

Sound Science to underpin Disinfection Policy

We have been working with water companies across the UK to develop and / or revise their disinfection policies. Companies benefit from WRc performing gap / optimisation analysis, comparing existing disinfection policies with good practice elements drawn from international jurisdictions with well-established drinking water safety and disinfection practice. This fulfils the legislative requirement for establishing disinfection policies based on sound science within a robust, risk-based framework.

In addition to the revision or rewrite process, we have also successfully delivered benchmarking studies of existing treatment works against elements of good disinfection policy practice for a number of water companies. The team also remains in contact with the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) to define optimum approaches.

Why is this important? Water companies in the UK are required to develop and implement a Disinfection Policy which lays down the high-level strategy for achieving "an adequate treatment", in line with the requirements of Regulation 26. This means that water companies must be able to demonstrate that the treatment is designed for the microbiological challenge present in the raw water, and that it is operated within validated criteria. The DWI has taken a flexible approach in allowing water companies to develop the structure and contents of their own disinfection policies, with the caveat that the policies need to be informed by "sound science".

WRc provide the underpinning "sound science". Read more about our services here.

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