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Protection of the aquatic environment against discharges of dangerous substances (until 2013)

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Multilingual display

Display

Dates

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Classifications

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EUROVOC descriptor:
- pollution control measures
- water pollution
- dangerous substance
- codification of EU law
Protection of the aquatic environment against discharges of dangerous substances (until 2013)

The European Union (EU) lays down harmonised rules to protect the aquatic environment against the discharge of dangerous substances. The new regulations impose in particular the granting of an authorisation for certain pollutant discharges, emission limits for some chemicals and an improvement in the quality of waters under national jurisdiction. This Directive is repealed by the Framework Directive on water as from the end of 2013.

ACT


SUMMARY

This Directive lays down rules for protection against, and prevention of, pollution resulting from the discharge of certain substances into the aquatic environment. It applies to inland surface water, territorial waters and internal coastal waters. Two lists of dangerous substances have been compiled to combat pollution:
• discharge of substances in list I must be eliminated; while
• discharge of substances in list II must be reduced.

Pursuant to Annex IX of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC), quality objectives and emission limit values are established by the “daughter directives” of Directive 2006/11/EC. Moreover, emission limit values for pollutants must be based on the best available techniques in line with Article 10 of Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. All discharges of substances included in list I require prior authorisation by the competent authority in the Member State concerned. The authorisation is granted for a limited period and lays down emission standards which may be more stringent than the thresholds set by Community legislation, particularly to take account of the toxicity or persistence of the substance in the environment into which it is discharged. It is up to the Member States to ensure compliance with the emission standards.

For the substances on list II, the Member States adopt and implement programmes to preserve and improve water quality. All discharges are subject to prior authorisation by the competent authority in the Member State concerned that lays down the emission standards. The Member States draw up an inventory of the discharges into the waters covered by this Directive and may take more severe measures than those laid down by Community legislation to reduce or eliminate pollution caused by dangerous substances. The Directive lays down a procedure for revising and adding to the lists or transferring specific substances from list II to list I.

Before 22 December 2012, Member States may carry out surveillance and notification pursuant to Articles 5, 8 and 15 of the Water Framework Directive.

**Background**


**References**

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**RELATED ACTS**

Environmental quality standards


See consolidated version.


- an amendment of the list of priority substances and the corresponding EQS;
- transparent criteria to designate so-called “mixing” zones, within which standards may be exceeded under certain conditions;
- the preparation of an inventory of emissions, discharges and losses. This inventory will be used to prepare the Commission Report which will check progress achieved in reducing or ceasing emissions of pollutant substances by 2018.

The Directive supplements the legislative framework introduced by the Water Framework Directive. It allows decisions to be made at all levels of governance. Member States have until December 2009 to prepare plans for the management of hydrographical districts and programmes of measures relating thereto.

Improvement of information


Decision 92/446/EEC [Official Journal L 247 of 27.8.1992]. This Decision draws up the outlines of questionnaires needed to monitor the implementation of and compliance with the provisions of all Directives in the water sector, including Directives 76/464/EEC, 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC.

Transfer Register
Regulation (EC) No 166/2006 [Official Journal OJ L 33 of 4.2.2006]. The EU introduces a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register to improve access by the public to information and, in the long term, contribute to preventing and reducing pollution.

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