

Water guidance for Wales and Northern Ireland

Guidance on the recognition, exploitation, bottling and labelling rules for natural mineral water, spring water and bottled drinking water in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Natural mineral water (NMW) changes from 1 January 2021

There will be changes to how NMW is traded from 1 January 2021.

[Read the guidance on natural mineral water changes from 1 January 2021](#)

About the guidance

The text should not be taken as an authoritative statement or interpretation of the law. Only courts can provide this.

It is your responsibility as an individual businesses to ensure you comply with the law.

If you have any specific queries please ask your local authority.

These regulations include conditions for:

- exploiting spring for natural mineral water, spring water and bottled drinking water
- processing and bottling of such waters
- labelling, advertising and sale of such waters
- monitoring of the source
- sampling of such waters
- enforcement of the Regulations

England, Northern Ireland and Wales

PDF

[View Guide to protecting and defending food and drink from deliberate attack \(PAS 96\) as PDF\(Open in a new window\)](#) (5.88 MB)

England

Defra is responsible for legislation in this area for England

Wales and Northern Ireland

[Guidance on natural mineral water, spring water and bottled drinking water regulations in Wales in Wales and Northern Ireland](#)

SCOTLAND

In Scotland, the Food Standards Scotland is responsible for legislation in this area.

Important

EU references in FSA guidance documents

The FSA is updating all EU references, to accurately reflect the law now in force, in all new or amended guidance published since the 'Transition Period' ended at the end of 2020. In some circumstance it may not always be practicable for us to have all EU references updated at the point we publish new or amended guidance.

Other than in Northern Ireland, any references to EU Regulations in this guidance should be read as meaning retained EU law. You can access retained EU law via HM Government's [EU Exit Web Archive](#). This should be read alongside any EU Exit legislation that was made to ensure retained EU law operates correctly in a UK context. EU Exit legislation is on [legislation.gov.uk](#). In Northern Ireland, EU law will continue to apply in respect to the majority of food and feed hygiene and safety law, as listed in the [Northern Ireland Protocol](#), and retained EU law will not apply to Northern Ireland in these circumstances.

Food industry guides

You can find more information about bottled water on our [Food Industry Guide to Good Hygiene Practice: Bottled Water](#) which is on The Stationary Office's website.