

Bucharest Water & Land Conference (17-18 October 2023)



Benefits and Challenges of the New Regulation of Water Reuse: Case study of Spain

Ana Allende

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CENTRO DE EDAFOLOGÍA Y BIOLOGÍA APLICADA DEL SEGURA



WATER AND LAND





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NEW EUROPEAN LEGISLATION





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Water scarcity is affecting many regions worldwide, and water reuse can help to address this issue. However, its potential remains largely untapped in the European <u>Union. Possible obstacles to water reuse practices in Europe include (i) an</u> <u>inconsistent national legislation across Member States, (ii) water reuse costs</u> (e.g., upgrade of urban wastewater treatment plants (WTPs) to address more stringent limits on water quality), and (iii) last but not least, a general public distrust related to human health risk.

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Water reuse milestone in Europe: Regulation (EU) 2020/741 on minimum requirements for water reuse





- 1. Creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practice water reuse.
- 2. This regulation **Should be flexible enough** to allow the continuation of the practice of water reuse and at the same time to ensure that it is possible for other Members States to apply those rules when they decide to introduce this practice at a later stage.
- **3.** Any decision not to practice water reuse Should be duly justified based on the criteria laid down in this Regulation





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Water reuse milestone in Europe: Regulation (EU) 2020/741 on minimum requirements for water reuse

European Parliament

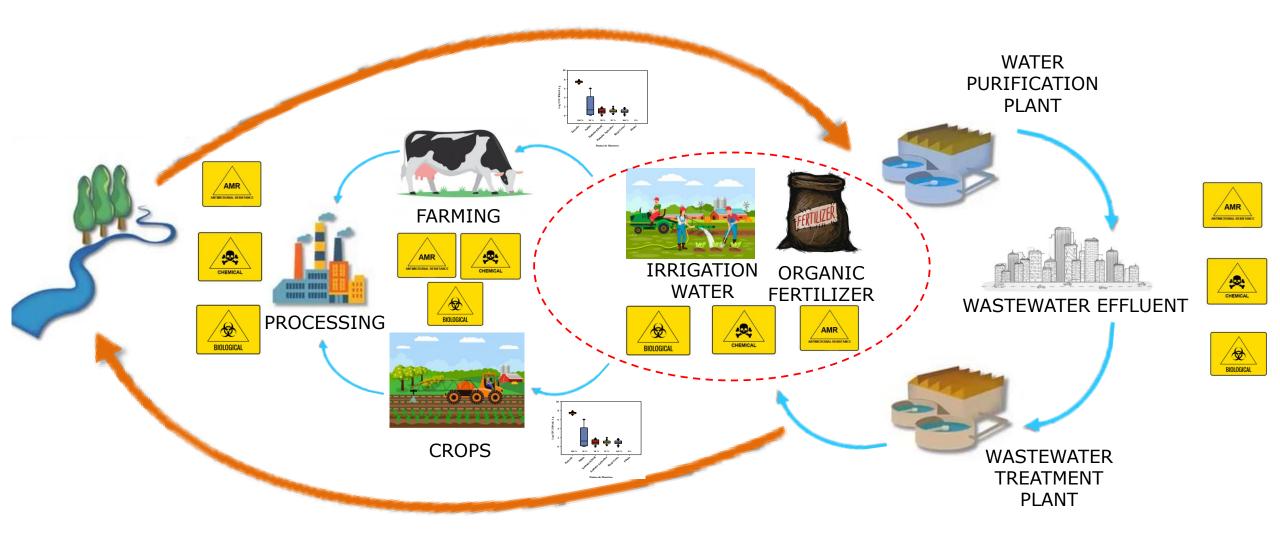


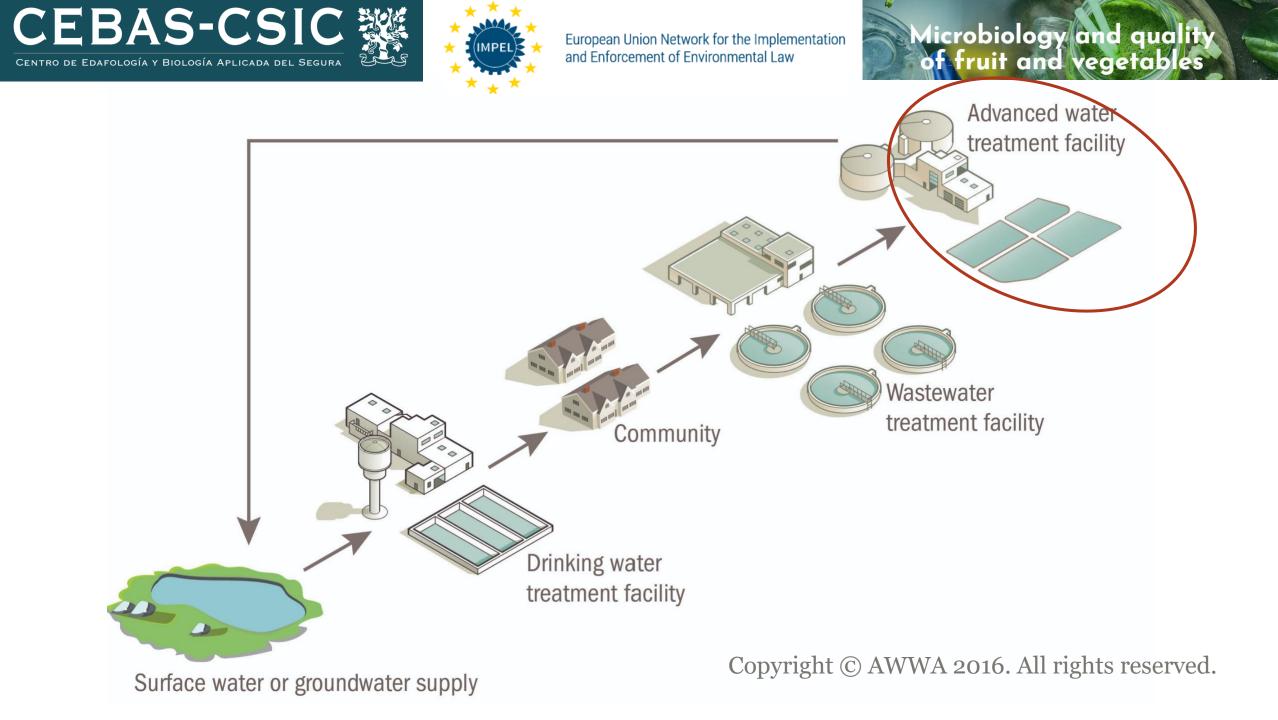
- **1. Interpretation of the New Regulation**
- 2. Strict microbiological criteria: Update of current technologies implemented in the WWTP
- **3. Growers use "unpplaned water reuse" systems.** "Water reuse can be planned or unplanned. In unplanned water reuse, the water source consists largely of previously used water. An example of this are communities that draw their water from rivers into which previously treated wastewater from upstream communities has been discharged".
- 4. Emerging hazards need to be consider: e.g. Antimicrobial Resistant Agents





