



15 February 2023

(23-1080)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1. Notifying Member: <u>UNITED KINGDOM</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2. Agency responsible: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: UK TBT Enquiry Point Trade Policy Group Department for International Trade Old Admiralty Building London SW1A 2DY TBTEnquiriesUK@trade.gov.uk
3. Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], 3.2 [], 7.2 [], other:
4. Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Products related to Water Closet (WC) Suites: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Closet suites (flushing cisterns and pans etc.);• Components for Water Closet Suites (inlet valves, flushing devices, cisterns etc.);• Backflow prevention arrangements and devices for water systems. HS Code: Plastics: tubes, pipes, fittings etc. (HS 3917); Plastics: lavatory pans, flushing cisterns etc. (HS 3922.90); Ceramic Products: water closet pans, flushing cisterns etc. (HS 6910.10; HS 6910.90); Iron or steel products: sanitary ware (HS 7324.29; HS 7324.90); Copper: tubes and fittings (HS 7403; HS 7411; HS 7412). ICS Code: Sanitary installations (ICS 91.140.70); Water supply systems (ICS 91.140.60); Fluid systems (ICS 23.040).
5. Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Amended Regulator Specifications made under Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 (106 pages in English).

<p>For clarity this notification is regarding the amendment of Regulator Specifications under the (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 rather than the Regulations themselves.; (106 page(s), in English)</p>
<p>6. Description of content:</p> <p>These measures result from the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 ('the Regulations'), as they apply in England and Wales, and regulate how water systems are designed, installed and operated. The Regulations require water fittings to be an appropriate quality and standard and suitable for the circumstances in which they are used. To meet these requirements, Regulator Specifications can be approved to provide detailed performance characteristics to ensure, amongst other things, that a fitting will not cause contamination of the water supply thereby protecting human health.</p> <p>These measures amend the Regulator Specifications that relate to: the design and performance of Water Closet suites and their components; backflow prevention arrangements and their classifications; and, relevant testing requirements.</p> <p>The amendments, to prevent water from a Water Closet cistern backflowing into a clean drinking water supply, will: introduce a new backflow prevention arrangement for Water Closets; and, apply appropriate testing requirements.</p> <p>Regulator Specifications are relevant to the compliance of certain water fittings in Scotland with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) (Scotland) Byelaws 2014 and in Northern Ireland with the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.</p>
<p>7. Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:</p> <p>Water Closet cisterns are not designed to store water of drinking water quality. Deterioration due to stagnation of water and/or presence of chemicals (introduced by consumers into the cistern) could have potential health risks. The changes are required to increase safety and protect human health from the risk of drinking water becoming contaminated from the backflow of such water.; Protection of human health or safety</p>
<p>8. Relevant documents:</p> <p>Accompanying this notification is the amended Regulator Specifications made under the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 (106 pages in English).</p> <p>A consultation on the proposed changes was published on 8 August 2022 on the UK government's website. The consultation was open to all operators in the market, regardless of origin - https://consult.defra.gov.uk/drinking-water-quality/wc-suite-performance-specifications/.</p> <p>The consultation documents published were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex A: Regulator Specifications and Test Code Sheets, • Annex B Consultation questions. <p>The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/1148/contents</p>
<p>9. Proposed date of adoption: July 2023</p> <p>Proposed date of entry into force: 12 months after adoption</p>
<p>10. Final date for comments: 60 days from notification</p>

11. Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:

UK TBT Enquiry Point
Trade Policy Group
Department for International Trade
Old Admiralty Building
London
SW1A 2DY

TBTEnquiriesUK@trade.gov.uk

https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2023/TBT/GBR/23_1093_00_e.pdf