

Summary of Safe Drinking Water Act and Regulations

The aim of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2011* (the Act) and Regulations is to improve protection of drinking water quality by providing direction to drinking water providers on how to achieve safety and how it can be measured. The Act is designed to provide a practical cost effective approach with requirements tailored to reflect the complexity and size of individual water supplies.

Who is a drinking water provider?

A drinking water provider is a person who supplies drinking water to members of the public. The drinking water provider except for limited exemptions (see below) is registered with SA Health. They are responsible for meeting the requirements of the Act.

Requirements of the Act

The Act requires a drinking water provider to:

- > Register with SA Health
- > Develop, implement and review a Risk Management Plan (RMP)
- > Organise audits / inspections of the drinking water supply at the specified frequency
- > Report water quality results and provide to customers on request

Penalties may apply if the requirements of the Act are not met

Application of the Act

The Act applies to all drinking water providers except for individual on-site domestic supplies (e.g. domestic rainwater tanks and private bores) and some small low risk supplies (see [Exemptions from the Safe Drinking Water Act | SA Health](#))

Registration

Registration is free and can be completed using this form [Registration as a drinking water provider | SA Health](#). It is finalised with written approval from SA Health, following the development of an approved RMP.

- > Providers must be registered before commencing the supply of drinking water
- > A list of registered drinking water providers is available at [Registered drinking water providers | SA Health](#)

Risk Management Plan

An approved Risk Management Plan (RMP) includes:

- > A description of the drinking water supply, including photographs and a simple plan / diagram which provides an overview of the supply
- > Identifies any water quality risks within the water supply and the preventative measures that are in place to reduce these risks
- > Maintenance practices required for the drinking water supply
- > Water quality samples required to be taken by or submitted on a regular basis to an approved laboratory as outlined in your approval. A list of approved laboratories is available [Drinking water quality testing laboratories | SA Health](#)

Fact Sheet

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- > An incident identification and notification protocol describing responses to and reporting of any incidents to SA Health, by phone and through an Incident notification form [Incident Notification Form: Safe Drinking Water Act 2011 | SA Health](#)

Preparation of a Risk management Plan

SA Health have prepared Guidance manuals and Templates that can be used to develop a Standard RMP document [Risk management plans for drinking water providers | SA Health](#)

These Guidance manuals contain all relevant information and step-by-step instructions to assist drinking water providers to prepare a RMP using the Standard template for the following supplies:

- > Small rainwater supplies
- > Rainwater supplies in regulated premises
- > Small bore water supplies
- > Dual source water supplies – rainwater and bore water
- > Water carting (mains water and / or bore water)
- > Medium bore supply with reverse osmosis treatment

Guidance is also available for the preparation of a Custom RMP document.

Audits and inspections

Compliance with the Act is assessed through routine audits / inspections of drinking water supplies. Frequency of audits / inspections is determined by the size and complexity of the water supply and is included in your SA Health approval. The drinking water provider is responsible for organising the audit or inspection as required. A list of current auditors and inspectors is available at [Approved auditors and inspectors under the Safe Drinking Water Act | SA Health](#)

Reporting of results

All drinking water results from approved monitoring plans will need to be reported to SA Health. For most providers this can be achieved during an audit / inspection.

Providing results to customers

To support transparency, drinking water providers are required to provide results to customers on request.

Guidelines

The principles of the Act are based on requirements in The *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*. These can be accessed at the NHMRC website www.nhmrc.gov.au

For more information

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