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Wastewater treatments

	E. coli	Enterococci	Somatic coliphages	Cryptosporidium	Helminth	Salmonella spp
	(CFU/100 mL) ^A	(CFU/100 mL)	(PFU/100 mL)	(oocyst/L)	(eggs/20 L)	(gene copies/100 mL)
Sabadell	3.8×10^4 – 3.3×10^5	6×10^3 – 1.8×10^4	1.3×10^4 -2.2 × 10 ⁴	9×10 ⁻² -6.5	0	$0-1.7 \times 10^2$
SP 1 secondary effluent	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)	(100%)		(66%) ^B
SP 2a river background	$2.1 \times 10^{3} - 8.9 \times 10^{3}$ (100%)	$4.2 \times 10^2 - 3.4 \times 10^3$ (100%)	$1.2 \times 10^4 - 1.4 \times 10^4$ (100%)	$10^{-2} - 10^{-1}$ (100%)	0	0-3.9×10 ² (33%)
SP 2 river water after effluent discharge (injectant)	$2.2 \times 10^3 - 8.4 \times 10^4$ (100%)	$2 \times 10^{2} - 1.3 \times 10^{4}$ (100%)	$7.9 \times 10^3 - 9.7 \times 10^4$ (100%)	$0-1.1 \times 10^{-1}$ (66%)	0	(33%)
SP 3 groundwater after river	1.8–2.6×10	2.6×10 ⁻¹ -7	$9 \times 10^{-1} - 1.6$	0-10 ⁻²	0	$0-4.4 \times 10^{2}$
infiltration (recovered water)	(100%)*	(100%)*	(100%)*	(33%)		(33%)
SP 4 irrigation water from the sprinklers	0–7 (66%)*	2.5×10^{-1} -1.8 × 10 (100%)*	· · · ·	0	0	0–1.2×10 ² (33%)





Wastewater treatments

	E. coli (CFU/100 mL) ^A	Enterococci (CFU/100 mL)	Somatic coliphages (PFU/100 mL)	Giardia (cysts/L)	Cryptosporidium (oocyst/L)	Helminth (eggs/20 L)	<i>Salmonella</i> spp (gene copies/100 mL)
<i>Torreele/Wulpen</i> SP 1 wastewater	$\begin{array}{c} 2.4\!\times\!10^53.6\!\times\!10^6 \\ (100\%) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.4\!\times\!10^5\!1.5\!\times\!10^6 \\ (100\%) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4.8 \times 10^4 2.5 \times 10^6 \\ (100\%) \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 2.9\!\times\!10^27.1\!\times\!10^2\\ (100\%)\end{array}$	0–1.6 (33%)	0–2 (66%)	0
SP 2 secondary effluent	10 ⁴ -8.7×10 ⁴ (100%)	$3.2 \times 10^3 - 8.7 \times 10^4$ (100%)	1.2×10^4 -5.3 $\times 10^4$ (100%)	2.6×10 ⁻¹ -2.8×10 (100%)	0-1.7×10 ⁻¹ (66%)	0	0
SP 3 ultrafiltration permeate	0	0	0–2.6×10 ² (66%)	0	0	nd	0
SP 4 infiltration pond (injectant	$0-3.5 \times 10^2$ (66%)	0–5.9×10 (33%)	0-4×10 (66%)	0-6×10 ⁻² (33%)	0	0–0.4 ^C (33%)	0
SP 5 groundwater after SAT (recovered water)	0	0	0–10 (66%)	0	0	0	0
SP 6 UV treated groundwater	0	0	0-1	0	0	nd	0

