

# Bathing Water Directive

<b>Official reference</b>	Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	15/02/2006
	Publication	4/03/2006
	Entry into force	24/03/2006
	Implementation by Belgium	21/03/2008
	Implementation deadline	24/03/2008
<b>Policy level</b>	European	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Directive	
<b>Geographical reach</b>	EU Member States	
<b>(Legal) coverage in the BNS</b>	Flemish region, internal waters	
<b>European contact point</b>	European Environment Agency (EEA)	
<b>Competent authorities in Belgium</b>	Flemish authorities; Flemish agency Care and Health; Section Public Health monitoring (analyses outsourced to the Flemish Environment Agency (VMM))	
<b>Transposition on the Flemish level</b>	Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 21 maart 2008 tot wijziging van het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 1 juni 1995 houdende algemene en sectorale bepalingen inzake milieuhygiëne en het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 8 december 1998 tot aanduiding van de oppervlaktewateren bestemd voor de productie van drinkwater categorieën A1, A2 en A3, zwemwater, viswater en schelpdierwater, ter omzetting van Richtlijn 2006/7/EG van het Europees Parlement en de Raad van 15 februari 2006 betreffende het beheer van de zwemwaterkwaliteit en tot intrekking van Richtlijn 76/160/EEG	

## // abstract:

The Bathing water directive sets conditions for the monitoring and classification of the bathing water quality, its management and the information to be provided to the public. This directive aims at maintaining, protecting and improving the water quality and protecting public health by complementing the *Water Framework Directive* (2000/60/EC; p.76).

The directive concerns surface waters (including coastal waters), where a large number of bathers can be expected, where there is no permanent bathing prohibition or where there is no permanent advice against bathing. The directive obliges the Member States to annually identify all bathing waters. Moreover, they have to define the length of the bathing season. This demand entails that the waters concerned have to be systematically assessed on their quality in accordance with the parameters, analysing methods and guidelines stipulated in this directive.

On the basis of the results of the bathing water quality evaluation, the Member States need to rank the bathing water quality in four categories: poor, sufficient, good or excellent. The Member States need to take the necessary measures, so that all bathing waters have at least a sufficient water quality, by the end of the bathing season of 2015. This directive specifies the measures that have to be taken if the waters are (temporarily) classified as 'poor'.

The Member States are supposed to draw up bathing water profiles in accordance with this directive. Moreover, this directive includes other clauses concerning the management measures for exceptional conditions (i.e. unpredictable negative effect on the quality), cooperation regarding transboundary waters, stakeholders' participation and the diffusion of information to the public.