

General Principles in Setting up National Regulations on Drinking Water Safety and the Safe Use of Wastewater

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World Health
Organization

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Outline

- The **normative role of WHO** in water and sanitation (global, regional and within countries)
- WHO **information resources** on water and sanitation regulations
- The **core recommendation** for managing the safety of drinking water and wastewater use
- **Key principles for setting national regulatory framework** for safe drinking water
- Content of national standards of drinking water quality
- History of drinking water quality standards in EMRO countries



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WHO is the global guardian of public health

- Provides evidence-based normative guidelines and policy options for:
 - Managing drinking water safety
 - Managing use of wastewater
 - Managing recreational waters
- Monitors the status of water and sanitation globally, regionally and within countries:
 - WHO & UNICEF is custodian agencies for reporting on SDG1, SDG 2
 - WHO joint with UNHABITAT is custodian for reporting on SDG 3.1,
 - WHO is custodian for reporting on SDG 6a & 6b
- Provides strategic technical support to countries on:
 - The governance and regulatory framework for the sector
 - National water and sanitation policies and programmes
 - Surveillance and monitoring of water and sanitation sector and services

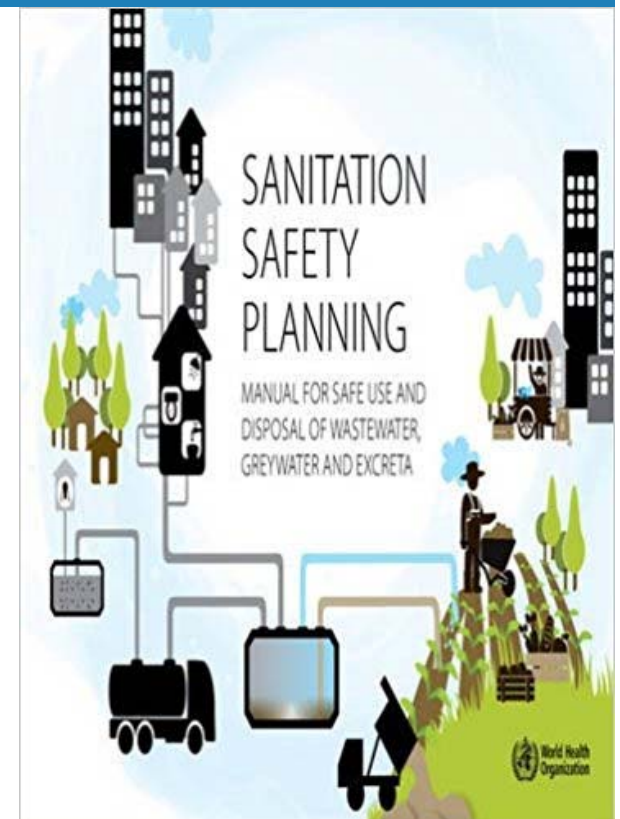
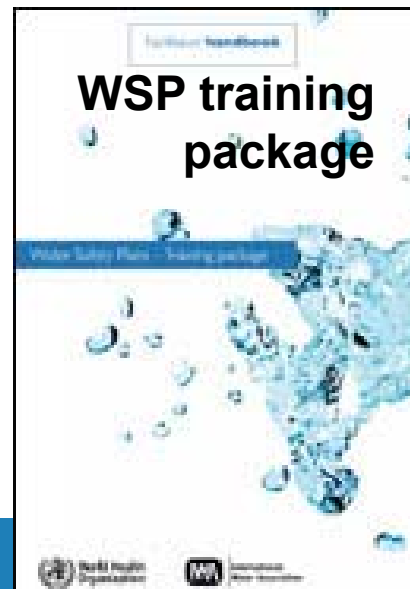
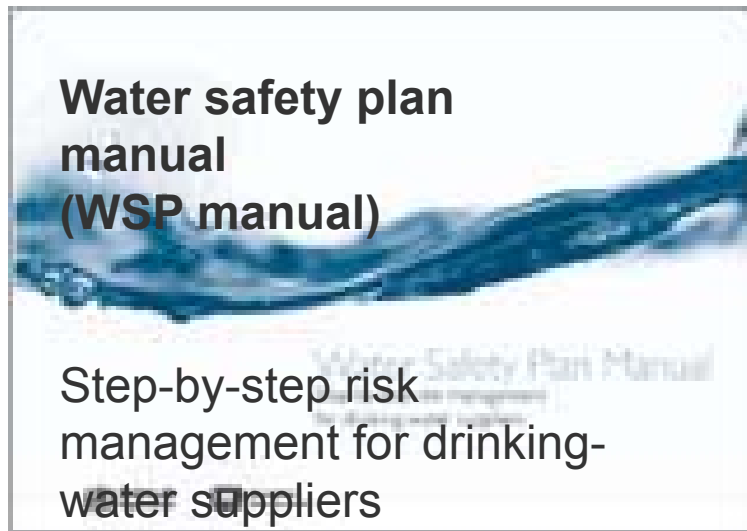