Ultrafiltration and Reverse Osmosis

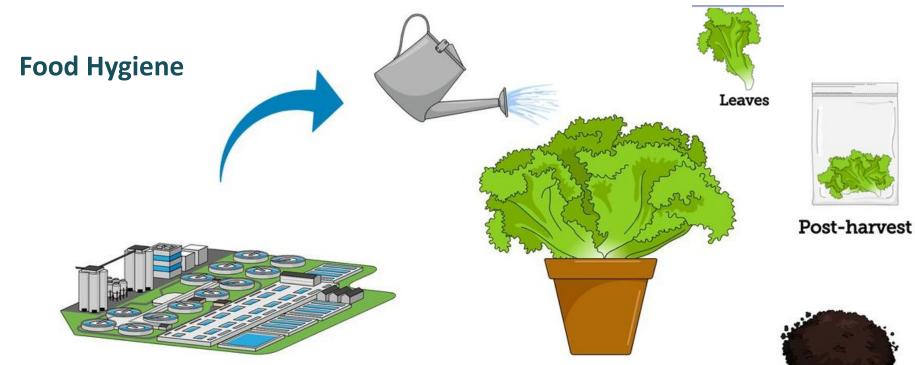
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Levantesi et al., 2010

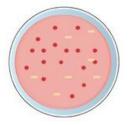




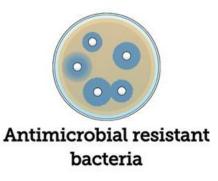
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vith reclaimed water can be achieved rigation do not differ significantly ibute to the efficient functioning of e to introduce minimum levels of ring. Those minimum requirements



Escherichia coli



(10) Health standards in relation to food hygiene for agricultural products irrigated with reclaimed water can be achieved only if quality requirements for reclaimed water intended for agricultural irrigation do not differ significantly between the Member States. Harmonisation of requirements would also contribute to the efficient functioning of the internal market in relation to such products. It is therefore appropriate to introduce minimum levels of harmonisation by setting minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring. Those minimum requirements should consist of minimum parameters for reclaimed water that are based on the technical reports of the Commission's Joint Research Centre and reflect international standards on water reuse, and other stricter or additional quality requirements imposed, if necessary, by competent authorities together with any relevant preventive measures.

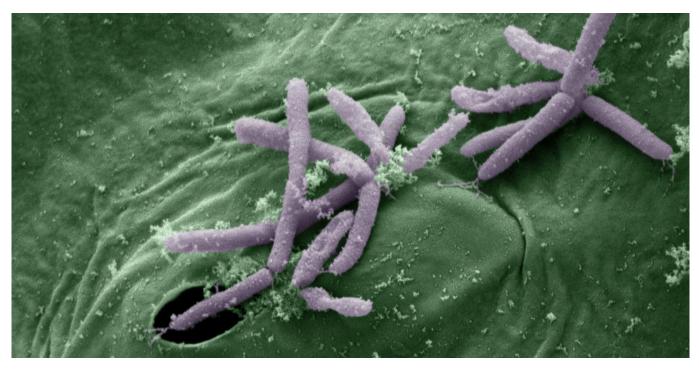
Front. Microbiol., 20 May 2021 https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2021.66004



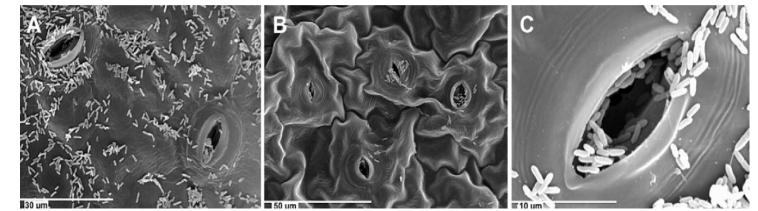


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Pseudomonas syringae on a leaf surface. Image by J. Kremer and Sheng Yang He

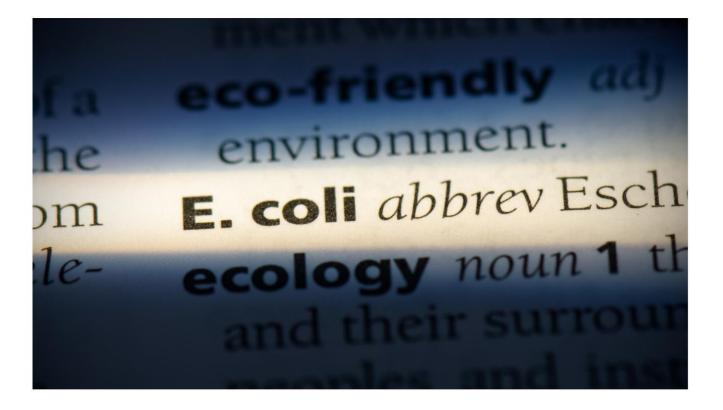


Food Hygiene is a key aspect of the current legislation





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More than 250 ill in UK E. coli outbreak linked to salad

By News Desk on December 7, 2022



EN



European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law

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NEW EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

L 177/32

Official Journal of the European Union

5.6.2020

REGULATION (EU) 2020/741 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

of 25 May 2020

on minimum requirements for water reuse

Comes into force: 26th June 2023







Which are the key aspects of the New Legislation?

Minimum requirements of water

Table 1 – Classes of reclaimed water quality and permitted agricultural use and irrigation method

Minimum reclaimed water quality class	Crop category (*)	Irrigation method
А	All food crops consumed raw where the edible part is in direct contact with reclaimed water and root crops consumed raw	All irrigation methods
В	Food crops consumed raw where the edible part is produced above ground and is not in direct contact with reclaimed water, processed food crops and non-food crops including crops used to feed milk- or meat-producing animals	All irrigation methods
С	Food crops consumed raw where the edible part is produced above ground and is not in direct contact with reclaimed water, processed food crops and non-food crops including crops used to feed milk- or meat-producing animals	Drip irrigation (**) or other irrigation method that avoids direct contact with the edible part of the crop





Which are the key aspects of the New Legislation?

