If the final destination of wastewater is its discharge into a water body, the activity should be compliant with the provisions of the Urban Waste Water Directive\(^1\) where applicable, as well as with the objectives to achieve good water status and avoid deterioration, as set out in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)\(^2\).

The Water Reuse Regulation\(^3\) aims to ensure a safe use of treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation, in accordance with its Article 1, wherever such reuse occurs, ensuring a high level of environmental and health protection, and contributing to the objectives of the WFD. A Member State may decide not to authorise water reuse in some or all (or parts of) its river basins, in accordance with Article 2(2) of the Water Reuse Regulation, taking into account certain criteria, including the pressures on and the status of surface water bodies in which treated urban wastewater is discharged.

The Regulation also requires the competent authority designated to issue permits for the production and supply of reclaimed water to ensure that a risk management plan is prepared by the responsible parties involved in a water reuse project. Such plan, setting out the roles and responsibilities of each of these players, must take into account all relevant legislation, including the WFD. The Regulation cannot therefore be implemented without considering provisions under other pieces of environmental legislation, in particular the WFD.

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