

INTRODUCTION

This handbook was designed to be a practical tool for contractors and professionals which would:

- illustrate the various requirements of the Ground Water Protection Regulation (the “Regulation”) established under the Water Act;
- have a system of tabs to provide quick access to specific information related to the various types of wells;
- be portable, and easy to use on the job site, where needed, when needed.

The intent of the Regulation is to protect groundwater and aquifers. The standards for well construction, maintenance, alteration, and closure as laid out in the Regulation are minimum standards. More stringent alternate specifications can be determined by a qualified well driller (QWD), a qualified well pump installer (QWPI) or a qualified professional (QP) based on their professional judgment and assessment of individual cases.

The handbook refers to the Regulation as it presently exists. A second phase of the Regulation (Phase Two) is being developed (dealing with well testing, reporting, etc). The handbook will be updated when Phase Two of the Regulation is brought into force.

All parties dealing with wells and groundwater issues are responsible for ensuring awareness of, and compliance with, the Water Act, the Regulation and all other applicable federal, provincial and local government laws, as well as orders and directions provided by officials acting under them. If there are any discrepancies between this handbook and the Water Act, the Regulation, other laws, or orders and directions issued by officials acting under them, then this handbook should not be relied upon to the extent of any such inconsistency.



If you have any questions about the Regulation or any other relevant law you should consult a BC Ministry of Environment representative, and / or legal counsel where necessary. This document is not intended to providing legal advice and the BC Ground Water Association accepts no responsibility or liability for errors or omissions in this handbook, or for any use or misuse of it.

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The cover page of this handbook represents the artist rendering of a wellhead.

