

## Panel engineers

Panel engineers are appointed by reservoir managers to inspect, monitor and supervise a reservoir. They produce various written statements, reports and certificates following the inspections and supervision and these must be provided to the reservoir manager and copied to SEPA within statutory timescales.

For a list of panel engineers that can operate within Scotland please visit the Scottish Government website: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Environment/Water/16922/panengineerlist>

## Inspecting engineer

The inspecting engineer's role is to inspect the reservoir, advise on the condition of the reservoir and to make recommendations regarding works required to ensure its continued satisfactory operation.

Inspecting engineers have nine months after the completion of the inspection to supply the reservoir manager, the supervising engineer and SEPA with their report.

## Supervising engineer

A supervising engineer is required to notify the reservoir manager about any safety issues related to the reservoir. They are also required to monitor any matters specified in safety reports, preliminary and final certificates as well as inspection reports.

The supervising engineer should produce a written statement at least every 12 months which must be supplied to both the reservoir manager and SEPA.

Cover photo: Water reflections at Errochty Hydro Dam, Perthshire, Scotland

# Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011

Important regulatory information for reservoir managers

## For more information

[www.sepa.org.uk/reservoirs](http://www.sepa.org.uk/reservoirs)

[reservoirs@sepa.org.uk](mailto:reservoirs@sepa.org.uk)

03000 996699 and ask for the Reservoir Regulatory Unit

Reservoir Regulatory Unit, SEPA, Strathallan House, Castle Business Park, Stirling FK9 4TZ

## Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011

The regulatory landscape for reservoir safety in Scotland is changing. The Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 replaces the Reservoirs Act 1975, transferring responsibility for regulating reservoir safety from local authorities to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

As of **1 April 2016**, SEPA takes on full regulatory control of reservoirs over 25,000m<sup>3</sup> in Scotland. Please see the reverse of this leaflet for information on how to contact SEPA's Reservoir Regulatory Unit.

### Key changes

The 2011 Act introduces a number of key changes and benefits to the reservoir industry:

- SEPA is the single, national enforcement and regulatory body, providing greater consistency for the industry.
- A Controlled Reservoir Register has been made available which includes a reservoir inundation map for each registered reservoir showing the area of land likely to be flooded in the event of an uncontrolled release of water.

To view the Controlled Reservoir Register visit:

<http://map.sepa.org.uk/reservoirsfloodmap/map.htm>

- Risk designations of high, medium or low have been assigned to each registered reservoir by SEPA based on the consequences of an uncontrolled release of water. Different levels of statutory monitoring and inspection will be undertaken based on the risk designation, with low and medium risk sites having less regulation than high risk sites. A **briefing note** and **guidance document** have been produced on risk designations and can be found on the SEPA website here: [www.sepa.org.uk/reservoirs](http://www.sepa.org.uk/reservoirs).



## Reservoir manager responsibilities

The reservoir manager, previously known as the undertaker in the 1975 Act, includes those that lease or use the water. A reservoir manager's main areas of responsibility are:

- To register their reservoir with SEPA. If information changes from that provided at registration, including registered name, address or additional contact information they must contact SEPA's Reservoir Regulatory Unit at [reservoirs@sepa.org.uk](mailto:reservoirs@sepa.org.uk) as soon as possible.
- To keep a proper record of water levels and repairs to ensure ongoing monitoring, and maintenance.

- Where a person ceases to be a reservoir manager and conversely when a person becomes a reservoir manager **both** must notify SEPA within 28 days.
- To appoint a panel engineer to oversee construction, alterations, supervise or inspect their sites as required. If the reservoir manager does not appoint an engineer, SEPA can appoint one on their behalf and will recover all costs incurred. **It is the responsibility of the reservoir manager to notify SEPA within the statutory time scales of these appointments.**

High Risk	Required to appoint a supervising engineer at all times. Required to appoint an inspecting engineer at least once every 10 years or when stated in the latest inspection report (or when recommended by supervising engineer).
Medium Risk	Required to appoint a supervising engineer at all times. Only required to appoint an inspecting engineer when recommended by supervising engineer.
Low Risk	No statutory requirement to appoint either a supervising or inspecting engineer.

- To undertake any 'measures' that have been identified in the engineer reports within the stated timescales.

For further information on the duties of a reservoir manager please see the **Reservoir Managers Guidance** which is available from the SEPA website.