



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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**To: Day to day of contacts of water and sewerage
companies and water companies in England and Wales**

13 October 2004

Dear Sir or Madam,

CHANGES TO THE MICROBIOLOGY OF DRINKING WATER PART 6

It has come to the Inspectorate's attention that some water companies are not aware that Part 6 of the Microbiology of Drinking Water has been significantly amended.

The changes to the document were finalised in October 2003 and the document published by the Standing Committee of Analysts on its web page in 2004 as the Microbiology of Drinking Water (2004) – Part 6. The principal changes relate to the incubation and confirmation of *Clostridium perfringens*. The link to the document is:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/commondata/105385/mdwpart62004_642759.pdf

All companies should ensure that all regulatory analysis for *Clostridium perfringens* is carried out in accordance with the new method by 1 January 2005. It would be prudent for laboratories to use this time to validate their use of the new method.

One of my tasks as the new Chairman of the Main Committee of the Standing Committee of Analysts will be to address how the Committee publicises changes to its publications. However, this does not in any way diminish a laboratory's duty to keep itself up to date with developments in science, analytical methodology and laboratory practice.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm Morgan
Principal Inspector

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