They will apply to any water fitting installed or used, or to be installed or used, in premises to which water is or is to be supplied by a water undertaker, where there are not existing recognised standards.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

Under the provisions of the Water Regulations, the Secretary of State is entitled to make specifications for water fittings, where there are no existing harmonised European standards, or British standards, covering the waste, misuse, undue consumption or contamination of water supplies. We will, of course, recognise any equivalent standards from member

states of the EEA. This will ensure that every water fitting is of an appropriate quality and standard, and suitable for the circumstances for in which it is to be used. The specifications are based on performance, rather than specifying particular devices or technology which must be used.

We plan to adopt the UK's existing (but non-mandatory) test criteria for products where there is currently no standard. These were drawn up by the Water Byelaws Scheme (run by the water companies, who all enforce the Byelaws) to prove compliance with the Water Byelaws. Whilst these are not mandatory, many draw on British Standards or draft European standards, and they are the only acknowledged way of proving compliance with the Byelaws - arguably they are de facto compulsory standards. They have been in existence for some time and to date have not faced any complaints from European manufacturers. The Commission should be aware that whilst the text of the specifications currently refers to specific Byelaws, they will be updated, once approved, to relate directly to the Regulations.



The UK will fulfill its obligation under Article 12 of Directive 98/34/EEC (as amended) when these Regulations are officially published.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The Secretary of State Specifications will ensure that water fittings are of an appropriate quality and standard and suitable for their purpose. They are essential in protecting the consumer from drinking or coming into contact with contaminated drinking water supplies, and ensuring that fittings are not dangerous to the consumer or unduly waste water.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

Text of eighty-seven Secretary of State Specifications for Water Fittings. A full list of the tests is attached.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

C. TROJAN
COMEUR
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