APPROVED MATERIAL TESTING PROCEDURES (DWE 9534)

Progress report to the Department of the Environment – July to December 1990

DoE 2660–M

DECEMBER 1990
CONTRACT REPORT

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Report No: DoE 2660-M

December 1990

Author and Contract Manager: M Fielding

Contract No: DWE 9534

DoE Reference No: PECD 7/7/370

Contract Duration: 3 September 1990 to 31 August 1992

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Manager at the following address:

WRc plc, Henley Road, Medmenham, PO Box 16, Marlow, Buckinghamshire
SL7 2HD. Telephone: Henley (0491) 571531
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SECTION 1 - OBJECTIVES

The aims of the project are:

1) To assess the approval schemes used in EC and other countries and identify features which should be incorporated into a UK scheme.

2) To establish testing needs, devise, validate and recommend modified testing procedures.

SECTION 2 - INTRODUCTION

Leaching of organic and inorganic impurities from materials of construction in contact with drinking water can pose a threat to consumers and impair water quality generally. The existing UK approval system (CCM) is stricter than most in Europe and consequently has many advantages. The Water Bill has provided powers for a mandatory approval system. At present, committees in Europe (CEN) are putting together a new scheme that will in due course apply to all EC countries. The eventual scheme could be inferior in some respects to the UK approach. It is important that other schemes in Europe and elsewhere are assessed and useful features incorporated in the UK system. The practicalities and value of a positive list need to be investigated. Examples of materials already in use and new materials need to be examined to validate any modified procedures prior to the recommendation of improved testing procedures. The work needs to be synchronised with developments within CEN.

SECTION 3 - PROGRESS AND FUTURE WORK

The start of the work has been delayed at the request of DoE and consequently, the intended work for 90/91 will be undertaken during Q1/91. The work will consist of gathering information on approval schemes used in other countries followed by a critical assessment.
Attention will be focused on tests for evaluating the leaching of impurities with respect to potential health effects. In addition comments will be made on the value of specific tests (eg use of TOC etc) and positive lists. To date contacts have been identified and current CEN activities noted. A critical assessment of CEN activities with implications for DoE policy will be made and the work planned for 91/92 will be modified to take account of relevant CEN developments.