

Water UK Standards Board Strategy: Sustainable WIS and IGN Strategy

1. Purpose of this document

This document has been developed by the Water UK Standards Board (WSB) to ensure that, where there is a need for Water Industry Standards (WIS) or Industry Guidance Notes (IGN), they remain relevant and up to date.

2. Key Standards

There are 21 Water Industry Standards (WIS) and 24 Information Guidance Notes (IGN) asserted to be current on the WSB website. There are a larger number of WIS and IGN which have been superseded or are no longer relevant (e.g. for techniques that have fallen out of use by the industry). Details of this larger group are being progressively added to the website as there remains a demand for them (e.g. for asset condition surveys or failure investigations). The current WIS & IGN are valuable in those areas where there is no applicable British, European or ISO standard. Such a situation can arise for a variety of reasons. For example, due to resistance from other parties that prevents such a standard being agreed (as was the case with flushable products) or due to the specialised nature of the need (for example spray lining of water mains). These WIS and IGN are also widely quoted by, and are used by, suppliers and contractors to the UK water industry as part of their product or service offerings.

Historically, once written, there was no programme to ensure a WIS or IGN's continued currency and there are a high proportion greater than 20 years old. This situation potentially exposes the UK water industry and Water UK to conflicting claims and sub-optimal work. This is a high priority for resolution.

3. Key Areas of Activity for the Standards Board

In order to support the Water Industry, the WSB will undertake the following activities: -

Action	Detail	Owner	Completion Date
WIS / IGN Refresh	The WSB has appointed four contractors to review 27 of the 45 WIS and IGN to determine whether they remain current or have been superseded by (1) technological advances; (2) regulatory changes or (3) the introduction of new UK, European or international standards Possible outcomes include (1) retention; (2) recommendation for review by a relevant technical committee or archiving on the WSB Website	Martin Padley	March 2024
Sustainable WIS/IGN Management	The WSB will identify and implement a strategy to ensure that the existing backlog does not recur	Martin Padley	March 2023

4. Outcomes and Further Action

To be completed as the above actions are completed.