



Notification Number: 2006/268/UK

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

Date received : 06/06/2006  
End of Standstill : 29/08/2006 ( 27/11/2006)  
Issue of comments by : Commission, Commission, France, Hungary, Spain  
Issue of detailed opinion by : Italy

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2006) D/51273

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 2006/0268/UK.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odlady - 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: 200601273.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2006 0268 UK EN 07-09-2006 06-06-2006 UK NOTIF 07-09-2006

#### 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

2006/0268/UK - C50A



## 5. Title

The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Wales) 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) 2005/0021/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**

The impact assessment is attached.

**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.

Catherine Day  
General Secretary  
European Commission

Contact point Directive 98/34  
Fax: (32-2) 296 76 60  
email: Dir83-189-central@cec.eu.int

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sent to :

BELNotif Qualité et Sécurité  
Mme Descamps

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie (Referat EA3)  
Frau Christina Jäckel

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit - Abteilung C2/1  
Frau MARKL Iris

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit - Abteilung C2/1  
Frau Brigitte WIKGOLM



Cyprus org. for the promotion of quality Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Tourism  
M. Antonis Ioannou

Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and testing  
Mrs Lucie Ruzickova

Department of Trade and Industry STRD2  
Mr Philip Plumb

Délégation Interministérielle aux Normes  
Mme Piau

EFTA Surveillance Authority  
Mr. Gunnar Thor PETURSSON

ELOT  
M.Mourtzanos K

EU internal market coordination (Ministry of Economics)  
Mrs Zanda Liekna

Erhvervs- og Boligstyrelsen  
Lene Hald Nielsen

European Free Trade Association  
.

Hungarian Notification Centre Ministry of economy & transport  
Mr Zsolt Fazekas

Institut Belge de Normalisation  
Mme F. Hombert

Instituto Português da Qualidade  
Sra Cândida Pires

Kauppa-ja teollisuusministeri  
Ms. Leila Orava

Kommerskollegium  
Mme Jenni Altin

Lithuanian Standards Board  
Daiva Lesickiene

Malta standards Authority  
Dr Lorna Cachia

Min. of Economic Affairs & Communication  
Mr. Karl Stern



Min. of Industry, Energy & Technology  
Mr K. Polychronidis

Ministerie van Financiën Belastingdienst - Douane Noord / CDIU  
De Heer IJ.G. van der Heide

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores Secretaría de Estado para la Unión Europea  
Esther Perez Pelaez

Ministero delle attività produttive F1 - Ispettorato tecnico industria  
Signor Vincenzo Correggia

Ministry of Economy Dept for Economic Regulations  
Mrs Barbara H. Kozłowska

NSAI  
Mr Tony Losty

National Agency for Enterprise & Housing Dahlerups Pakhus  
Mr. Bjarne Bang Christensen

Office of standards, metrology & Testing Director of the department of European I  
Mrs Kvetoslava STEINLOVA

Représentation Permanente du Luxembourg  
.

Service de l'Energie de l'Etat  
Mr J.-P. Hoffmann

Slovenian Institute for Standardization SIST  
Mrs Vesna Stazisar

Undersecretariat of Foreign Trade General Directorate of Standardisation  
Mr Mehmet COMERT