Minimum requirements of water

Table 2 - Reclaimed water quality requirements for agricultural irrigation

Dealeine danatur			Quality requirements					
Reclaimed water quality class	Indicative technology target	E. coli (number/100 ml)	BOD5 (mg/l)	TSS (mg/l)	Turbidity (NTU)	Other		
А	Secondary treatment, filtration, and disinfection	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 10	≤ 5	Legionella spp.: < 1 000 cfu/l where there is a risk of aerosolisation		
В	Secondary treatment, and disinfection	≤ 100	In accordance with	In accordance with	-	Intestinal nematodes (helminth eggs): ≤ 1 egg/l for irrigation of pastures or forage		
С	Secondary treatment, and disinfection	≤ 1 000	Directive 91/271/EEC	Directive 91/271/EEC	-			
D	Secondary treatment, and disinfection	≤ 10 000	(Annex I, Table 1)	(Annex I, Table 1)	-			





Which are the key aspects of the New Legislation?

Minimum requirements of water

Table 3 - Minimum frequencies for routine monitoring of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation

	Minimum monitoring frequencies					
Reclaimed water quality class	E. coli	BOD ₅	TSS	Turbidity	<i>Legionella</i> spp. (when applicable)	Intestinal nematodes (when applicable)
А	Once a week	Once a week	Once a week	Continuous	Twice a month	Twice a month or as determined by the
В	Once a week	In accordance with		-		reclamation facility operator according to the number of eggs in waste water entering
С	Twice a month	Directive 91/271/EEC (Annex I, Section D)	Directive 91/271/EEC (Annex I, Section D)	-		the reclamation facility
D	Twice a month	7		-]	
				-		





Which are the key aspects of the New Legislation?

Minimum requirements of water

Reclaimed water quality class	Indicator microorganisms (*)	Performance targets for the treatment chain (log10 reduction)
А	E. coli	≥ 5,0
	Total coliphages/F-specific coliphages/somatic coliphages/coliphages (**)	≥ 6,0
	Clostridium perfringens spores/spore-forming sulfate-reducing bacteria (***)	 ≥ 4,0 (in case of Clostridium perfringens spores) ≥ 5,0 (in case of spore-forming sulfate-reducing bacteria)

Table 4 - Validation monitoring of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation

(*) The reference pathogens Campylobacter, Rotavirus and Cryptosporidium may also be used for validation monitoring purposes instead of the proposed indicator microorganisms. The following log₁₀ reduction performance targets shall then apply: Campylobacter (≥ 5,0), Rotavirus (≥ 6,0) and Cryptosporidium (≥ 5,0).

(**) Total coliphages is selected as the most appropriate viral indicator. However, if analysis of total coliphages is not feasible, at least one of them (F-specific or somatic coliphages) shall be analysed.

(***) Clostridium perfringens spores is selected as the most appropriate protozoa indicator. However, spore-forming sulfate-reducing bacteria are an alternative if the concentration of *Clostridium perfringens* spores does not make it possible to validate the requested log₁₀ removal.





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SECRETARIA DE ESTADO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

INSTRUCCIÓN DEL SECRETARIO DE ESTADO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE PARA LA APLICACIÓN DEL RÉGIMEN TRANSITORIO EN RELACION CON LA NORMATIVA SOBRE REUTILIZACIÓN DE AGUAS RESIDUALES TRATADAS PARA EL USO AGRÍCOLA.

El Real Decreto 1620/2007, de 7 de diciembre, por el que se establece el régimen jurídico de la reutilización de las aguas depuradas supuso un hito en el fomento de la reutilización de las aguas residuales en España. El decreto estableció la normativa básica en la materia fijando los requisitos administrativos para obtener el título habilitante, así como los usos permitidos y criterios de calidad exigidos.

Por primera vez, una norma regulaba el uso del agua regenerada en 5 ámbitos distintos: usos urbanos, agrícolas, industriales, recreativos y ambientales. Posteriormente, en el año 2010, se aprueba la Guía para la Aplicación del Real Decreto 1620/2007, al objeto de orientar el cumplimiento del mismo y garantizar los niveles de calidad y el buen uso de las aguas regeneradas.

Esta normativa española ha tenido su reflejo en la normativa europea, de forma que, parte de sus objetivos e incluso de su articulado ha sido recogido en el Reglamento (UE) 2020/741 del Parlamento Europeo y del Consejo del 25 de mayo de 2020, relativo a los requisitos mínimos para la reutilización del agua urbana depurada en usos agrícolas, siendo los hitos más destacados del Reglamento:

- Que los requisitos de calidad de las aguas regeneradas destinadas al riego agrícola se armonicen entre los Estados miembros, contribuyendo así a su fomento (art.1).
- La elaboración del Plan de gestión del riesgo del agua regenerada para garantizar que las aguas regeneradas se usen y gestionen de forma segura y que no existe riesgo para el medio ambiente, ni para la salud humana o la sanidad animal (art. 5 y Anexo II), aumentando así la confianza de la población en esta práctica.

• La producción y al suministro de aquas rogonoradas destinadas al riogo agrícola

How is this translated in each country?

