

Summer 2011
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Stage 2 D/DBP Rule Compliance Deadlines Approaching

Updates to the Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts (D/DBP) rule will modify existing monitoring for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids, five (HAA5). The rule attempts to further limit potential health effects from disinfectants and their byproducts in the distribution system.

TTHM and HAA5 continue to form in the distribution system, so concentrations in the drinking water may vary significantly from one point to another. TTHM and HAA5 levels are typically higher in surface water systems because surface waters usually contain higher DBP precursor levels and require stronger disinfection. Limiting the levels of DBPs in your water system may require you to adjust your current operations, such as making operational improvements at the plant or in the distribution system; modifying current treatment operations to remove more DBP precursors; or upgrading or installing treatment.

Public water systems serving populations of 50,000 or larger will begin monitoring under the new rules on Jan. 1, 2012. Water systems serving a population of less than 50,000 begin Jan. 1, 2013. Water systems with populations below 50,000 that buy or sell to a water system with a population greater than 50,000 begin monitoring Jan. 1, 2012.

The number of sampling locations and frequency of monitoring is based on source water type and population. Refer to OAC rule 3745-81-24(D) (6) to determine your water system requirements.

For systems who submitted an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) report, monitoring locations for TTHM and HAA5 were chosen as part of this reporting process.

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OPTIMUM FLUORIDE LEVELS UNCHANGED

In January 2011, U.S. EPA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new information regarding the optimum fluoride levels to combat tooth decay while minimizing unwanted health effects, such as fluorosis. The CDC has proposed a recommended dose of 0.7 mg/L of fluoride. They also proposed to eliminate the variable dose recommendations based on geographical location, since water intake is not assumed to be as variable as previously thought due to air conditioning and other factors. This new recommendation is not yet final.

In Ohio, the current required range of 0.8 to 1.3 mg/L for public water systems serving a population of 5,000 or more is mandated by statute in the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Regardless of whether CDC's recommendations is different, Ohio public water systems must continue to maintain fluoride within the range prescribed by the state statute (0.8 to 1.2 mg/L) unless it is changed by the Ohio Legislature.

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2011 FALL EXAM DEADLINES AND DATES

Wastewater: Application due Aug. 4, 2011;
Exam Nov. 2, 2011

Water: Application due Aug. 5, 2011 and
Exam Nov. 3, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the Operator Certification hotline at 1-866-411-OPCT (6728) or visit

www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx

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OPERATOR CERTIFICATION RULE REVISIONS

Ohio EPA is required to review each of its rules every five years to determine if revisions are needed, taking into consideration factors such as the continued need for the rule, the nature of any complaints or comments received, and any relevant factors that may have changed in the subject matter affected by the rule.

Ohio EPA is currently reviewing the operator certification rules to meet the five-year rule review requirement. So far, potential revisions include:

- removing outdated language;
- adding definitions for automation and continuous monitoring;
- revising Class A eligibility requirements to reflect our current practices;
- establishing provisions for suspension for acting as an operator without a certificate, and for operators who have had certificates suspended or revoked in another state; and
- clarifying that the exam process begins on entry to the exam site.

The draft rules should be out for interested party review in late summer or early fall of this year. Comments, recommendations and questions are welcomed and appreciated. See page 6 for information about subscribing to receive notices of rule changes.

U.S. EPA SMALL SYSTEM INITIATIVE

U.S. EPA has a new initiative to improve compliance and prevent non-compliance at small public water systems, with special emphasis on schools and daycares. Now is a good time to pay special attention to any calls or letters from Ohio EPA, review the requirements for your water system, and make sure you've returned to compliance with any old violations.

Many violations at small water systems are related to the total coliform rule and the lead and copper rule. Information on the total coliform rule is available in the "Guidance on Total Coliform Bacteria Monitoring for Small Public Water Systems" available at www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/pws/WQ-01-006.pdf. To help you better understand the lead and copper rule requirements, review the article below.

Some additional tips for staying in compliance can be found in the Winter 2008 Spigot article titled "Don't be an Enforcement Target", found at www.epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/pws/spigot110408web.pdf.

As always, ask if you have questions!!

THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE: AN OVERVIEW

Confusion about the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) has lead some public water systems (PWSs) to fall out of compliance with the rule. The following checklist may aid in helping your PWS stay in compliance (all of the documents and templates mentioned can be found on our website at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/reporting.aspx#forms).

- Read the Lead and Copper Monitoring Instructions.** These instructions (titled "Instructions for Form 5105 with appendix") discuss sample site selection, types of lead and copper monitoring, sample collection and submittal of the lead and copper monitoring report.
- Determine if you need to sample.** Review your current "Contaminant Monitoring Distribution Point Schedule" to find out if, and when, you need to sample.



