

Report of the 4 Member States Initiative (4MSI) for 2020

The 4MSI is a group of European nations working together to recognise each other's approvals for products and materials used in contact with drinking water and to harmonise requirements for the testing of such products and materials. The ultimate aim is to minimise the burden of testing on manufacturers of products and materials that are used in contact with drinking water and at the same time ensure drinking water quality is maintained. The initiative was founded in 2011 by France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom under the name 4MS. As Denmark joined in 2018, and with the United Kingdom leaving EU, the collaboration changed its name to the 4MS Initiative (4MSI).

The 4MSI is led by a Joint Management Committee (JMC) comprising regulators from each nation. During 2020, the JMC held four meetings; one meeting in the Hague (January) and three meetings (in May, July and October), which due to the COVID-19 pandemic was held online. Much of the discussion of the JMC revolved around the ongoing revision of the European Drinking Water Directive and, in particular, the provisions of article 11 on hygienic requirements for materials in contact with drinking water. Individual members of the JMC were involved in the formal process to revise the directive as technical representatives of their respective Member States. Informal discussions were held between the JMC and representatives from the Commission (COM) to facilitate a mutual understanding of the COM proposals for article 11 and the 4MSI proposals under its various common approaches.

Following the publication of the 4MSI's draft common approach on requirements and test methods for organic materials and draft common approach on certification and approval in August 2020, the 4MSI hosted a webinar for industry and other groups of interest where the draft documents were presented and discussed. The webinar was held on November 5th, 2020. Resources from the webinar are available on the 4MSI website ([link](#)). The 4MSI will upload a Q&A-document in 2021 based on the questions received at the seminar.

The work of the 4MSI is done through a series of sub-groups that report back to the JMC. A short summary of the work of each sub-group during the past year is given below.

Sub-group on metallic materials

In 2020 different grades of titanium and tin-nickel coatings were assessed and included in the 4MSI Composition List.

Sub-group on organic materials

The taskgroup completed a draft common approach on requirements and test methods for products made of organic materials, which is a new document called *part C*. This draft document is open for comments and was discussed with industry and other groups of interest on the webinar in November. *Part C* includes some information that was initially covered by part A of the common approach. Thus, part A has also been updated to avoid doubling. The Positive Lists of Starting Substances (*part B*) were updated for a 3rd time. The three parts were published on the 4MSI website ([link](#)) in August 2020.

Sub-group on cementitious materials

There have been no meetings with regards cementitious products and no revisions to these documents during this past year.

Task group on minor and assembled products, and certification and approval

The task group completed a draft common approach on certification and approval. The document was published on the 4MSI website in August 2020 ([link](#)). This draft document is open for comments and was discussed with industry and other groups of interest on the webinar in November.

Sub-group on Ceramics and enamels

For enamels and ceramics, a draft common approach was discussed and will be published by the 4MSI in 2021.

Due to the recent adoption of the recast Drinking Water Directive, the 4MSI will not update the common approaches any more with the exception of part B (positive lists) which may be updated until a European system is available.