

Subsidiary Directive on priority substances

Official reference	Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council	
Relevant dates	Document	16/12/2008
	Publication	24/12/2008
	Entry into force	13/01/2009
	Implementation by Belgium	23/06/2010
	Implementation by Flanders	21/05/2010; 23/12/2010
	Implementation deadline	13/07/2010
Policy level	European	
Type of instrument	Directive	
Geographical reach	EU Member States	
(Legal) coverage in the BNS	Flemish region, internal waters, territorial sea	
European contact point	Directorate-General Environment (DG ENV)	
Competent authorities in Belgium	For the Flemish Region and the internal waters: Coordination Commission Integrated Water Policy (secretariat CIW = Flemish Environment Agency (VMM)) For the one-mile zone seawards, starting from the baseline and the territorial sea: Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food chain safety and Environment; DG Environment; Agency Marine Environment	
Transposition on the federal level	Koninklijk besluit van 23 juni 2010 betreffende de vaststelling van een kader voor het bereiken van een goede oppervlaktewatertoestand	
Transposition on the Flemish level	Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 21 mei 2010 tot wijziging van het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 6 februari 1991 houdende vaststelling van het Vlaams reglement betreffende de milieuvergunning en van het besluit van de Vlaamse Regering van 1 juni 1995 houdende algemene en sectorale bepalingen inzake milieuhygiëne, voor wat betreft de milieukwaliteitsnormen voor oppervlaktewateren, waterbodems en grondwater Decreet van 23 december 2010 houdende diverse bepalingen inzake leefmilieu en natuur (-> wijzigt o.a. Decreet van 18 juli 2003 betreffende het integraal waterbeleid)	

// abstract:

The directive sets environmental quality standards (EQS) for substances that have priority with the aim of achieving good quality surface waters. The directive is in accordance with article 16 of the [Water Framework Directive](#) (2000/60/EC; p.76). This directive stipulates that environmental quality standards in the field of water policy for priority substances have to be determined on the European level. The main purpose is to contribute to a good chemical status of the surface waters by reducing contamination by priority substances and gradually phasing out or ceasing the emission, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances. The list of priority substances includes 45 different substances (cf. Decision No 2455/2001/EC and Directive 2013/39/EU), 21 of which are considered hazardous. The Commission must verify by 2018 whether progress is being made with regard to the above mentioned objectives.

This directive lays down environmental quality standards, discusses the action points concerning mixing zones to the points of discharge, and describes the inventory of emissions, discharges and losses at the level of river basin districts. It is furthermore made clear that a Member State is not in breach of its obligations under this directive as a result of the exceeding of an EQS, due to transboundary pollution, provided that certain conditions have been met.