



STÁTNÍ ZDRAVOTNÍ ÚSTAV
National Institute of Public Health
Šrobárova 48
100 42 Praha 10
Czech Republic

Garden Praha s.r.o.
Jiřího ze Vtelna 1731
193 00 Prague 9

YOUR LETTER

NO.:
OF: 25.7.2011
OUR RECORD
NO.: 2137/2011-A

PROCESSED BY: MUDr. F. Kožíšek, CSc.
TEL./FAX .: +420 267082302
E-MAIL: voda@szu.cz

DATE: 25.8.2011

**Re.: Information on Czech legislation for bottled water with a focus on bottled baby water
(processed on the request of the company Garden Praha s.r.o.)**

The Czech national legislature on bottled water is harmonised with relevant directives of the European Union (Directive No. 2009/54/EC and Directive No. 98/83/EC). It distinguishes four different kinds of bottled water:

- bottled drinking water
- bottled natural mineral water
- bottled spring water
- bottled baby water (or water for feeding infants).

Bottled drinking water corresponds to the requirements on drinking water (see Council Directive No. 98/83/EC and Czech Decree No. 252/2004 Coll. as amended), it can originate from underground or surface sources, a wide range of treatment technologies are permitted.

Bottled natural mineral water and bottled spring water are made in accordance with the requirements given by the Food Act (No. 110/1997 Coll. as amended) and Decree No. 275/2004 Coll., of the Ministry of Health, on requirements for quality and safety of bottled water and on the method of treatment thereof, as amended. These requirements are in conformance with the directives of the European Parliament and Council No. 2009/54/EC on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters and imply that both types of water must be bottled only from an approved and protected underground source of water, that only certain physical methods of treating water to remove unstable components are permitted and that marking of waters must correspond to special requirements for marking the location of sources, the applied method of treatment, carbonation etc.

In section 9, par. 3, the stated EU Directive (2009/54/EC) admits that member states can adopt special national regulations, which concern the requirements on bottling (natural mineral or spring) water, which is intended for feeding infants. The Czech Republic has taken advantage of this option and apart from bottled natural mineral water and spring water, it has established an independent category of bottled waters – baby water or water for feeding infants.

Baby water is of high quality water from protected underground sources, suitable for direct feeding of infants and all other groups of inhabitants. Requirements for its quality are higher than those for natural mineral or spring waters, as the limits of chemical indicators are not established based on toxicology, but rather based on preventive caution (and are thus much stricter than those corresponding to toxicological criteria). In terms of bottled baby water, any sort of chemical

treatment is forbidden (therefore, water must already be fully compliant in the source), whereby eliminating the risk of failure of treatment technology. Only disinfection of the water using UV radiation is permitted to increase the security of microbiological safety. However, even the water in the source needs to be completely microbiologically safe. Slight carbonation of the water is permitted. The application of UV lamps or carbon dioxide is optional, not mandatory.

Requirements for the quality of bottled baby water are specified in Annex No. 2 to Decree No. 275/2004 Coll. And consist of 8 microbiological and 58 physical indicators.

Mgr. Petr Pumann

Head of the National Reference Centre for Drinking Water

STÁTNÍ ZDRAVOTNÍ ÚSTAV

národní referenční centrum

pro pitnou vodu

Šrobárova 48

100 42 Praha 10