

Drinking water analysis

New Zealand Drinking Water Standards

Introduction

To show compliance with the Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (DWSNZ) new underground sources have to be tested for radiological determinands before connecting to the water supply and then undergo retesting every ten years.

The National Radiation Laboratory (NRL) offers a set of measurements and a dose assessment to help show compliance with the radiological section of the DWSNZ.

Analyses available

The DWSNZ requires testing for radon, total alpha and total beta concentrations. If the maximum allowable values in table 2.4 of the DWSNZ are exceeded further testing and a dose assessment are required to determine whether the water is fit for consumption (see DSWNZ chapter 9.5).

The available methods are described in the client information sheet on tests and assessments.

Sampling requirements

A minimum of 2 litres of water is required to perform the set of standard measurements.

Minimum detectable concentrations

Minimum detectable concentrations vary between measurements, and are described in the client information sheet on tests and assessments.

Reporting

Test reports state radioactivity measurement results in Becquerel per litre (Bq/L). A statement of whether or not the sample provided meets the requirements of the DWSNZ may be added if requested.

Quality Systems

The laboratory operates quality systems and its water testing methods are part of the scope of accreditation to ISO 17025:2005. Please contact NRL for details.

Price and turnaround time

Please contact the NRL.

Contact details

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