

## **Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**



#### **Are all reservoirs affected by the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011?**

The Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 affects reservoirs which are capable of holding 25,000m<sup>3</sup> or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land. In due course, the threshold for regulation will reduce to structures that can hold 10,000m<sup>3</sup> or more of water above the natural level of the surrounding land – the equivalent to four Olympic sized swimming pools.

#### **Who is responsible for regulating reservoir safety?**

SEPA is currently responsible for regulating reservoir safety in Scotland under the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011. We took on this responsibility from the local authorities on April 2016 following introduction of the new Act.

#### **What does risk designation mean and how will my reservoir be assessed?**

SEPA use a risk-based approach to manage reservoir safety. This means reservoirs are regulated in a proportionate way based on the potential adverse consequences of an uncontrolled release of water.

Data supplied by the reservoir manager during registration is used to produce flood inundation maps. This data is also used as the basis for assigning a designation of high, medium or low to the reservoir.

#### **Do I need to have an engineer for my reservoir?**

It is the reservoir manager's responsibility to appoint the relevant panel engineer to their reservoir. Reservoirs designated as high or medium risk must have a supervising engineer appointed to their reservoir at all times. Reservoirs designated as high risk must appoint an additional engineer (known as an inspecting engineer) at least once every 10 years in order to complete a more detailed statutory inspection of the reservoir. There is no statutory requirement to appoint a supervising or inspecting engineer to reservoirs designated as low risk.

#### **How do I register my reservoir?**

To support reservoir managers in completing the registration process under the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011, we have produced a number of guidance documents on our webpages which outline exactly how to register a reservoir with us.

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/reservoirs/>

The registration forms themselves contain guidance on how to complete them. If you have any queries after reading these documents then please contact us prior to returning your registration form.

### **How do I keep up to date on developments?**

We will continue to update our online information as developments arise.

Further information on the reservoir industry is available from [the Scottish Government](#), [the British Dam Society](#) and the [Institution of Civil Engineers](#).

For more information about any aspect of the new regime, please email us at [reservoirs@sepa.org.uk](mailto:reservoirs@sepa.org.uk) or call us on 03000 996699.