



Ministry of Health  
Republic of Latvia



Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

# **UNECE Protocol on Water and Health consultation process – developments since March 2018**

**The seventeenth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol on Water and  
Health**

**5 November 2018, Geneva**

# Developments in water and health situation: changes in legal regulation

- **Amendments to Cabinet Regulation No. 618** on disinfection, entered into force on 09.02.2018.
- Requirements for preventative disinfection set including:
  - limit value for *Legionella spp.* numbers in drinking water after disinfection: 1000 cfu/L;
  - Requirements on the record keeping and documentation submission to Health Inspectorate.
- **Amendments to Cabinet Regulations No. 906** on the sanitary maintenance of a residential house entered into force on 09.03.2018.
- Requirement for hot water temperature in the residential house system set to + 55°C;
- Managers of houses have to regularly provide inhabitants with information on preventative measures to be carried out by inhabitants to prevent *Legionella spp.* proliferation in their flats.

# Developments in water and health situation: changes in legal regulation

- Amendments to Cabinet Regulations No. 671 on drinking water quality requirements entered into force on 19.10.2018. They promote the use of e-services for the provision of necessary information and provides for reduction of sampling frequency in specific cases.
- Amendments planned in 2019 to Cabinet Regulations No. 907 regarding the Survey, Technical Servicing, Current Repairs and Minimal Requirements for Energy Efficiency of the Residential House:
  - to set requirements for house managers to regularly inspect water systems, heating units, plan their risk assessment and corrective actions against contamination with *Legionella*;
  - to prepare guidelines for house managers on how to carry out such inspections.



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# Relationship between the Protocol on Water and Health and the relevant EU instruments

- In June 2018, the MEPRD submitted the regular report about the implementation of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive to the European Commission. On its basis a report for general public will be produced in early 2019.
- The discussions about the amendments to the EU Drinking Water Directive are on-going. In 2018, the inter-institutional working group on drinking water was active to discuss the proposed amendments and to elaborate a national position and instructions. Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, as well as stakeholders are involved. Information to water companies was provided several times, emphasizing potentially new tasks stemming from these amendments, e.g. the risk assessment.
- The MEPRD had an internal discussion on better reflection of the targets and results in the future reports to the Protocol on Water and Health.



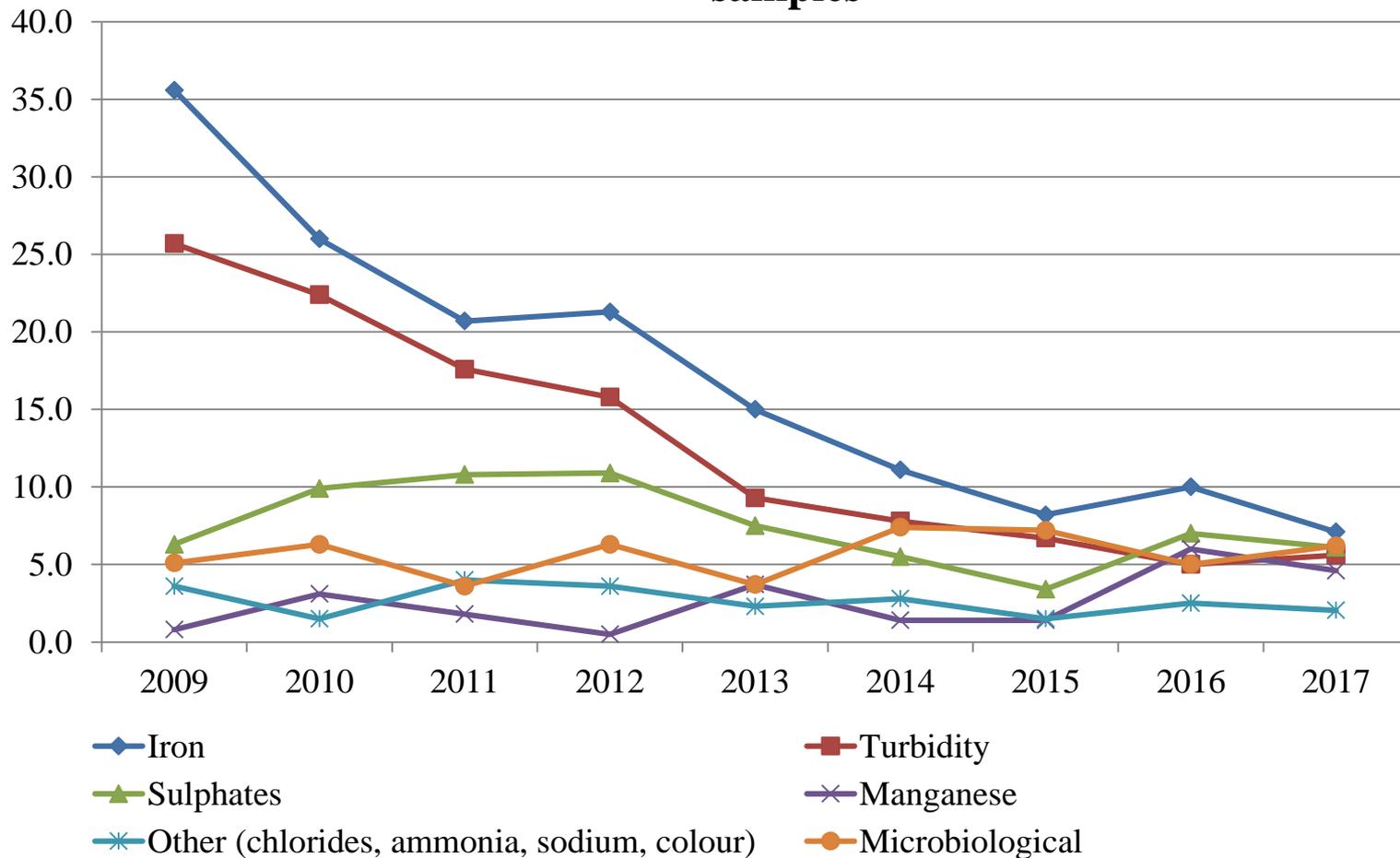
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# Awareness raising among policy-makers and consumers

