

INDEX 

<b>Health and Safety Executive</b>		<b>Sector Information Minute</b>	
<b>Commercial and Consumer Services, Transportation and Utilities Sector (CACTUS)</b>		<b>SIM 05/1999/53</b> (formerly SIM 03/1999/19)	
<b>Cancellation Date</b>	30/07/2007	<b>Open Government Status</b>	Fully Open
<b>Version No &amp; Date</b>	30/07/1999	<b>Author Unit/Section</b>	Engineering & Utilities - Nottingham

Target Audience:  
Regional Directors  
Heads of Operations  
HM Inspectors of Health and Safety

## PUBLIC ACCESS TO OPEN RESERVOIRS

This SIM draws Inspectors attention to a new publication from Water (UK) giving guidance on appropriate levels of protection and rescue equipment to be provided at open reservoirs.

### INTRODUCTION

1 This publication was produced by Water UK which is the trade association representing the water industry. HSE was consulted over the contents of the guidance. It is limited to open reservoirs, ie catchment reservoirs and raw water reservoirs, the latter normally being near water treatment works. Treated water reservoirs are excluded as they are normally completely enclosed thereby preventing public entry. Also water sports activities are excluded as these will normally have their own health and safety guidance.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

2 Historically difficulties have arisen over the levels of protection required at different sites and the need to maintain rescue equipment which may be subject to regular vandalism. The guide provides a hierarchy of measures depending on the likely access by the public. The most remote reservoirs will still require some precautions such as barriers in high risk areas e.g. spillways. In contrast reservoirs close to high densities of population may have to be completely fenced.

3 Life saving appliances will be required at reservoirs open to the public, which have steep sides and where access to the water is not physically prevented. The risk assessment should identify the type, number and location of the life saving appliances.

4 If the operator of the reservoir decides such appliances are not practicable the risk assessment must record in writing how such a decision was reached. If appliances are not being replaced as a result of vandalism the operator must be able to demonstrate that adequate security measures have been taken. Such appliances are only being required at reservoirs having a high risk due to their design and regular access by the public. Inspectors should therefore be cautious about accepting vandalism as a reason for not supplying and maintaining such equipment.

## SUPPLY OF GUIDANCE

5 Copies of the guidance will be issued to subject file 847. Copies have been sent to inspectors working in Utilities Groups. For further information contact the Engineering & Utilities Sector - Nottingham (VPN 513 2800).

Date first issued: July 1999

