STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2014 No. 208

The Groundwater (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

Insertion of Schedule

12. A Schedule shall be inserted into the Groundwater Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 as follows:

"SCHEDULE

Regulation 8

Groundwater Threshold Values

Table 1

Threshold values for assessing groundwater chemical status

Parameter	Unit	To examine if groundwater abstraction is causing saline or other intrusions	To examine if groundwater is providing a significant contribution to the failure of the environmental objectives of associated surface water bodies	To examine if the quality of groundwater that is abstracted for potable use is deteriorating, possibly resulting in a need for increased purification	the spatial extent of a groundwater body or group of bodies that are exceeding an EU
Ammonium	mg/l				0.29
Arsenic	µg/l				7.5
Atrazine	µg/l				0.075
Cadmium	µg/l				3.75
Chloride	mg/l	25			
Electrical Conductivity	µS/cm	800		1875	

(1) The surface water environmental standards are set out in Schedule 1 to The Water Framework Directive (Priority Substances and Classification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011(S.R. 2011 No. 10)

(2) The "dilution factor" is taken to be the fraction of the average annual river flow derived from groundwater inflows. It can be estimated from established hydrological indices such as the baseflow index, or from the ratio of catchment groundwater recharge to effective precipitation.

Parameter	Unit	To examine if groundwater abstraction is causing saline or other intrusions	To examine if groundwater is providing a significant contribution to the failure of the environmental objectives of associated surface water bodies	To examine if the quality of groundwater that is abstracted for potable use is deteriorating, possibly resulting in a need for increased purification	To examine the spatial extent of a groundwater body or group of bodies that are exceeding an EU Standard or threshold value
Lead	µg/l				18.8
МСРА	µg/l				0.075
Mecoprop	µg/l				0.075
Mercury	µg/l				0.75
Nitrate (as NO ₃₎	mg/l			37.5	37.5
Simazine	µg/l				0.075
Sulphate	mg/l				187.5
Tetrachloroethylene	Tetrachloroethylene µg/l			7.5	7.5
Trichloroethylene	µg/l			7.5	7.5
Any pollutant in relation to which a surface water environmental standard has been set ⁽¹⁾			0.5 x (surface water standard divided by dilution factor) ⁽²⁾		

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Table 2

Column header Annual mean nitrate concentration (mg/l NO₃) Altitude Above Ordnance Datum Wetland type 175 more than 175 to any ир metres metres Quaking bog 18 4 Wet dune 13 Fen (mesotrophic) and Fen Meadow 9 22

Threshold values for assessing the risk to wetlands

Column header	Annual mean nitrate concentration (mg/l NO ₃)			
	Altitude Above Ordnance Datum			
Wetland type	up to 175 metres	more than 175 metres	any	
Fen (oligotrophic and wetlands at tufa forming springs)	20	4		
Wet grassland	26	9		
Wet heath	13	9		
Peatbog and woodland on peatbog			9	
Wetland directly irrigated by spring or seepage			9	
Swamp (mesotrophic) and reedbed			22	
Swamp (oligotrophic)			18	
Wet woodland	22	9"		