

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHAT ARE THE TIMEFRAMES FOR INSTALLING WATER MEASURING DEVICES?

A: ORC advice is the sooner the better. However, there is a tiered approach. Water measuring devices for takes of more than -

20 litres per second (l/s) must be in place by:
10 November 2012

takes of **10 l/s up to 20 l/s** must be in place by:
10 November 2014

takes of **5 l/s up to 10 l/s** must be in place by:
10 November 2016

Resource consents granted after 10 November 2010 will have conditions matching the RMA regulation attached and must be adhered to immediately, without the above periods of grace.

Q: MY CONSENT CONDITIONS ARE MORE STRINGENT THAN THE RMA REGULATIONS- WHICH SHOULD I FOLLOW?

A: Follow the conditions on your consent. The new RMA regulations provide minimum requirements for measuring on all water permits nationwide, including Deemed Permits (Mining Privileges).

Q: DO THE NEW REGULATIONS APPLY TO DEEMED PERMITS/MINING RIGHTS?

A: Yes, they apply regardless of what kind of permit you have.

Q: IS IT COMPULSORY FOR ALL TAKES TO BE ELECTRONICALLY MEASURED?

A: Under current regulations there is no clear cut answer to this question. The RMA regulations state that the measuring device must be "able to provide data in a form suitable for electronic data storage."

When you renew your permit, ORC is likely to attach conditions requiring electronic measuring, so it makes sense to install this equipment now.

Q: MY WATER IS TAKEN THROUGH A BOX STRUCTURE IN A RACE WHICH IS ALWAYS THE SAME SIZE. DO I NEED TO MEASURE WATER IF I AM ALWAYS TAKING THE SAME AMOUNT?

A: Yes. Although the water you take always passes through an opening of constant size, the pressure of water (relating to the head upstream) may change. So, although the box is always full, the amount of water taken can vary. The box structure may be handy when installing a measuring and recording device as it provides a uniform section for measuring.

Q: DO I HAVE TO MEASURE MY WATER EXACTLY AT THE POINT OF TAKE?

A: Measuring devices must be installed where water is taken. Regional councils may give written approval for installation at an alternative location. If you think you have grounds for installing your device elsewhere (e.g. 100m down the waterway) apply to ORC for an exemption. We will assess your claim, including whether the full amount of water taken is being measured, and the reasons for installing the device elsewhere.

You must apply to ORC for this exemption. A process fee will be charged for assessing the application.

Q: MY CONSENT SAYS I ALREADY HAVE TO MEASURE BUT MY NEIGHBOUR HAS NO MEASURING CONDITIONS. WHY ARE THEY DIFFERENT?

A: Requirements for measuring the amount of water taken are set out on consents, but consent conditions vary. Measuring conditions have been introduced to consents since the early 2000s.

Generally, the newer the permit, the more conditions attach to it. This is because more pressure is going on water resources and more emphasis is being put on environmental management, in Otago and nationwide. Regardless of your current consent conditions, the regulations introduced on 10 November 2010 apply to everyone with water permits.

Q: WHEN DO I HAVE TO SEND IN MY RECORDS?

A: By 30th July of each year. This overrides any other data reporting deadlines of your current resource consent other than the telemetry requirements.

Q: IS THERE A TEMPLATE AVAILABLE FOR DATA RECORDS?

A: ORC data collection staff have a simple-to-use electronic template which can be emailed to comply with the new regulations.

Q: WILL I NEED TO SEND MY CONSENT IN TO ORC TO GET THE NEW RMA REGULATIONS ATTACHED?

A: No, permits are not being called in. This includes deemed permits. The regulations being introduced are a part of the RMA which over-rides Water Permits and Deemed Permits.

Any new water permits issued on or after 10 November 2010 will have conditions meeting the RMA regulations automatically attached. Applicants will not have the two years of transition given to current permit holders.
