



Notification Number: 2000/119/UK

## **The Regulator's Specification for WC Suites delivering a single flush of 6 litres maximum or a dual-flush of 6 litres maximum and reduced flush of no greater than 2/3 of maximum**

Date received : 22/03/2000  
End of Standstill : 22/06/2000 ( 22/09/2000)  
Issue of comments by : Spain  
Issue of detailed opinion by : Germany,Netherlands,Sweden

### Message

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Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2000) D/50640  
Directive 98/34/EC

Notifikation - Notifizierung - Γνωστοποίηση - Notificación - Notification - Notifica - Kennisgeving -  
Notificação - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 2000/119/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: 200000640.EN)

### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2000 0119 UK EN 22-06-2000 22-03-2000 UK NOTIF 22-06-2000

### 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**

2000/119/UK

#### **5. Title**

The Regulator's Specification for WC Suites delivering a single flush of 6 litres maximum or a dual-flush of 6 litres maximum and reduced flush of no greater than 2/3 of maximum

#### **6. Products Concerned**

The Regulator's Specification for the Performance of WC Suites will apply to all newly installed WC suites in England and Wales from 1 January 2001. Performance tests will ensure that WC suites, and components of them, perform to a high standard at low volumes without wasting water. Water can be wasted through leaking inlet valves or flushing devices, or by inadequate flushing at lower volumes leading to repeat flushing. The Specification will reduce the maximum flush volume of all new WCs and remove the statutory requirement for valveless mechanisms to permit any high quality flushing device.

#### **7. Notification Under Another Act**

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#### **8. Main Content**

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 replaced the Water Byelaws in England and Wales. They enable the Regulator to adopt specifications for water fittings where there are currently no harmonised European Standards, or British Standards, in order to prevent the waste, misuse, undue consumption or contamination of water supplies. The WC Specification will reduce the maximum flush volume from 7.5 to 6 litres, allow the re-introduction of dual flush WCs and permit any flushing mechanism that passes the specified, or equivalent, performance tests for durability and water conservation. It has been developed as a standard, rather than included in the main body of the Regulations, so that it can more easily accommodate emerging European Standards. In the meantime, the Specification is based on a number of existing standards, particularly the European Standard for WC pans with integral trap (EN997).

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations were notified to the Commission in July 1998 (98/0338/UK) and came into effect on 1 July 1999. They include a mutual recognition clause for equivalent standards and testing.

#### **9. Brief Statement of Grounds**

In many parts of England and Wales there is an increasing need to conserve water. Since WCs use about one third of water supplied to domestic properties, they are a prime target for water conservation measures. The WC Specification will ensure that WCs perform to a high standard at low volumes without wasting water. It will also provide recognition of European Standards and permit a much wider range of products currently used in other Member States, instead of the present situation that only allows siphonic flushing mechanisms. The WC Specification will replace this prescriptive approach with a framework governed by performance standards.

#### **10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts**

Text of the draft Regulator's Specification for WC Suite Performance.



**11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

No

**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

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Carlo Trojan  
General Secretary  
European Commission