Interpretation



WWTP Operators

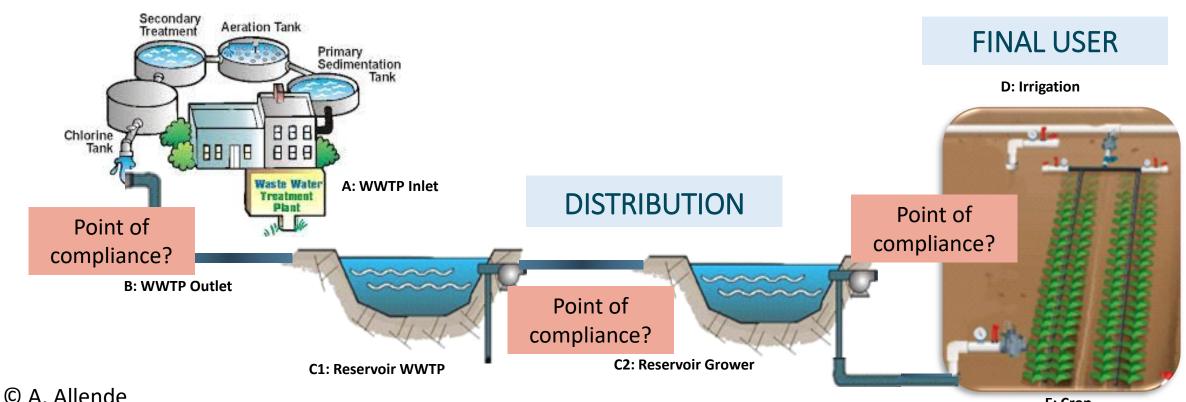


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POINT OF COMPLIANCE

(15) In some cases, reclamation facility operators still transport and store reclaimed water beyond the outlet of the reclamation facility, prior to delivering it to the next actors in the chain, such as the reclaimed water distribution operator, the reclaimed water storage operator or the end-user. It is necessary to define the point of compliance, to clarify where the responsibility of the reclamation facility operator ends and where the responsibility of the next actor in the chain starts.



E: Crop





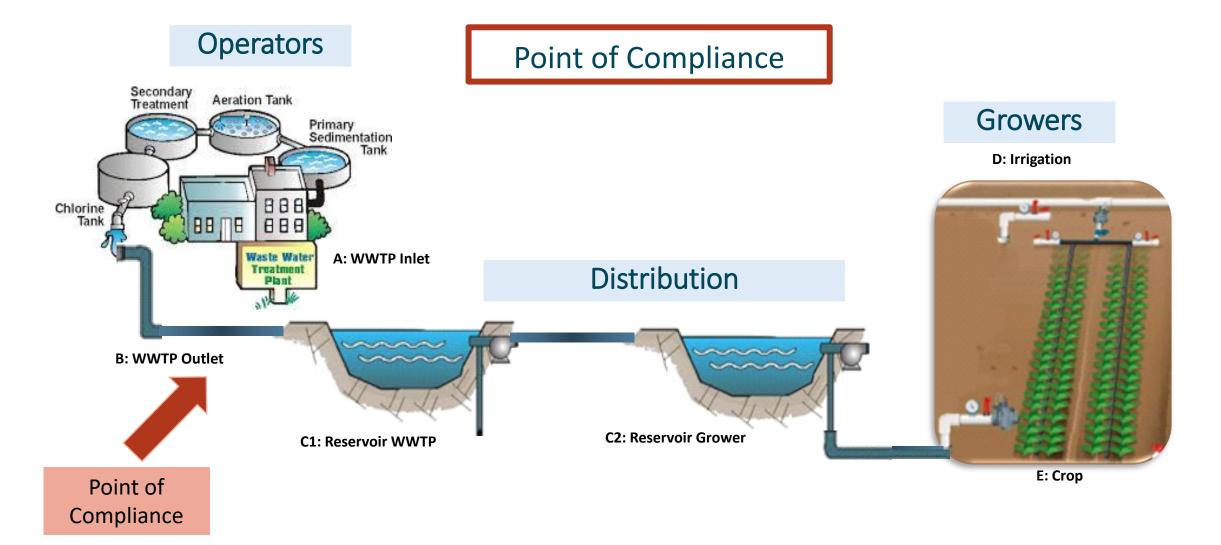
POINT OF COMPLIANCE

- (18) <u>Cooperation and interaction between the various parties involved in the water reclamation process</u> should be a precondition for setting up reclamation treatment procedures in accordance with the requirements for specific uses, and in order to be able to plan the supply of reclaimed water in line with demand from end-users.
- (19) In order to effectively protect the environment and human and animal health, reclamation facility operators should be primarily responsible for the quality of reclaimed water at the point of compliance. For the purposes of compliance with the minimum requirements laid down under this Regulation and with any additional conditions set by the competent authority, reclamation facility operators should monitor the quality of reclaimed water. It is therefore appropriate to establish the minimum requirements for monitoring, consisting of the frequencies of the routine monitoring and the timing and performance targets for validation monitoring. Certain requirements for routine monitoring are provided for in Directive 91/271/EEC.