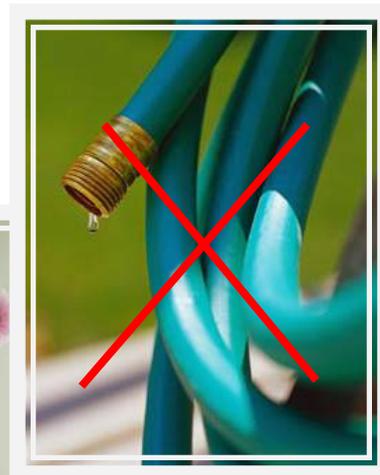
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THE LEAD AND COPPER RULE: AN OVERVIEW

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- Collect appropriate samples for analysis by a certified lab.** Collect samples from sites used for drinking purposes (kitchen sinks, bathroom sinks or drinking fountains only) and not from sites such as slop sinks or outside spigots. Sample from the cold water tap only after the water has not been used for at least six hours. Sample during the first part of the monitoring period, so if there is a problem, there is enough time to collect another sample.
- Issue Lead Consumer Notices.** Provide notice of tap water lead monitoring results to all served by the sampling site, regardless of whether the sample exceeds the lead action level. Lead results for each sample site must be provided within 30 days after receipt of lab results to the customer at the site where the sample was collected (community systems) or posted next to where the sample was collected (non-community systems). Templates for the Lead Consumer Notice are available on the website.
- Complete the Verification of Lead Consumer Notice Issuance.** Within 90 days after the end of the monitoring period, send the verification, along with a copy of one of the Lead Consumer Notices issued, to Ohio EPA, DDAGW Central Office.
- Calculate the 90th percentiles.** The Lead and Copper Monitoring Instructions provide details on how to perform the calculations. If the lead 90th percentile is greater than or equal to 15.5 micrograms per liter (ug/L) or the copper 90th percentile is greater than or equal to 1350 ug/L, contact your Ohio EPA district office immediately for details about additional requirements.
- Complete the Drinking Water Lead and Copper Monitoring Report** (form 5105 with appendix). Before the 10th day after the end of your monitoring period, send the completed report to Ohio EPA, DDAGW Central Office, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049.
- Maintain records.** Keep a copy of all lead and copper rule documents on site for a minimum of 12 years.

Contact your Ohio EPA district office with any questions or concerns regarding these requirements.



LEARN FROM EACH OTHER THE COST OF ONGOING NONCOMPLIANCE

Due to an ongoing history of repeated monitoring violations, Ohio EPA denied the license to operate (LTO) a public water system for the Green Tomato Restaurant. This means they were not allowed to provide water for human consumption.

When the restaurant's owner continued to operate the water system without a license, a judge ordered them to cease operation until they returned to compliance with safe drinking water rules and were issued an LTO.

Since an approved source of water is required for a food service license, and the restaurant had also accumulated food service

code violations, the local health department revoked their food service license. The Liquor Control Commission denied their liquor license as well.

If the restaurant had chosen to comply with monitoring requirements, their bill would likely have been under \$300 per year. Instead, they are facing loss of income while not operating, legal fees, and penalties of up to \$25,000 per day.

It pays to stay in compliance!

Have a hard-learned lesson you would like to share with others? Submit it to Holly Kaloz at holly.kaloz@epa.ohio.gov.

RULE-MAKING ACTIVITIES

Below is a brief summary of recent and upcoming changes. For more details, including notice of opportunities to comment on draft rules, sign up for our electronic mailing list, or visit us on the web at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw.

Recently adopted

- Underground Injection Control: amendments to Class V Well rule (effective May 2, 2011)

In the works

- Miscellaneous rules: operational requirements; backflow prevention; plan approval; updates to references of more recent versions of ANSI/NSF Standards 60 and 61 (proposed September 2011)
- Operator Certification: minor revisions (draft August 2011)
- PWS Definition: clarify definition of a PWS and who is under Ohio EPA's jurisdiction (draft November 2011)



Answer Place

Have questions?
Need help?
Click here to visit
the Answer Place.

DEAR ANSWER PLACE:

Why did I get a recorded phone message from Ohio EPA?

- Ringy Dingy

DEAR RINGY:

Ohio EPA has recently started using a new automated messaging system to contact public water systems.

We've already sent some messages to remind water systems of monitoring requirements. We also plan to send messages during emergencies and for other reminders such as operator certification and license to operate renewals and other deadlines. If you get a call, please follow the instructions provided.

- Answer Place

HAVE A QUESTION FOR ANSWER PLACE?

Ask a question at <http://ohioepa.custhelp.com>.

OHIO EPA'S SPIGOT NEWS

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STAGE 2 D/DBP RULE

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Water systems that did not submit an IDSE report, or that received an IDSE waiver (either a very small system waiver or a 40/30 certification), may be able to continue monitoring at the location(s) where TTHM and HAA5 samples have historically been collected. Some systems may need additional or different locations to comply with Stage 2 TTHM and HAA5 monitoring requirements.

All public water systems must develop and maintain a sample monitoring plan. Surface water systems must submit a copy of their sample monitoring plan to Ohio EPA. Guidance on completing a sample monitoring plan is available at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/ddbp.aspx. Minimum information required as part of the plan includes **monitoring locations** (both a location address and a unique monitoring point code) and **monitoring date(s)**.

'Quarterly' monitoring must now be spaced 90 days apart. Regular sample collection provides a more accurate representation of the water quality. A (+/-) 5-day range of every 90 days is allowed, as long as samples are collected in each calendar quarter. Similarly, 'monthly' total organic carbon samples (for surface water systems only) are required every 30 days. A range of (+/-) 3 days is allowed as long as samples are collected during each calendar month.

All samples for TTHM and HAA5 must be collected under *normal operating conditions*: the conditions representative of the water typically delivered to consumers. Refer to OAC rule 3745-81-01 for the complete definition and examples.

An early warning system to alert water systems to a potential MCL exceedance, referred to as Operational Evaluation Levels (OELs) was included as part of the rule updates. OELs are based on the results of three quarters of monitoring and will allow water systems to make operational adjustments before an MCL is exceeded. More information regarding OELs will be available soon on Ohio EPA's webpage.

Please contact **Sarah Byerly** at (614) 644-2752 or by email at sarah.byerly@epa.ohio.gov with any questions regarding TTHM and HAA5 monitoring.

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