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The WHO flagship normative guidelines



Guidance for good practice derived from global evidence



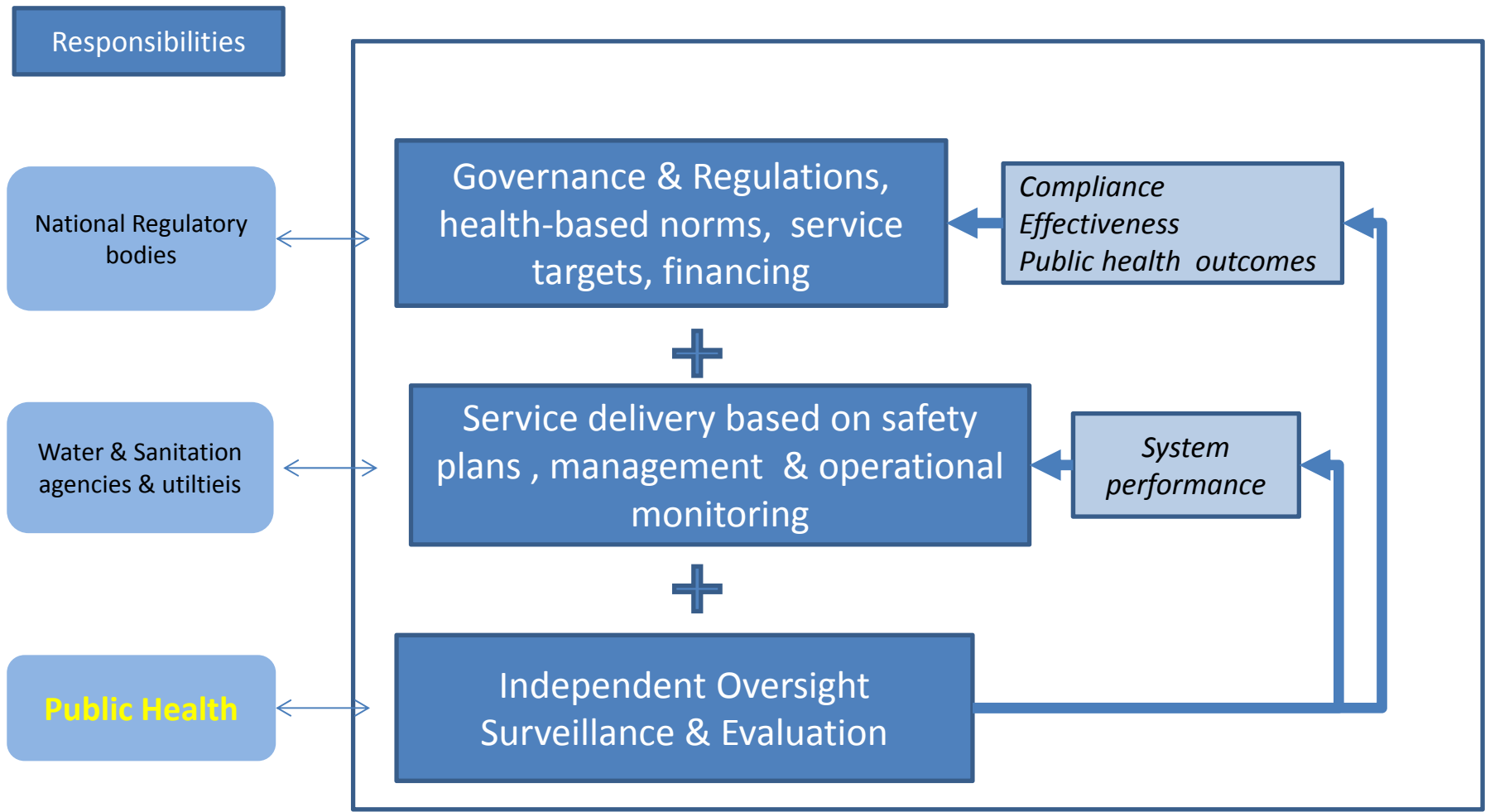
World Health Organization

WHO Guidelines

Aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Protection of human health and support setting of national standards and regulations
Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Regulators + Service Providers / practitioners . . .)
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Best available evidence - science and practice● Risk-benefit philosophy● Advisory in nature- Local adaptation considering Social, cultural, economic and environmental context● Preventive incorporating multiple barriers● Incremental improvement



The Core Recommendation: A preventative risk-based management framework



- Sign up for WHO updates
- Water sanitation hygiene
- Water safety and quality
 - Drinking-water quality guidelines
 - Water safety planning
 - Drinking-water quality regulation
 - Small water supply management
 - Household water treatment and safe storage
 - Recreational waters
- Sanitation and wastewater
- Monitoring and evidence
- Diseases and risks
- Environmental health in emergencies
- Health-care facilities and waste
- Publications

International Network of Drinking-water Regulators



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The International Network of Drinking-water Regulators (RegNet) is an international forum to share and promote best practice as it relates to drinking-water regulation and protection of public health.

