Changes to the Reservoirs Act 1975 – the enforcement authority’s perspective in England

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SYNOPSIS  The Environment Agency has been the enforcement authority for the Reservoirs Act 1975 (‘the Act’) in England since 2004, when it took over the role from 140 local authorities. The Act places a duty on the enforcement authorities to ensure that reservoir undertakers observe and comply with its requirements. In July 2013 the Act was amended by the commencement of the amendments in Schedule 4 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. This paper discusses the changing legal requirements and how they are being enforced in England.