

Water UK Standards Board Strategy: Microplastics

1. Purpose of this document

This document has been developed by the Water UK Standards Board (WSB) to ensure that the appropriate international (ISO), European (EN), and British (BS) standards – and, if necessary, Water Industry Standards (WIS) or Industry Guidance Notes (IGN) - are in place to avoid unacceptable levels of microplastics in drinking water supplies or entering the environment via wastewater discharges or the materials or processes used by the water industry.

2. Key Standards

The key outcomes within this area are to understand the need for any standards associated with microplastics arising from the UK water industry's operation. This is a very immature area for standards and the standards committees and working groups below may include this as a part of their future work: -

CEN/TC	UK Mirror Committee
CEN/TC 164 <i>Water Supply</i>	B/504 <i>Water Supply</i>
CEN/TC 164/WG3 <i>Effects of materials in contact with drinking water</i>	EH/6 <i>Effects of materials on water quality</i> And BS 6920 <i>Suitability of non-metallic products for use in contact with water intended for human consumption with regard to their effect on the quality of the water</i>
CEN/TC 164/WG9 <i>Drinking water treatment</i>	B/504/10 <i>Chemicals and filtering media for water treatment</i>
CEN/TC 165 <i>Wastewater engineering</i>	B/505 <i>Wastewater engineering</i>

There are no relevant WIS or IGN.

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
Horizon scan	Seek regular feedback from Water UK Committees and UKWIR as this area matures to identify the need for any standards that would assist the UK water industry	Martin Padley	November 2023

4. Outcomes and Further Action

To be completed as the above actions are completed.