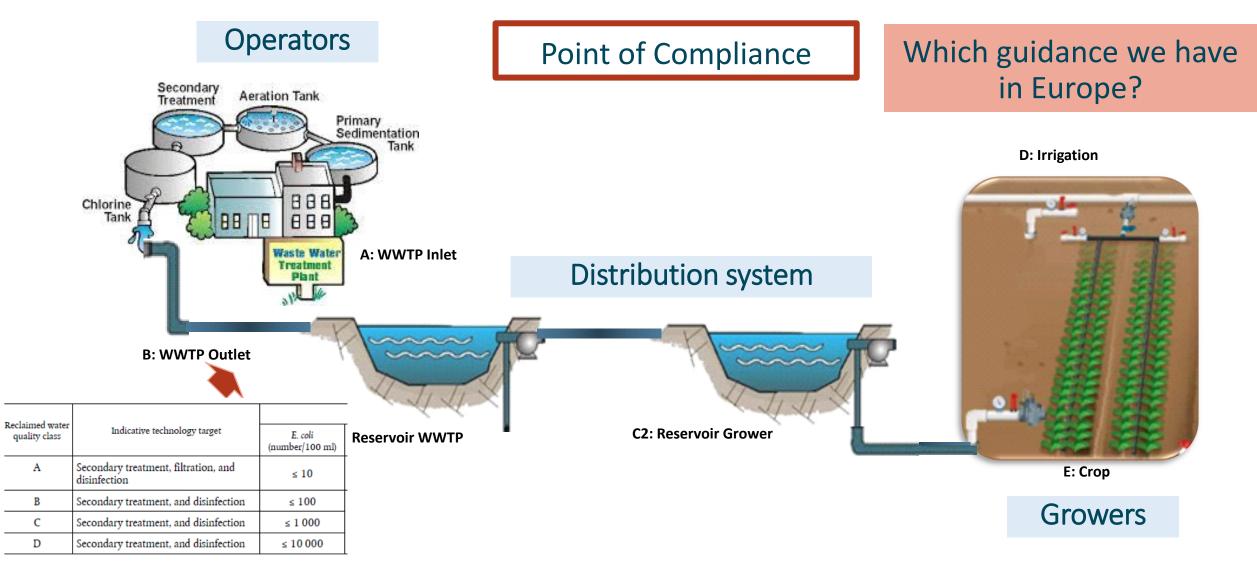
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Which guidance we have in Europe?

FOOD HYGIENE

(28) Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 lays down general rules for food business operators and covers the production, processing, distribution and placing on the market of food intended for human consumption. That Regulation addresses the health quality of food and one of its main principles is that the primary responsibility for food safety is borne by the food business operator. That Regulation is also supported by detailed guidance. In this regard, the Commission notice on guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruits and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene is of particular relevance. The minimum requirements for reclaimed water laid down in this Regulation do not preclude food business operators from obtaining the water quality required to comply with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 using, at a subsequent stage, several water treatment options alone or in combination with non-treatment options.





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Which guidance we have in Europe?

Diario Oficial

PRIMARY PRODUCTION

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Edición en lengua española

Comunicaciones e informaciones

60.º año 23 de mayo de 2017

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

Commission notice on guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruits and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene

(2017/C 163/01)





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efsa

European Food Safety Authority

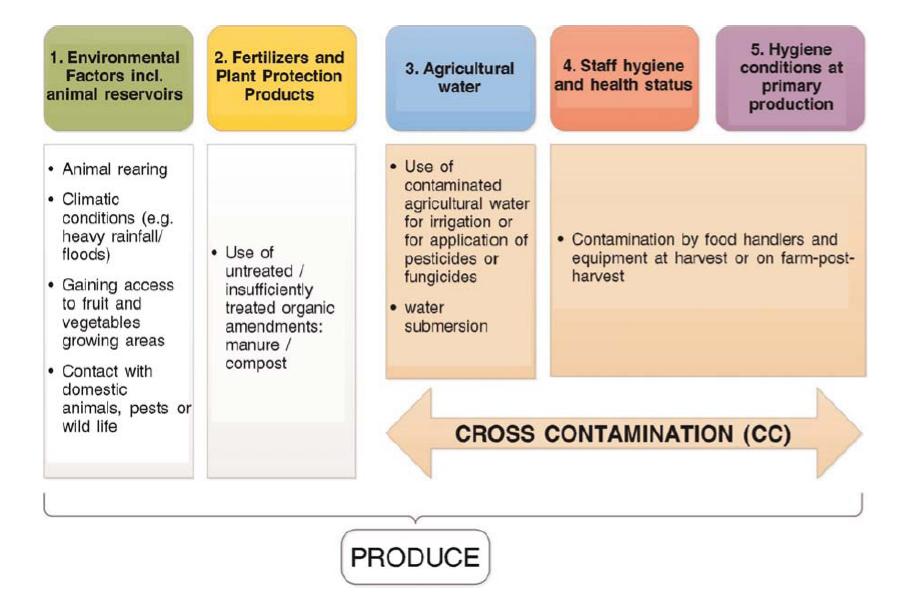
Rísk Ranking







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			Source o	f water (1)			
Intended use of the water	Untreated surface water/open water channels (3)	Untreated ground water collected from wells (4)	Untreated Rain water	Treated (⁵) sewage/ surface/waste water/water reuse	Disinfected water (%)	Municipal water	Indicator of faecal contamination: <i>E. coli</i> (²)
PRE-HARVEST and HARVEST							
Irrigation of FFVs likely to be eaten <u>uncooked</u> (i.e. ready-to-eat FFV) (irrigation water <u>comes into direct contact with the edible portion</u> of the FFV) Dilution or application of pesticide, fertiliser or agrochemicals and cleaning equipment for ready-to-eat FFV and direct contact.	x	x	•	•	٠	~	100 CFU/100 ml
Irrigation of FFVs likely to be eaten <u>uncooked</u> (i.e. ready-to-eat FFV) (irrigation water <u>does not come into direct contact</u> with the edible portion of the FFV) Dilution or application of pesticide, fertiliser or agrochemicals and cleaning equipment for ready-to-eat FFV and no direct contact	x	x	•	•	•	~	1 000 CFU/100 ml (⁷)
Irrigation of FFVs likely to be eaten <u>cooked</u> (irrigation water <u>comes into</u> <u>direct contact with the edible portion</u> of the FFV). Dilution or application of pesticide, fertiliser or agrochemicals and cleaning equipment used in this FFV direct contact).	•	•	•	•	•	~	1 000 CFU/100 ml
Irrigation of FFVs likely to be eaten <u>cooked</u> (irrigation water does <u>not</u> <u>come into direct contact with the edible portion</u> of the FFV). Dilution or application of pesticide, fertiliser or agrochemicals and cleaning equipment used in this FFV (no direct contact)	•	•	V	4	4	~	10 000 CFU/100 ml
POST-HARVEST							
Post-harvest cooling and post-harvest transport for non-ready-to-eat FFVs. Water used for first washing of products in case of ready-to-eat products. Cleaning equipment and surfaces where the products are handled.	x	x	•	•	•	~	100 CFU/100 ml





