

Consultation Information Note

Topic: Draft guidance document on the enforcement of legislation applicable to Natural Mineral waters, Spring Waters and Other Bottled Waters

Start date of consultation: Tuesday 22nd December 2009

Closing date of consultation: Friday, 12th February 2010

Consultation details:

Specific legislation and standards apply to the packaging/ bottling of drinking water. Some of the legislation governing this area has been recast at European level in the form of Directive 2009/54/EC which became effective from July 2009.

To assist in the implementation of this legislation, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE) have drafted a guidance note which is aimed at enforcement officers but which may also be of interest to producers, importers and retailers.

The document covers the following areas

- Interpretation of the requirements of Directive 2009/54/EC on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral water.
- Interpretation of the requirements of Commission Directive 2003/40/EC on establishing the list, concentration limits and labelling requirements for the constituents of natural mineral waters and the conditions for using ozone-enriched air for the treatment of natural mineral waters and spring waters.
- Interpretation of the requirements of Council Directive 98/83/EC with respect to the legislative requirements for other bottled waters.

The following categories of products are covered by the guidance document:

- natural mineral waters
- spring waters
- other bottled water (which can be sourced either directly from ground or surface water supplies e.g. tap water).

The following category of products are not considered 'natural mineral waters', 'spring water' or 'other waters':

- waters which are medicinal products within the meaning of Directive 2001/83/EC of on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use
- natural mineral waters used at source for curative purposes in thermal or hydromineral establishments.
- waters not intended for human consumption
- packaged ice
- flavoured natural mineral water drinks
- flavoured spring water drinks

The FSAI invites you to submit your comments on any aspect of the proposed Regulation. Comments submitted to this consultation will be reviewed in preparing the final document.

Responses should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 12th February 2010 to:

Via email to consultation@fsai.ie **Or fax to:** +353 (0)1 817 1301

Or via post to:

Consultations, Food Safety Authority, Abbey Court. Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1