



Drinking water directive and the social housing sector

Draft Housing Europe position paper | Brussels, spring 2018

As social housing providers are in the fore front to ensure good quality of life at an affordable price for those in need, they are carefully analysing the potential impact of proposal made by the European Commission to revise the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC. The aim of this proposal is to increase the quality of and the access to the public water supply. The draft is primarily aimed at Member States and water suppliers, however with preventive safety requirements for drinking water, quality and cost transparency, water quality among others. Altogether the proposal forecasts significant additional costs (estimated by the Commission at 3.7 - 5.9 billion EUR) .

- Housing Europe support the broad objectives of the Directive to ensure high quality drinking water for Europeans
- Housing Europe view is that the Directive should provide for the necessary level of safety regarding the quality of drinking water everywhere in Europe but should not duplicate the existing rules that have proven cost efficient from the perspective of the end users.

Therefore, we suggest to limit to scope of some provisions of the proposed Directive to premises with constant change of users and therefore increased risk of contamination of the population. This would be achieved by limiting it to non-residential sector. This will also help ensure that the proposed provisions will not duplicate existing rules in the residential building sector:

Amendment 1

COM(2017)753 final	Housing Europe-Position
Article 2- Definitions	

<p>2. 'domestic distribution system' shall mean the pipework, fittings and appliances which are installed between the taps that are normally used for human consumption in both public and private premises and the distribution network but only if they are not the responsibility of the water supplier, in its capacity as a water supplier, according to the relevant national law.</p> <p>7. 'priority premises' shall mean large premises with many users potentially exposed to water-related risks, such as hospitals, healthcare institutions, buildings with a lodging facility, penal institutions and campgrounds, as identified by Member States.</p>	<p>2. 'domestic distribution system' shall mean the pipework, fittings and appliances which are installed between the taps that are normally used for human consumption in both public and private premises which are accessible by the general public and the distribution network but only if they are not the responsibility of the water supplier, in its capacity as a water supplier, according to the relevant national law</p> <p>7. 'priority premises' shall mean large non-residential premises with many users potentially exposed to water-related risks, such as hospitals, healthcare institutions, buildings with a lodging facility, penal institutions and campgrounds, as identified by Member States.</p>
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Amendment 2

<p>Article 7 - Risk-based approach to water safety</p> <p>1. Member States shall ensure that the supply, treatment and distribution of water intended for human consumption is subject to a risk-based approach, composed of the following elements:</p> <p>(c) a domestic distribution risk assessment, in accordance with Article 10.</p> <p>4. Domestic distribution risk assessments shall be carried out by [3 years after the end-date for transposition of this Directive]. They shall be reviewed every 3 years, and updated where necessary.</p>	<p>(c) a domestic distribution risk assessment of priority premises, in accordance with Article 10.</p> <p>4. Domestic distribution risk assessments of priority premises shall be carried out by [3 years after the end-date for transposition of this Directive]. They shall be reviewed every 3 years, and updated where necessary.</p>
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Amendment 3

<p>Article 10 - Domestic Distribution Risk Assessment</p> <p>1. Member States shall ensure that a domestic distribution risk assessment is performed, comprising the following elements:</p>	<p>1. Member States shall ensure that a domestic distribution risk assessment <i>of priority premises</i> is performed, comprising the following elements:</p>
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