

National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

Recognized Treatment Techniques for meeting the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations with the Application of Point-Of-Use-Systems:

National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs or primary standards) are legally enforceable standards that apply to public drinking water systems. Primary standards protect drinking water quality by limiting the levels of specific contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. The following tables divide these contaminants into Microorganisms, Radionuclides, Inorganic Chemicals, Organic Chemical and Disinfectant/ Disinfectant Byproducts.

For simplicity, WQA uses the term Point-Of-Use (POU) when referring to both treatment at the tap and for whole house treatment.

Except for instances of contamination through inhalation or dermal adsorption, the WQA notes that in-home treatment of drinking and cooking water only is often the most economical and preferred method of choice for consumer protection from these drinking water health contaminants. Of course, the particular contaminant found in the water will determine the appropriate treatment technique.

The recognized treatment methods listed here reflect the fact that point-of-use systems on the market today may differ widely in their effectiveness to treat any specific contaminant. Also, many of these can appear in a variety of forms (ionic and/or organic). Examples include arsenic, lead, chromium and mercury which may require different or multiple

treatment techniques. Anyone contemplating use of such point-of-use equipment for a specific application or purpose should make their selection only after careful investigation and substantiation of the performance capabilities. As part of the installation procedure, the performance of the system should be verified through an appropriate water analysis. In addition, the product water should be monitored and appropriately serviced to ensure continued satisfactory performance.

It is the general consensus of the manufacturers and sellers of the point-of-use systems employing the listed technologies that, if these systems are defect-free, properly applied and installed and maintained strictly according to the manufacturers' installation and maintenance instructions, they may be considered for use in meeting the requirements of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR).

Note: This document addresses the United States Environmental Protection Agency National Primary Drinking Water Regulations in effect at its time of publication. These regulations are continually being reviewed and updated at the federal level. Accordingly, this list of recognized treatment technologies will be reviewed and amended periodically.

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Primary (Health-related) Microbial and Turbidity Contaminants

Contaminants	MCLG+	MCL+	Treatment Methods
Turbidity	-	0.5 to 1 NTU in 95% of samples; maximum of 5 NTU under certain circumstances	Coagulation/Filtration Sediment Reduction Reverse Osmosis Cartridge Filtration matched to turbidity particle size Submicron Filtration Ultrafiltration Distillation
Coliform bacteria	zero	zero in 95% of samples	Turbidity or sediment reduction to 1 NTU, then: Disinfection Ozone Ultraviolet Radiation Submicron (absolute) Filtration (<0.45 micron) Chlorination Iodine (Polyiodide Resins) Distillation
Viruses	zero	99.99% reduction or inactivation	Turbidity reduction to 1 NTU, disinfection: Chemical Oxidation/Disinfection Chlorination Ozone Iodine Ultraviolet Radiation Distillation
Giardia lamblia and Cryptosporidium cysts	zero	99.9% reduction or inactivation	Turbidity or sediment reduction to 1 NTU, then: Disinfection Ozone Absolute Filtration of less than 3 micron-sized particles Ultraviolet Light Distillation
Legionella	zero	TT	Sediment reduction to one NTU turbidity, then: disinfection Ultraviolet Light Ozone Chlorination Iodine
Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC)	zero	TT	Sediment reduction to one NTU turbidity, then: disinfection Ultraviolet Light Ozone Chlorination Iodine

Primary (Health-related) Radionuclide Contaminants

Contaminants	MCLG+	MCL+	Treatment Methods
Beta particle and photon activity (formerly man-made radionuclides)	none	4 mrem/year	Ion Exchange (mixed bed) Reverse Osmosis Distillation Electrodialysis
Gross alpha particle activity	none	15 pCi/L*	Treatment method depends on the specific radionuclide-e.g., radium, radon or uranium. See below.
Radium 226 and Radium 228	none	5 pCi/L	Cation Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Radon	zero (P)†	300 pCi/L (P)†	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
Uranium	zero (P)†	0.03 mg/L (P)†	Coagulation/Filtration Anion Exchange Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Submicron Filtration Activated Alumina Distillation

(P)* = Proposed Standard

MCLG+=Maximum Contaminant Level Goal established at the level at which no known or anticipated adverse effects on the health of persons occur and which allows an adequate margin of safety; expressed in milligrams per liter unless otherwise specified.

MCL+=Maximum Contaminant Level established as close to the MCLG as feasible taking into consideration costs and treatment techniques applicable at public water systems; expressed in milligrams per liter unless otherwise specified.

