

Phosphorus compounds and food industry Regulations

The European regulations on water pollution are changing. Phosphorus compounds are one of the concerns in this fight against water pollution.

The European committee directives focused on removing phosphorus compounds from wastewater are:

The European Directive 2000/60/EC on Water establishes a framework for a European policy to improve water quality with a long-term obligation that ensures surface and ground water reach a high level of quality within 15 years. Each Member State has to commit to reach the results.

Link: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/fr/lvb/128002b.html>

The European Directive 76/464/EEC, modified by the Directive 2006/11/EEC addresses the elimination of water pollution caused by a long list of dangerous substances. It states pollutant must have a permit before it can be released into a body of water. These permits limit levels and require the states to work towards better water quality.

Phosphorus is included on the list-- referred to as “list II, second paragraph of the Directive”— of substances that each Member State must implement the necessary processes to reduce the substances levels in water.

Link: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/fr/lbv/128017a.htm>

Environmental Quality Standards (EQN) for the listed substances must be established.

The European Directive IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) 96/71/CE concerns the reduction of pollution from many sources in the EU. All industrial plants mentioned in Annex I of the Directive should get an authorization from the appropriate authorities in each European country. Without this authorization, facilities listed won't be allowed. The authorities have to follow the rules of the Best Available Techniques (BAT) described in the Directive -Article 2.

The objective of the BAT, part of the Biomedical Research and Education Foundation for Food, Drink and Milk (BREF FDM), is to ensure that manufacturers use cleaning and disinfectant products that are healthier for the environment.”

Link: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/fr/lvb/128045.htm>

The European Directive on Urban wastewater 91/271/CEE, modified by the Directive 98/271/CEE, has a goal to treat wastewater before it is released into the environment, especially for surface water. This applies to the collection and treatment of urban wastewater and wastewater emitted by some manufacturing sites.

Industrial wastewater that soaks into the groundwater must be tested before it is released. The tests must validate the wastewater can be released in the environment.

Each Member State should establish national programs to follow the European Directives.

Link: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/fr/lvb/128008.htm>