

Summary of the Legislation & Guidance for Temporary Drinking Water Supplies **e.g. events**

Key sections of Health (Drinking-Water) Amendment Act (HDWAA):

- Interpretation: Section 69G
- Temporary drinking water supplier to notify Medical Officer of Health (MOH): Section 69ZI
- Powers of MOH in relation to temporary supplies: Section 69ZJ
- MOH may require Public Health Risk Management Plan (PHRMP) for temporary drinking water supplier: Section 69ZA
- Offences: Section 69ZZQ [actually checked and it looks like its ZZR and then ZZV penalties])

Definition:

A temporary drinking-water supplier [events] generally means a person who:

- **Supplies drinking water to a place on a temporary basis for a particular event, function or gathering where the number of persons attending on any one day is 25 or greater**

Note: *there are some exceptions – refer to Interpretation Section 69G of the Health (Drinking-Water) Amendment Act for a full description.*

Temporary drinking water supplies may be of two types:

1. Dependent supplies drawing water from an existing registered water supply using temporary pipework (eg a town supply)
2. Independent supplies using their own source or drawing water from an unregistered water supply.

Both types should be submitting the required information in order for the MOH or Drinking Water Assessor (DWA) to undertake a risk assessment.

Process:

1. Temporary Drinking Water Supplier to submit information on water supply.

The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act (section 69ZI) requires that a temporary drinking water supplier must advise the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) in writing of:

- Each source of raw water to be used by that supplier to supply drinking water and;
- The quality of the raw water taken from that source.

In order to meet these requirements the temporary drinking water supplier must complete and submit a standard notification form WS03 (obtained from the DWA or Ministry of Health website).

Supporting information related to the location (e.g. maps) or water quality (e.g. testing results) should also be provided.

2. The DWA will then assess the information provided.
 - The assessment of the suitability of the temporary drinking-water supply for drinking water purposes will usually involve a desktop review of the application and any other information provided by the supplier.

- A visit to the drinking water supply is not generally necessary unless the DWA considers that there may be potential risks that need to be checked.
- Temporary drinking water supplies do not require registration, however a record of the assessment and subsequent letter outlining conditions or prohibition of use of the temporary source must be maintained on the 'Temporary Water Supply Record Form'.
- The information provided on the drinking water supply will be assessed as per the Drinking Water Assessment Unit Technical Manual Guidance. This will depend on whether they are a Type 1 (dependant) or Type 2 (independent) supply. The assessment will include:
 1. A review of the results of any chemical/microbiological testing. While the microbiological quality of the water is the primary concern, in Type 2 supplies the nitrate concentrations also need to be determined. Nitrate levels should be less than 50mg/L.
 2. Consideration of the potential population affected and duration of exposure to the supply.
 3. Consideration of the volume of water required based on the number of users and likely consumption, given the purpose of the temporary supply.
 4. Checks on any associated resource consent conditions which may have been issued for the temporary supply.

If the supply is **Type 2 (independent)** *E. coli* should be monitored to determine whether the water source has been subject to faecal contamination. Samples should be taken from a point at the extremity of the temporary supply, whether the water is treated or untreated.

Two samples should be taken prior to the use of the supply:

1. Two weeks prior to the event. This should include nitrate testing if the supply could be used for making infant formula.
2. Two days before the event.
3. After the initial two samples, samples should be taken at the frequency appropriate for the population being served as given in Table 4.2a of the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (DWSNZ) for sources that are not, or inadequately, disinfected.

In the event of a positive *E coli* sample the guidance should be followed which will include making good the problem and/or provision of an alternative source.

if faecal contamination becomes apparent *after the source has started to be used* consumers should be told to boil water

However, boiling should not be used as a health protection measure if contamination of the water is found during initial investigation of the source.

3) The DWA must then determine a response to the application

The DWA determines whether any conditions should be attached to use of the temporary supply or whether use of the temporary source should be prohibited. HDWAA S69ZJ & S69ZA give Medical Officers of Health a number of powers that can be used in response to applications for temporary water supplies. These powers include:

1. Imposing conditions (related to monitoring) – S69ZJ(1)
2. Prohibiting a temporary drinking water supplier from supplying drinking water from a particular source - S69ZJ(2)
3. Requiring the supplier to prepare a Public Health Risk Management Plan for the supply – refer section 69ZA. *Note there are some restrictions on how this power can be used, ensure section 69ZA(6) is checked (eg >25 persons and for > 60 days a year)*

4) The Public Health Service must then advise the temporary drinking-water supplier of the outcome in writing

- A standard letter will be sent, signed by the MOH
- The letter will clearly state any requirements that are to be imposed on the use of the temporary supply e.g. may have conditions related to a monitoring programme
- If the use of the temporary drinking water supply has been prohibited the letter will include an explanation as to the reason(s). If the decision is to prohibit use of the temporary source until treatment is installed and/or a PHRMP is developed the written notice will specify a reasonable date by which the supplier must prepare and submit a draft plan to a DWA for approval

5) The DWA will then assess conformance with any conditions of approval including:

- Monitoring the timeframe for completion of any conditions
- Assessing the acceptability of any supplier proposed monitoring programme.
- Recording findings on the assessment record form
- Assessing the adequacy of any PHRMP using the Small Drinking Water Supplies PHRMP and Section 69ZA(2) of the HDWAA which specifies requirements for a PHRMP when requested for a temporary supply
- Completing an Assessment Checklist

If the DWA identifies any failure to conform with the specified conditions the supplier will be immediately informed in writing and requested to rectify the situation.

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