

**New rules for monitoring radiation in ‘spring water’ and other bottled drinking water –  
except ‘natural mineral water’**

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

**RPC rating: Confirmed as low-cost regulation**

**Description of proposal**

Directive 2013/51/Euratom supersedes existing obligations for monitoring radiation in potable water (excluding water marketed as ‘natural mineral water’), and introduces a new requirement for monitoring radon. The proposal transposes the Directive into UK law without going beyond the minimum requirements.

**Impacts of proposal**

Data on bottled drinking water production indicate that there are currently 34 businesses producing bottled spring water in England that will be required to test for radon. The cost provided by industry for a single radon test is £183 per business. Initial testing is, therefore, expected to cost a total of £6,218. Understanding the requirements and disseminating information within the business is expected to take two hours per business, with a one-off cost of £1,812. Overall, the annual cost to business is £691.

The Department expects there to be no additional ongoing costs as existing industry testing would be sufficient to capture any subsequent radon contamination.

**Quality of submission**

The triage assessment provides a detailed assessment of the expected costs of the proposal, drawn from industry data. It is not clear whether this proposal will also impose costs on producers of other types of bottled water (not spring or natural mineral water), although any costs would be low. The estimated costs will be tested at consultation.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Out of scope (EU)</b>
<b>Small and micro business assessment</b>	<b>Not required</b>