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*	*To examine the spatial extent of a groundwater body or group of bodies that are exceeding an EU Standard or threshold value*
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
MCPA	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	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

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*
Quaking bog	18	4	
Wet dune			13
Fen (mesotrophic) and Fen Meadow	22	9	

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”	