23.5.2017

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Uso previsto del agua	Indicador de contaminación fecal: <i>E. coli</i> (²)
Riego de FHF con probabilidad de consumo sin cocinar (es decir, FHF listas para el consumo) (el agua de riego entra en contacto directo con la parte comestible de las FHF) Dilución o aplicación de plaguicidas, fertilizantes o productos agroquí- micos y equipo de limpieza para FHF listas para el consumo y contacto directo.	100 ufc/100 ml

Clase de calidad		
de las aguas regeneradas	Tratamiento indicativo	E. coli (número/100 ml)
A	Tratamiento secundario, filtración y de- sinfección	≤ 10
В	Tratamiento secundario y desinfección	≤ 100
С	Tratamiento secundario y desinfección	≤ 1 000
D	Tratamiento secundario y desinfección	≤ 10 000

EN	Official Journal of the European Union	C 163/1
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(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

Commission notice on guidance document on addressing microbiological risks in fresh fruits and vegetables at primary production through good hygiene

(2017/C 163/01)

L 177





of the European Union



Volume 63 Legislation English edition 5 June 2020







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¿Which is the intensity of the treatment needed in wastewater to comply with the health target of 10⁻⁶ DALY pppy?

A5 Case-study 5: Guidelines for water recycling – Setting health-based performance targets and safe use of wastewater in Australia (NWQMS, 2006)

REGLAMENTO (UE) 2020/741 DEL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO Y DEL CONSEJO

de 25 de mayo de 2020

relativo a los requisitos mínimos para la reutilización del agua

Table 4 – Validation monitoring of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation
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Reclaimed water quality class	Indicator microorganisms (*)	Performance targets for the treatment chain (log10 reduction)
А	E. coli	≥ 5,0
	Total coliphages/F-specific coliphages/somatic coliphages/coliphages (**)	≥ 6,0
	Clostridium perfringens spores/spore-forming sulfate-reducing bacteria (***)	≥ 4,0 (in case of Clostridium perfringens spores) ≥ 5,0 (in case of spore-forming sulfate-reducing bacteria)

- *) The reference pathogens Campylobacter, Rotavirus and Cryptosporidium may also be used for validation monitoring purposes instead of the proposed indicator microorganisms. The following log₁₀ reduction performance targets shall then apply. Campylobacter (≥ 5,0), Rotavirus (≥ 6,0) and Cryptosporidium (≥ 5,0).
- (**) Total coliphages is selected as the most appropriate viral indicator. However, if analysis of total coliphages is not feasible, at least one of them (F-specific or somatic coliphages) shall be analysed.
- (***) Clostridium perfringens spores is selected as the most appropriate protozoa indicator. However, spore-forming sulfate-reducing bacteria are an alternative if the concentration of Clostridium perfringens spores does not make it possible to validate the requested log10 removal.

After application of prventive measures the residual risk (treatment) should comply with the tolerance level of **10-6 DALY**

pppy

$$log_{10} reducción = log_{10} \left(\frac{C_0 \times L \times N}{DALYd} \right)$$

Donde: C₀ residual concentration in the water L ingested amount (liters) N anual exposure frequency DALYd equivalente dose DALY 10⁻⁶ 1.6 × 10⁻² Cryptosporidium, 2.5 × 10⁻³ rotavirus, 3.8 × 10⁻² Campylobacter Incluye dosis-respuesta y ratio de

infección a enfermedad

10⁻⁶ DALY pppy The sum of the years of life lost to due to

premature mortality (YLLs) and the years lived with a disability (YLDs) due to prevalent cases of the disease or health condition in a population 1/1.000.000 years lost





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esamur

Entidad de Saneamiento y Depuración de la Región de Murcia

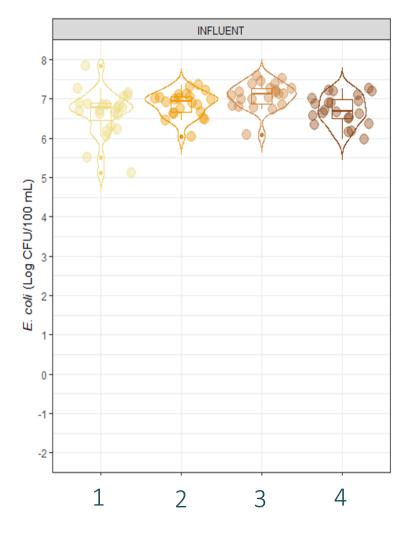


Table 4 – Validation monitoring of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation

