

Support to the Implementation and Further Development of the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC): Study on Materials in Contact with Drinking Water

Introduction

It is well established that products such as pipes or valves can by various mechanisms release substances into the drinking water that they are in contact with, or that materials may encourage microbial growth. As a result, these products and materials may pose a significant risk to human health.

The European Commission has issued this contract: "Support to the Implementation and Further Development of the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC): Study on Materials in contact with Drinking Water" to analyse the problem of materials and products affecting the quality of drinking water; to develop a guidance for users of materials in contact with drinking water; and to provide support for a draft inception impact assessment.

The objective of the contract will be achieved through the following tasks and sub-tasks:

Task 1 Assessment of the Situation will provide an overview of the problem including an indication of its scale, including:

- Sub-task 1.1 (**Legislation, standards, scope**) will define a preliminary product 'scope' that could be subject to EU legislation by identifying materials and products in EU and national legislation, test methods and standards, and prioritising those of most concern.
- Sub-task 1.2 (**Market, use, mutual recognition**) will identify the major players and authorities, estimate EU investments and expenditures, assess materials and products currently installed and in use (public distribution and domestic), and materials and products annually sold on the EU market including trends, assess the intra-EU trade and transboundary sales, assess barriers to intra-EU trade, and assess where mutual recognition exists between Member States.
- Sub-task 1.3 (**Drinking water contamination**) will identify materials and products with the highest risk to drinking water quality (microbiological, chemical, and aesthetic/organoleptic) providing lessons learned from literature review and by tapping into the experience from manufacturers and test labs.
- Sub-task 1.4 (**Appropriate materials and products and test methods**) will identify reliable materials and products and suitable commonly used testing requirements including an estimate of their cost impacts. In particular test methods used in the 4MS (Germany, Netherlands, France, UK), Portugal, Denmark, and in one Member State where regulation is not well developed should be considered.

Task 2 Guidance for Users will provide a simple, non-technical summary of the findings of Task 1 aimed at a target audience including householders and plumbers.

Task 3 Support to draft an Inception Impact Assessment will explain why action may be needed at EU level and why it is necessary to work on this initiative.

Consortium

This contract will be delivered by a consortium of partners, led by Umweltbundesamt GmbH (Austria) and comprising WRc (UK), KWR (Netherlands), OIEau (France) and IzVRS (Slovenia).

Further information

To provide information relevant to the contract, please contact:

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