

Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007

The Health (Drinking Water) Amendment Act 2007 came into force on 1st July 2008. It aims to protect public health by improving the quality of drinking water supplied to communities.

Since coming into force, an 'Order in Council' has deferred the main requirements of the Act for an additional three years. Drinking Water Suppliers have a staggered timeframe in order to comply with the main requirements of the Act, based on the population served by that supply. It is important for drinking water suppliers to be aware that some requirements of the Act apply already (refer Section 69B of the Act).

The main duties in the Act only apply to supplies above a certain size that is those that serve:

- 25 or more people for 60 or more days per year; or
- if there are fewer than 25 people, but 6000 or more "person/days" (that is the number of people multiplied by the number of days they receive water from the supply).

These main duties which will apply to network drinking water suppliers above this certain size include the obligations to:

- take all practicable steps to comply with the (previously voluntary) Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand; and
- introduce and implement public health risk management plans for the water supply (if serving more than 500 people).

Supplies that serve fewer people never have more than very minimal duties under the Act. They will need to apply to be included on the Register of Community Drinking-water Supplies – this is free and involves no other obligations.

[Download a copy of the Health \(Drinking Water\) Amendment Act 2007](#) on NZ Legislation website.

