

# WATER NEWS

Update on the Taumata Arowai Rules and Regulations

MAY 2022 EDITION

There has been a lot of public discussion and speculation around the proposed changes to drinking water regulations by Taumata Arowai. Taumata Arowai has been formed to take responsibility for the regulation of water suppliers, and ensure all communities have access to safe drinking water. It also has an oversight role in protecting the environment from the impacts of wastewater and stormwater. Puretec felt it was important to summarise with you the current position and how it is likely to affect your business and clients, specifically in regards to drinking water.

Most importantly, please note that whilst Taumata Arowai has drafted the Standards and Rules surrounding the regulation, it is still yet to be finalised and it is believed that significant changes are likely to occur before implementation.

It is also important to note that all water suppliers, large or small, have a duty of care to provide safe drinking water, and this legal responsibility will not change.

The emphasis is largely on clearly articulating water treatment requirements (systems and processes) that water suppliers are expected to meet, and how they will demonstrate compliance.

As mentioned, currently the rules surrounding this are being reviewed and are also taking into account submissions from the public and from industry groups etc. It is anticipated that the new Rules and Standards will be implemented by the 1st of July 2022.

Entities providing drinking water to others will be classified as water suppliers, such factors as the number of users, water source, distribution network etc. will be used to determine the level of regulation and treatment required.

Individual 'self-suppliers' (private households with their own bore, rainwater tank etc.) will not need to register. However, in practice, their requirement is to provide safe drinking water.

Existing water suppliers will need to register with Taumata Arowai by November 2025 and new water suppliers will be

required to register before commencing supply. Further time will be provided for suppliers to demonstrate their compliance.

Puretec doesn't recommend using the draft Standards and Rules as the basis for treatment selection, as this is likely to lead clients to install treatment that is over-engineered for their application.

Puretec are happy to discuss the current drafted rules and their potential impact on your specific projects, however, we feel it would be premature to make recommendations to address rules which are yet to be finalised.

If projects can wait until the release of the final Standards and Rules in July 2022, we can confidently provide you with solutions that will meet these requirements. In the meantime, any recommendations would be tentative.

Taumata Arowai can be contacted directly through their website <https://www.taumataarowai.govt.nz> for any further questions and also contains a lot of useful information. There are also local contacts for any region-specific questions.

