

Unclassified

Acceptable Solutions Post Consultation

15 September 2022



Ko wai, ko au, ko tātou

Ko te wai ahau, ko ahau te wai.
He whakaaturanga tātau nō te wai.
Ko te ora te wai ko te ora o te
tangata.
He taonga te wai me tiaki.
Ko wai tātou.
Ko wai tātou.

I am water, water is me.
We are reflections of our water.
The health of water is the health of
the people.
Water is a treasure that must be
protected.
We are water. Water is us.



What we will cover today

- **Acceptable Solutions: What are they and why do we have them?**
 - Jim Graham, Principal Advisor Drinking Water
- **Feedback from public consultation**
 - Helen Robertson, Manager Regulatory Policy
- **Acceptable Solutions**
 - Jim Graham, Principal Advisor Drinking Water
- **Pātai / questions**



**Acceptable Solutions:
What are they and why do we
have them?**

What are Drinking Water Acceptable Solutions?

- All suppliers have a duty of care to ensure the water they provide is safe and reliable to drink.
- Acceptable Solutions are an easy and practical way for suppliers to do this and comply with the Water Services Act 2021.
- Acceptable Solutions are not mandatory.
- They are an end point treatment option which is an alternative to complying with the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.

Why do we have Acceptable Solutions?

Acceptable Solutions provide:

- Choice – you can follow the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules **OR** an Acceptable Solution
- A straightforward way of complying
- A cost-effective option (although this is dependent on size, scale and complexity of supply)
- An end point treatment solution

NOTE: more Acceptable Solutions may be developed over time.

Changes to the Rules

- Following public consultation, we made significant changes to the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules for Very Small Communities.
- This provides even **more choice** for smaller suppliers.
- Rules that apply to Very Small Communities who serve up to 25 people permanently and up to 50 people for 60 days per year.
- Less compliance burden – very small communities only require twice yearly microbiological testing.

Timeframes

▶ **Now:**

Finalising Acceptable Solutions

▶ **End of September / Early October:**

Anticipate publishing Acceptable Solutions

▶ **14 November 2022:**

Acceptable Solutions are effective from this date



Feedback from public consultation

Submissions received

- From 17 January to 28 March 2022, we held our first public consultation. Feedback was sought on seven documents to help inform our regulatory regime.
- Over 2,000 submissions were received with the following received on Acceptable Solutions.

| Documents | Number of submissions |
|--|-----------------------|
| Drinking Water Acceptable Solution for Spring and Bore Water Supplies | 84 |
| Drinking Water Acceptable Solution for Rural Agricultural Water Supplies | 57 |
| Drinking Water Acceptable Solution for Roof Water Supplies | 32 |

Summary of themes on Acceptable Solutions

- The concerns raised in relation to the Acceptable Solutions were in line with the feedback we received on the Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.
- These included concerns around the cost of compliance for small and very small suppliers as well as transition timeframes.
- The scope of changes to the Acceptable Solutions are varied. The Spring and Bore and Rural Agricultural Acceptable Solutions needed more significant changes than the Roof Water Supplies Acceptable Solution.



Feedback on Acceptable Solution for Spring and Bore Water Supplies

- Requests to shift to end-point treatment (as in the other Acceptable Solutions), with many submitters considering this to be the safest, simplest and most suitable solution for small supplies.
- Strong preference that dwellings connected to a supply are responsible for their water at the point of entry to their homes.
- Concern about the extent, cost and practicality of testing and maintenance requirements.
- Opposition to mandatory chlorination, with many supplies noting they choose spring and bore as it's typically unchlorinated.

Feedback on Acceptable Solution for Rural Agricultural Water Supplies

- Rename to **Mixed-use Rural Acceptable Solution** to better reflect the sector this solution is created for.
- Received helpful, technical, practical feedback from sector professionals as well as rural communities. This has helped us build a picture of what really matters to these communities and the challenges rural water suppliers face.
- Concerns around excessive regulation and significant regulatory burden. Wanting farms excluded from the drinking water regime and exemptions for less than 25 users per supply.
- Concerns about sourcing equipment and funding to cover some of these costs.

Feedback on Acceptable Solution for Roof Water Supplies

- Most thought this Acceptable Solution would help water suppliers fully or partially comply with the Water Services Act 2021.
- There was a misconception that the Acceptable Solution was mandatory for all roof water supply situations including domestic self-supply – it is not.
- It was noted there was a need for alignment with other freshwater drinking water legislation.
- A series of technical points were raised like improvement to the end-point configuration, clarification on use of non-potable supplies, and lack of requirement for storage tanks to be secure from contamination by vermin faecal material.

Acceptable Solutions

Three Acceptable Solutions

1. Springs and Bores Water Supply
2. Mixed-use Rural Water Supply
3. Roof Water Supply

If used, water supplies don't need to comply with parts of the Water Services Act 2021:

- s 24 Aesthetic values
- s 27 Backflow
- s 30 Drinking Water Safety Plan
- s 49 Drinking Water Quality Assurance Rules.



Three Acceptable Solutions

Water suppliers using an acceptable solution are still required to:

- Register the supply with Taumata Arowai
- Ensure drinking water is safe
- Ensure some duties under the Water Services Act 2021 are met
- Comply with notification requirements
- Comply with record keeping requirements.



Spring and bore water supplies

Drinking water supply from a spring or bore:

- Population max 500 people
- Head works treatment and distribution of potable water
- Cartridge filtration and UV disinfection
- Source water must be suitable for this type of treatment e.g. stable pH and turbidity
- Backflow prevention requirements
- Must be chlorinated
- Monitoring for...



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For all three Acceptable Solutions

- All Acceptable Solutions are end point treatment.
- They are all based on cartridge filtration and UV disinfection.
- All UV units must be validated.
- It's the water supplier's responsibility to ensure the source water is suitable for the treatment process.
- The water supplier is responsible for ensuring treatment systems are installed and maintained correctly.
- The requirements for aspects like operations and maintenance, emergency response, SOPs, and auditing have been significantly simplified but it's the water supplier's responsibility to ensure these things are in place.



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Pātai | Questions?