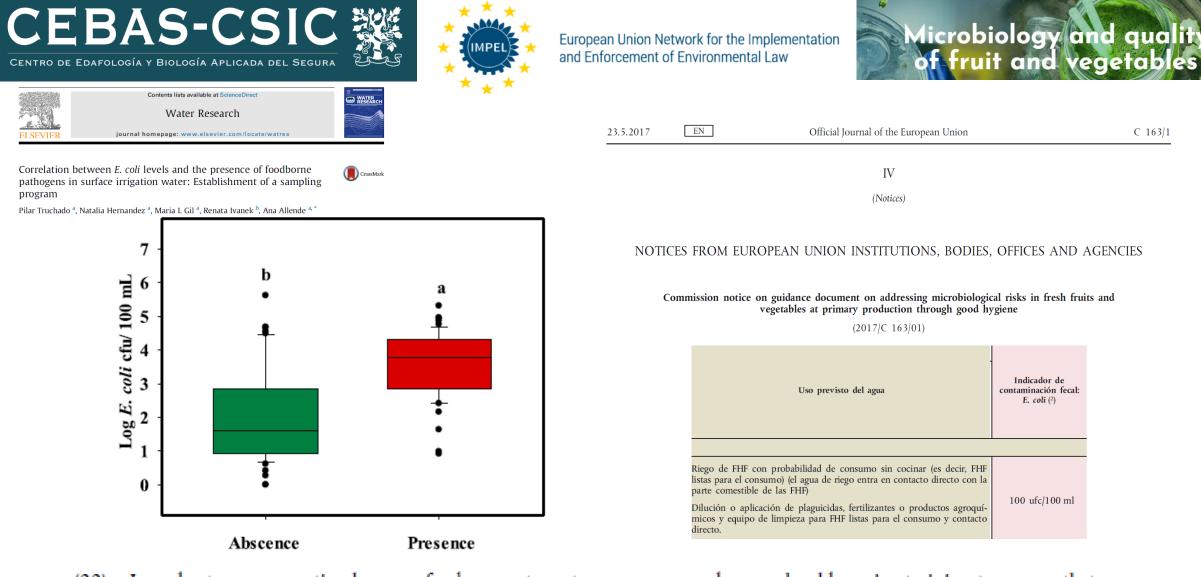
Reclaimed water quality class	Indicator microorganisms (*)	Performance targets for the treatment chain (log ₁₀ reduction)
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Reclaimed water quality class	Indicative technology target	E. coli (number/100 ml)
А	Secondary treatment, filtration, and disinfection	≤ 10
В	Secondary treatment, and disinfection	≤ 100
С	Secondary treatment, and disinfection	≤ 1 000
D	Secondary treatment, and disinfection	≤ 10 000



(22) In order to ensure optimal reuse of urban waste water resources, end-users should receive training to ensure that they use water of the appropriate reclaimed water quality class. Where the destination of a specific type of crop is unknown or where it has multiple destinations, reclaimed water of the highest quality class should be used, unless appropriate barriers are applied which enable the required quality to be achieved.





Environment

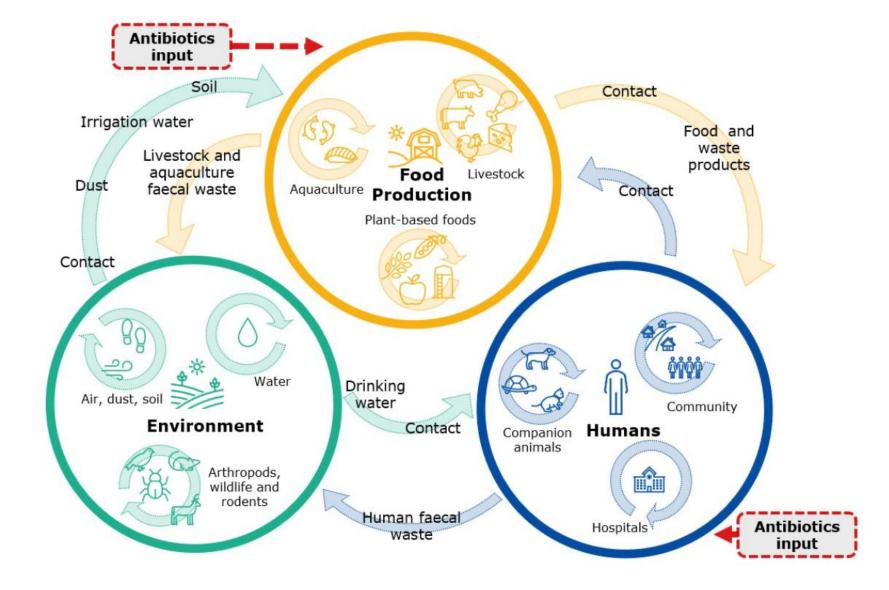
- (B) Conditions relating to the additional requirements
 - 6. Consideration of requirements for water quality and monitoring that are additional to or stricter than those specified in Section 2 of Annex I, or both, when necessary and appropriate to ensure adequate protection of the environment and of human and animal health, in particular when there is clear scientific evidence that the risk originates from reclaimed water and not from other sources.
 - Depending on the outcome of the risk assessment referred to in point 5, such additional requirements may in particular concern:
 - (a) heavy metals;
 - (b) pesticides;
 - (c) disinfection by-products;
 - (d) pharmaceuticals;
 - (e) other substances of emerging concern, including micro pollutants and micro plastics;
 - (f) anti-microbial resistance.





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Pilar Truchado Scientific staff

- CEBAS-CSIC Team
- Industry collaborators
- ESAMUR
- Spanish Government











Financiado por la Unión Europea NextGenerationEU





Bucharest Water & Land Conference (17-18 October 2023)



Benefits and Challenges of the New Regulation of Water Reuse: Case study of Spain

Ana Allende

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