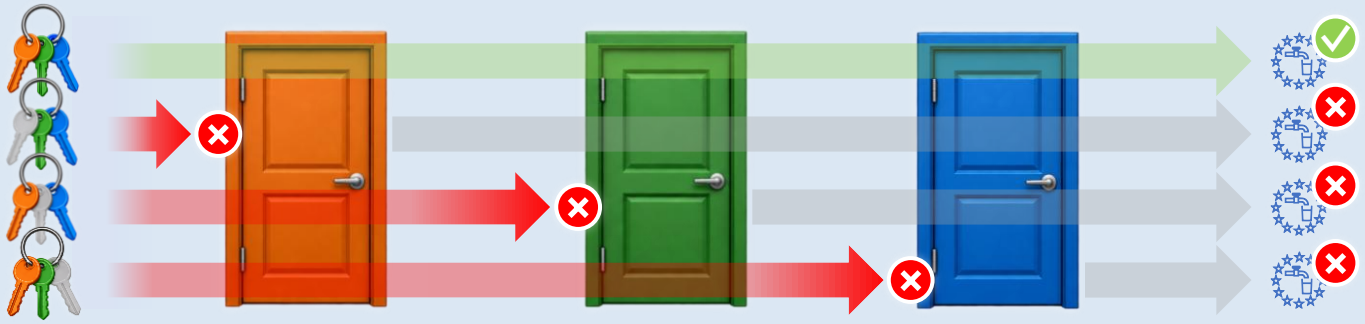
European Drinking Water

Annex 1 – One-pager infographic

EU Drinking Water Directive - Article 11 in Practice | Key implementation challenges, consequences and required action



How to read this graphic

- The three doors represent the three regulatory gates to EU market access: **Substances**, **Materials** and **Products**.
- Each gate requires a matching key.
- If one key is missing, the corresponding door remains closed and the pathway stops.
- **Only when all three gates can be passed is EU market access possible.**

	Issue	Substances	Materials	Products	Consequence	Required Action & Ownership
1	**Difficulties for on-site-applied materials**			Site-applied materials and construction works are not covered by the transitional regime and therefore require immediate EU conformity assessment from 31 December 2026.	Renovation projects and emergency repairs to drinking water infrastructure cannot be carried out in accordance with EU law.	**EU Commission:** Amend Regulation (EU) 2024/370 and introduce suitable transitional measures for site-applied materials.
2	**Fragmented transition periods (Article 11 CDR 2024/370)**			Article 11 transition is applied inconsistently across Member States, while products placed on the EU market after 31 December 2026 without an existing national hygiene certificate are considered “new” and require EU certification.	Legal uncertainty and inconsistent EU-wide market access. Newly developed products may face delays or supply disruptions during the transition period.	**EU Commission:** Apply the Article 11 transition period by default across all Member States and extend it until 2032 for newly placed products, allowing national hygiene certificates alongside the EU certificate.
3	**Operability of the European Positive Lists (EUPL)**	Essential substances and compositions are missing from the EUPL (e.g. glass fibre compositions, specialised constituents).	Materials containing these substances cannot demonstrate compliance with EU requirements.	Products containing these materials cannot enter the EU conformity assessment system.	Essential drinking water products cannot be certified and may disappear from the market.	**EU Commission:** Extend and adapt the transition pathway for new products. **Industry:** Submit missing substances and compositions through the regular EUPL process.
4	**Harmonisation of Testing and Evaluation**		Material testing methodologies and evaluation practices remain insufficiently harmonised.	The same product may receive different conformity assessment outcomes depending on the laboratory or Member State.	No level playing field. Reduced trust, legal certainty and predictability.	**Notified bodies, Laboratories and Industry:** Harmonise testing methodologies, interpretation and acceptance practices.
5	**Lack of mandatory cost- and data-sharing**	No incentive exists to finance substance evaluations and re-evaluations for EUPL entries.	Essential substances may disappear from the EUPL after expiry dates and cannot be used for material production.	Materials and products relying on these substances may lose market access despite long-standing safe use.	Progressive loss of certified products, reduced innovation and increasing burden on sole applicants, including SMEs.	**European Commission and Co-Legislators:** Introduce mandatory cost- and data-sharing provisions in the Drinking Water Directive.
6	**Ion Exchange Resins and Filtration Membranes**	Relevant substances and materials remain outside the harmonised Article 11 framework.	No harmonised hygienic assessment pathway exists at EU level.	The Commission has excluded ion-exchange resins and filtration membranes from harmonisation.	No Internal Market for key water treatment technologies. Reduced resilience of drinking water systems.	**European Commission and Co-Legislators:** Clarify the interaction between Articles 11 and 12 and integrate these products into the harmonised framework.