

Water UK Standards Board Strategy: River Health

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 (CEN), and British (BS) – and, if necessary, Water Industry Standards (WIS) or Industry Guidance Notes (IGN) - are in place to enable the UK Water industry to protect and improve the environment through its operations. In particular the long-term goal to eliminate spills from sewer overflows and sewer flooding events. Climate change, specifically extreme weather events will make this goal challenging, it is therefore vital that standards are continually developed as research and innovation provide ways to adapt.

2. Key Standards

There are no key standards (International (ISO), European (CEN) or British (BS)) related to River health or pollution prevention. The standards and guidance related to prevention, classification and control of pollution are set by UK Government, the Devolved Governments' regulators, and applied through legal permits and legislation. Water Industry assets, equipment, operation, and practices must conform to these standards to ensure compliance with permits. Reducing spills from sewer overflows and sewer flooding events can only be achieved through a coordinated catchment-based application of standards. Vehicles such as the Water Industry National Environment Program and 25 Year Drainage Water Management Plans help the water industry to establish what needs improvement, whilst the standards provide instruction and guidance on the how.

There are no current WIS and IGNS

3. Key Areas of Activity for the Standards Board

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, as this area develops to identify the need for any standards that would assist the UK water industry.	Jason Dearlove	Annual Review

4. Outcomes and Further Action

To be completed as the above actions are completed.