* = 1 pCi = 2.2 atom disintegrations per minute

TT = Treatment Technique

Primary (Health-related) Inorganic Contaminants

Primary (Health -Related) Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminants	MCLG+, mg/L	MCL+ mg/L	Treatment Methods
Antimony	0.006	0.006	Coagulation/Filtration Reverse Osmosis Distillation Submicron Filtration Ultrafiltration
Arsenic (total)	zero (PI)*	0.01	Chemical oxidation to convert to Arsenic +5, then use Arsenic +5 treatment methods
Arsenic (+3)			Coagulation/Filtration Anion Exchange Reverse Osmosis Iron Oxide Media Iron/Alumina Media Submicron Filtration Activated Alumina Distillation Electrodialysis
Arsenic (+5)			Activated Carbon
Arsenic (organic complexes)			Activated Carbon
Asbestos	7 MFL	7 million fibers per liter (MFL) (longer than microns)	Coagulation/Filtration Reverse Osmosis Ultrafiltration Submicron Filtration Distillation
Barium	2.0	2.0	Cation Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Beryllium	0.004	0.004	Coagulation/Filtration Activated Alumina Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Submicron Filtration/Activated Carbon Ultrafiltration Cation Exchange Distillation
Cadmium	0.005	0.005	Coagulation/Filtration Submicron Filtration Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Ultrafiltration Cation Exchange Distillation
Chromium (total)	0.1	0.1	
Chromium (+3)	1		Coagulation/Filtration Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Cation Exchange Distillation
Chromium (+6)			Anion Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Chromium (organic complexes)			Activated Carbon
Copper	1.3	1.3 (action level)	Corrosion Control pH Adjustment Polyphosphate Silicate Feed Cation Exchange (20% - 90%) Reverse Osmosis Distillation Electrodialysis
Cyanide	0.2	0.2	Chemical Oxidation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Anion Exchange Distillation
Fluoride	4.0	4.0	Activated Alumina Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Bone Char Distillation
Lead	zero	0.015 (action level)	Cation Exchange (20% - 90%) Coagulation/Filtration Submicron Filtration/Activated Carbon Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Carbon Distillation
Mercury (total)	0.002	0.002	
Mercury (+2)	0.002	0.002 (total mercury)	Submicron Filtration/Activated Carbon Cation Exchange (20% - 90%) Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Mercury (HgCl ₂ -1)			Anion Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Mercury (organic complexes)			Activated Carbon

Primary (Health-related) Inorganic Contaminants cont.

Contaminants	MCLG+, mg/L	MCL+ mg/L	Treatment Methods
Nickel	0.1	0.1	Cation Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Nitrate plus nitrate (as nitrogen)	10	10	Anion Exchange Distillation Electrodialysis Reverse Osmosis (sensitive to pressure)
Nitrite (as nitrogen)	1	1	Chemical Oxidation/Disinfection Anion Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Selenium (total)	0.05	0.05	
Selenium (+4) (total selenium)	0.05	0.05	Coagulation/Filtration Anion Exchange Reverse Osmosis Ultrafiltration Submicron Filtration/Activated Carbon Electrodialysis Activated Alumina Distillation
Selenium (+6)			Anion Exchange Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis Activated Alumina Distillation
Sulfate	500 (P)*	500 (P)*	Anion Exchange Distillation Reverse Osmosis Electrodialysis
Thallium	0.0005	0.002	Cation Exchange Distillation Activated Alumina

(P)* – Proposed Standard

MCLG+ = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal established at the level at which no known or anticipated adverse effects on the health of persons occur and which allows an adequate margin of safety; expressed in milligrams per liter unless otherwise specified.

MCL+ = Maximum Contaminant Level established as close to the MCLG as feasible taking into consideration costs and treatment techniques applicable at public water systems; expressed in milligrams per liter unless otherwise specified.

Primary (Health -Related) Organic Contaminants

Contaminants	MCLG+, mg/L	MCL+, mg/L	Treatment Methods
Acrylamide	zero (action level)	0.0005	Control of water treatment chemicals and surfaces in contact with water
Alachlor	zero	0.002	Activated Carbon
Atrazine	0.003	0.003	Activated Carbon
Benz(a)anthracene	zero (P)*	0.0001 (P)*	Activated Carbon
Benzene	zero	0.005	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
Benzo(a)pyrene	zero	0.0002	Activated Carbon
Carbofuran	0.04	0.04	Activated Carbon
Carbon tetrachloride	zero	0.005	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
Chlordane	zero	0.002	Activated Carbon
Chlorobenzene	0.1	0.1	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
2, 4-D	0.07	0.07	Activated Carbon
Delapon	0.2	0.2	Activated Carbon
1,2-Dibromo 3-chloropropane(DBCP)	zero	0.0002	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
o-Dichlorobenzene	0.6	0.6	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
p-Dichlorobenzene	0.075	0.075	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
1,2-Dichloroethane	zero	0.005	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
1,1-Dichloroethylene	0.007	0.007	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.07	0.07	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.1	0.1	Activated Carbon Air Stripping
Dichloromethane	zero	0.005	Air Stripping