

Water Metering, Measurement and Reporting of Water Takes Regulation 2010

FAQ's

1. Do these regulations apply to me?

Check your consented rate of take - the regulations apply to all consents that allow the consent holder to take water at a rate equal to and greater than 5 litres per second.

2. When do the regulations affect me?

All new water take consents granted after 10 November 2010 are required to comply immediately. But if you have consents granted earlier than this, the phase in is:

- A) Consents to take water at equal to or greater than 20 l/s on and from 10 November 2012
- B) Consents to take water at equal to or greater than 10 l/s - 19.99 l/s, on and from 10 November 2014
- C) Consents to take water at equal to or greater than 5 l/s to 9.99 l/s, on and from 10 November 2016.

3. Do I have to replace my existing water meter?

The regulations require the device or system (i.e. water meter) to be able to provide data in a form suitable for electronic storage. However unless HBRC requires water use data to be sent via telemetry only for a specific plan or purpose, an existing non-electronic output meter will not need to be replaced as long as it can be verified as accurate.

4. I have a meter installed but it doesn't have 10 and 5 pipe diameters, do I need to change it?

No, as long as the meter is accurate that is all that matters. 10 and 5 pipe diameters merely help remove introduced errors caused by tees, bends and pumps etc which helps (but not guarantees) that the installation is accurate.

5. But the meter is new. Surely it doesn't need to be checked?

The regulations require all meters to be checked – and this helps you as much as us. This sets a benchmark for accuracy so you can rely on your records. Also if your new meter is inaccurate you can get it fixed sooner, rather than 5 years later!

6. Does the frequency of my water meter readings change?

The regulations require daily recording of water use but allows HBRC some discretion to amend this timeframe. For some consents HBRC has already exercised this discretion – we've granted them approval to continue to take weekly readings and send their returns in either monthly or annually depending on the conditions in their consent.

7. Can I get my water use data?

Yes, HBRC can provide you with a free copy of your data on request for industry verification requirements, etc. or you can register and view your data online on the councils website.

8. Do I have to attach telemetry?

The regulations don't require telemetry to be installed but your consent conditions may require it. One significant benefit of installing telemetry is you won't need to read and record your water use daily or send manual water meter readings to HBRC, plus the data is available almost immediately online.

9. Why is the water meter testing important?

Water is in demand, there is a finite amount

available and allocations are getting tighter. Water efficiency is therefore a priority. More information on real and actual abstraction will help both growers and HBRC determine if current allocations are correct and find out if there is spare water available. To do this precisely, it's important that the data from you on your actual abstraction is both accurate and timely – you know the saying 'garbage in, garbage out'!

10. Do I have to have my water meter verified?

Yes, the regulations require your water meters to be verified to within +/- 5% accuracy. Unless an earlier date is required through a consent condition, verification is required by 30 June in the year following the meter installation and then every 5 years after that.

(Note: Plan Change 6 may subject mechanical meters to verifications every 3 years.)

11. Do I have to change my head works?

No, not if your existing water meter (refer 3 above) can be verified to be accurate. However if you are replacing a meter (which must be capable of an electronic output), check your consent conditions first and consider if you have to alter the head works to meet industry best practice guidelines.

12. Hang on, my meter came with a factory 'wet' certificate so it shouldn't need testing?

The meter is only as accurate as the flow profile travelling through it. Factory testing for the 'wet' certificate is done in a laboratory situation where everything is standardised. But your real world application is quite different, with elbow tees and pumps all affecting the meter's accuracy.

13. But I didn't need to get my new vehicle a warrant of fitness when I bought it, so my new meter should be accurate as well!

Your new vehicle would have been run through a test to supply it with a NZ WOF and Rego - this would have been an extra 'on the road cost' you paid for. New vehicles are also checked for quality and safety in the factory, much the same as the wet certificate supplied with the water meter.

14. Do I have to alter my headworks so the verification can be carried out?

This isn't always necessary as an existing hydrant point can also be used. However, mainline and control valve leaks will affect the outcome of the verification and this should be considered when making the decision to add a new outlet in the headworks or not.

If you have further questions, please contact: Water Information Services. Phone 835 9200 or email info@hbrc.govt.nz

