

SECTION 9 - WORK ENVIRONMENT

WE/04: Disruption to water supply

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In the event of a disruption to the water supply this will impact on the ability of a food outlet to function in a safe manner.
- 1.2 Where appropriate the unit manager must decide whether or not to continue operating and/or trading until the water supply has been reinstated and there has been an 'all clear' given by Estates to use the water supply once more.
- 1.3 Legislation requires that there shall be an adequate supply of potable (drinkable) water, which is to be used whenever necessary to ensure that foodstuffs are not contaminated.

2.0 Disruption to normal water supply (no prior warning)

- 2.1 Where there is disruption to the water supply without a warning the manager must assess whether or not the business can continue to operate safely.
- 2.2 If the business cannot operate in a safe manner then the manager must take the decision to suspend any work activities involved in the business that are at risk until the water supply has been reinstated and the 'all-clear' has been given to use it once again.
- 2.3 If the business is to continue operating/trading during any disruption then the following is to be considered and controlled:
 - 2.3.1 How long will the loss of water last for?
 - 2.3.2 Can the business operate safely without compromising the health and well-being of customers?
 - 2.3.3 Is potable water readily available for the cleaning and disinfection of preparation tables, equipment & utensils?
 - 2.3.4 Is potable water readily available for cooking?
 - 2.3.5 Are suitable hand washing facilities readily available to allow for effective washing of food-handlers hands, both within food premises and/or toilet facilities?
 - 2.3.6 Can the business operate safely without compromising the health and well-being of customers and employees?
 - 2.3.7 Can the business operate within legal requirements?

- 2.4 Upon reinstatement of the water supply, however, there is a possibility that it has become contaminated then it must not be used until the 'all-clear' has been given by the Estates team.

3.0 Disruption to normal water supply (with warning)

- 3.1 Where there is a warning to the disruption of the potable water supply managers may be able to accommodate the normal business needs if adequate provisions are made, prior to the water being switched off.
- 3.2 If the business intends to operate/trade during disruption then it must fulfil all its legal duties in respect to food hygiene legislation and therefore must consider and control subject areas as identified in 2.3.1 - 2.3.7.

SECTION 9 - WORK ENVIRONMENT

3.3 Where potable water is stored then it must not be allowed to become contaminated, which in itself could give rise to contamination of the food chain, equipment, surfaces and ultimately effect the health and well-being of people.

4.0 Communication of disruption to normal water supply

4.1 Any disruption to the water supply, with or without prior warning must be communicated to the appropriate:

- Head of Department;
- Health & Safety Department; and
- Any other affected parties.

5.0 Ice making machines

5.1 In the event of potential contamination of the water supply the ice-making machine must be switched off and any ice discarded.

5.2 Ice machines should display a notice to the effect that the appliance is 'out of order'.

5.3 Where there is potential for contamination machines they must be flushed and sanitised by the appropriate contractor before being put back into service.

6.0 Water fountains

6.1 Water fountains are not to be used during any such disruption to the water supply.

6.2 Any such water fountains should display a notice to the effect that the appliance is 'out of order'.

6.3 where there is potential for contamination of water fountains then they must be sanitised and flushed by the appropriate contractor before being put back into service.

7.0 Reinstating the water supply

7.1 Upon reinstatement of the water supply and after Estates have given the 'all clear', then a designated person should open all taps until the water runs clear.

Version	Date of issue	Author	Endorsed by
V1	May 2020	Graham Day; Health & Safety Adviser	Graham Hakes; Senior Health & Safety Adviser