- In March – April 2018, there was an acute public interest about the establishment of commercial meters (water/ wastewater quantity metering devices) that led to numerous articles in media. Using this interest, the MEPRD explained why new legislation on individual wastewater treatment and collection systems was adopted in 2017 and what it requires from their users.
- The association of Latvian water companies is promoting the safety and quality of tap water, there were several events in 2018.
- In September – October 2018, there was a public information campaign commissioned by the MEPRD to promote connections to centralized sewerage networks, where they exist or are under construction. It included also information on the requirements for those who will still be reliant on individual wastewater treatment and collection systems.
- Information about the new developments in the EU (e.g. amendments to the Drinking Water Directive and new proposal on water reuse) was provided to the consultative boards of the river basin districts and to the municipalities and water companies throughout the period.
- In August 2018, a Report on drinking water quality in 2017 was prepared and published by the Health Inspectorate.

# Drinking water quality

**Non-compliances of chemical and microbiological parameters detected in state supervision monitoring from 2009 – 2017, % of samples**





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# Financial instruments and mechanisms

- 46 larger settlements (agglomerations) are implementing wastewater collection systems extension projects. All the results (real connections) shall be achieved by 31 December 2023.
- In June – July 2018, the MEPRD asked water companies to come up with their proposals and priorities regarding further improvement of wastewater collection and treatment and water supply services. Data were collected and analysed; discussions with the water companies and municipalities are on-going. This information and results of the discussions will be used to elaborate further investment strategies.
- In 2016-2019, the Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme funds a project «Water emissions and their reduction in village communities – villages in Baltic Sea Region as pilots» (*VillageWaters*). The project aims to suggest the most effective wastewater treatment solutions for sparsely populated area households that use independent water-purification systems. Among the other things, it has developed a Wastewater Solutions Information Tool, which helps to select best wastewater treatment solution for the person's needs.



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VillageWaters



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- Information Tool
- Guidelines
- Read Articles
- About Project

## Wastewater Solutions Information Tool

Let us help you select best wastewater treatment solution for your needs

|                    |                       |                          |                            |                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
|                    |                       |                          |                            |                    |
| Country<br>Estonia | Capacity<br>4 persons | Technology<br>3 selected | Dimensions<br>11.3 x 3.3 m | Costs<br>7 - 457 € |

Choose the country

Estonia ▼

### Choose from location list

See which wastewater treatment systems are available in particular country and conform with local rules and regulations.

List results by: Efficiency, better first ▼ Display mode: Essential data ▼

By current criterias, there are 41 results

### Labko BioKem 6EN

Wavin-Labko Oy (Finland)

Biological plant 🌱 97% BOD efficiency

### BioPure-5 Plus

Vesmaco OÜ (Estonia)

Biological plant 🌱 96% BOD efficiency

### Oxyfix C-90 1-5 PE

Eloy Water s.a. (Belgium)

Biological plant 🌱 96% BOD efficiency



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# Capacity building for water suppliers, municipalities and others

- In October, November and December there are several meetings with water companies that currently implement the EU funded investment projects. We use this to inform them about any important developments in the EU and in Latvia.
- The MEPRD has applied for a funding for a project, which, among the other things, envisages the training for the representatives of water companies. The main aim is to improve the quality of data generated and reported by water companies. However, other topical subjects may be included.
- In October 2018, internal capacity building seminar for inspectors and hygiene specialists of the Health Inspectorate took place, information on drinking water risk assessment aspects and assessment tools was discussed.

**Thank you for your attention!**