The network's mission is to *protect public health, as it relates to drinking-water, through the promotion of excellence and the continual improvement of regulatory frameworks and systems.*

The objectives of the Network are to:

- **advocate** for the improvement of regulations in order to better protect public health as it relates to drinking-water;
- **support** the development of **internationally recognized guidance** on the use of regulations to protect public health as it relates to drinking water; and
- **provide support and guidance** to regulators wishing to establish, update or amend their regulatory frameworks

Membership

Through RegNet, WHO assists Member States in translating evidence and advice into public health policy, and implementing the Guidelines for drinking-water quality. Membership is open to drinking-water regulators, defined as professionals tasked with ensuring the safety of drinking-water production and quality through setting and/or enforcing appropriate regulations and standards and/or independent surveillance at



Most recent publications



Optimizing regulatory frameworks for safe and clean drinking-water

All WASH publications

[List in alphabetical order](#)

Setting up national regulation on drinking water

- The aim of national drinking-water laws and standards should be to ensure that the consumer enjoys safe potable water.
- The nature and form of drinking-water standards and regulations may vary among countries and regions.
- There is no single approach that is universally applicable.

WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water
Quality, Third Edition, Volume 1
(WHO, 2004)



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10 key Principles for setting up national regulations

1. Explicitly link to the protection of public health – health based targets (service level, water specs, disease reduction, technology specs, .. etc)
2. Facilitate the assessment, prioritization and management of risks to public health- **water safety plans**
3. Address factors influencing the safety through out the system using a multiple-barrier approach
4. Based on best practice
5. Use a variety of tools to build and ensure compliance with regulations (e.g. capacity building, incentives, sanctions)



10 key Principles for setting up national regulations

6. Realistic, achievable within national, sub-national, and local contexts
7. Clearly define stakeholder roles and responsibilities
8. Define information collection, flow and consequential action
9. Adaptable, to reflect changes in contexts, understanding, and technological innovation
10. Are supported by adequate policies, programmes, guidelines, standards and codes of practice



What to include in Regs/Std

Table of Contents

Unit1:	_____
Unit2:	_____
Unit3:	_____
Unit4:	_____
Unit5:	_____
Unit6:	_____
Unit7:	_____
Unit8:	_____
Unit9:	_____
Unit10:	_____
Unit11:	_____

Much more than the table of Parameters
and limits

Issues to include	Remarks
Introduction	<p>This covers the importance of a DWQS and regulations, its specific aim, its brief history (if any) and principles.</p> <p>The structure and content of regulations may be influenced by legislative norms in individual countries.</p>
Timelines	<p>This would include discussion about any phased or staged implementation, and exemptions (permanent, temporary or phased) .</p>



Issues to include	Remarks
General clauses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scope (e.g. clarity on what water the standards/regulations cover – e.g. drinking water for the general population or other uses, size of water supply that the standard is relevant for), • at which points in the water supply systems the standards apply, • revision process and frequency of revision to the standards and regulations, • general principles for drinking water emergencies / water borne disease outbreaks etc. • definitions



Issues to include	Remarks
Roles, rights, and responsibilities	List each institution, and under each one of them, describe their roles, rights and responsibilities
Water safety plan links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards should support the development and implementation of risk management strategies (like WSPs) • The extent to which WSPs would be included in the regulations will depend on the institutional framework in the country and on the status or planned status of water safety plans



Issues to include	Remarks
Table of parameters and concentrations	Use to be the most visible and consulted part of standards – but change is on the way!!
Approved analytical methods	Could be in an appendix to the main document as it will be largely technically detailed.
Surveillance and Control programs	<p>Might discuss the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •responsible agencies for surveillance and reporting •cost responsibility (which agencies bear the costs of sampling and testing, use of risk-based monitoring to reduce unnecessary cost



Issues to include	Remarks
Good practice recommendations /requirements	<p>Could cover nationally relevant topics like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guidance for monitoring practices, • special water quality issues (e.g. pesticide and algal management)
Violations and penalties	<p>Applicable to mandatory aspects of the regulations</p> <p>Need to find the best way to get compliance.</p>



Status and History of DWQ standards in EMR countries

	First Issued Standards	Updates	Most Recent Update
Afghanistan	2012	-	2012
Egypt	1975	1995	2007
Iran	1967	1974, 1998, 1999, 2007	2009
Jordan	1982	1988, 1997, 2001, 2008	2015
Lebanon	Not Known	1991	2015 (DRAFT)
Morocco	Not Known	1990, 1991, 2006, 2011	2015
Oman	1978	2006	2012
Pakistan	2001	-	2008
Palestine	1997	2005	2010
Qatar	Not Known	-	2009
Sudan	Not Known	2002	2008
Tunisia	Not Known	-	2013



**Thank
you**

