

Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011

Inundation Mapping

In this briefing you will find information about:

- Reservoir inundation maps
- Inundation mapping methodology
- Further information

1. Reservoir inundation maps

The Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) supersedes the Reservoirs Act 1975 (the 1975 Act) and introduces a risk-based approach to reservoir safety in Scotland. As part of the implementation work for the revised legislation, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) produced inundation maps (approximately 670) for the reservoirs that were already regulated by local authorities under the 1975 Act. The remaining reservoirs on the controlled reservoirs register, which were not previously regulated under the 1975 Act, have been modelled externally and submitted to SEPA by reservoir managers as part of the registration process.

The primary purpose of reservoir inundation maps is to assist SEPA in assigning a risk designation to all registered reservoirs, as required by the Reservoirs (Scotland) Act 2011. Reservoir inundation maps show the area of land that is likely to be flooded in the event of an uncontrolled release of water from a reservoir. They show the extent, depth and velocity of water in the flooded area.

2. Inundation mapping methodology

In order to fulfil its new duties, SEPA has worked collaboratively with key stakeholders from the reservoir industry to develop a nationally consistent reservoir inundation mapping methodology. It utilises available and reliable national datasets, such as ground level information, in a consistent modelling approach.

It is now the responsibility of the reservoir manager to supply reservoir inundation maps at the time of registration for those sites that were not regulated under the 1975 Act and have the capacity to hold greater than 25,000m³. These inundation maps are required to be produced in line with SEPA's *Reservoir Inundation Mapping Methodology*, which can be supplied upon request.

3. Further information

For enquiries relating to the current regulation of your reservoir, please contact the Reservoirs Regulatory Unit at reservoirs@sepa.org.uk or call us on 03000 996699.

For further information about the 2011 Act and its implementation visit [SEPA's website](#).

