



*NSF International Standard /
American National Standard*

NSF/ANSI 61 - 2015

Drinking Water System Components -
Health Effects



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NSF International Standard/
American National Standard
for Drinking Water Additives —

**Drinking water system components —
Health effects**

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Foreword²

In response to a competitive request for proposals from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), a Consortium led by NSF International (NSF) agreed to develop voluntary third-party consensus standards and a certification program for all direct and indirect drinking water additives. Other members of the Consortium include the American Water Works Association Research Foundation, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers, and the American Water Works Association. (COSHEM has since become inactive as an organization.) Each organization was represented on a steering committee with oversight responsibility for the administration of the cooperative agreement. The Steering Committee provides guidance on overall administration and management of the cooperative agreement. Currently, the member organizations remain active in an oversight role.

Two standards for additives products were developed. NSF/ANSI 60: – *Drinking water treatment chemicals — Health effects* covers many of the water treatment chemicals, also known as direct additives. This Standard, NSF/ANSI 61: *Drinking water system components — Health effects*, covers all indirect additives products and materials. Testing to determine the potential of a product to impart taste and/or odor to drinking water is not included in this Standard.

NSF/ANSI 61 was developed to establish minimum requirements for the control of potential adverse human health effects from products that contact drinking water. It does not attempt to include product performance requirements that are currently addressed in other voluntary consensus standards established by such organizations as the American Water Works Association, the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the American National Standards Institute. Because this Standard complements the performance standards of these organizations, it is recommended that products also meet the appropriate performance requirements specified in the standards of such organizations.

NSF/ANSI 61, and subsequent product certification against it, has replaced the USEPA Additives Advisory Program for drinking water system components. USEPA terminated its advisory role in April 1990. For more information with regard to USEPA's actions, refer to the July 7, 1988 *Federal Register* (53FR25586).

Water age can be a major factor in the deterioration of water quality within plumbing systems affecting issues of both public health and aesthetic concerns. With increased water age is an increased potential for the formation of disinfection by-products, increased corrosion, and an increased potential for microbial regrowth. It can also lead to a loss in the effectiveness of corrosion control measures and an increased potential for nitrification of the water.

Within NSF/ANSI 61, most extraction protocols result in exposure periods between 12 to 24 hours. While these are appropriate for typical drinking water system use, they can be significantly less than in others. Examples of where high water age can occur include:

- Water storage tanks in rain water catchment systems where the duration may be weeks or months,
- Plumbing system designs in green buildings which result of overall reduction in water usage without a change in piping design to minimize stagnation,
- Buildings where stagnant periods occur due to non-use such as schools between semesters, vacation homes, or seasonal buildings, and

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- Products on isolated lines with either long or oversized piping resulting low water turnover.

NSF/ANSI 61 compliant products are often specified in these applications yet the potential accumulation of leachates over extended periods of exposure may or may not be addressed though this standard. It is important that the design of drinking water plumbing systems take into account potentials for extended aging of water. This may include the flushing of the water piping system after extended periods of nonuse. It is also important for managers of the drinking systems in buildings be aware of the potential for high water age and proactively manage the system to minimize it.

This Standard and the accompanying text are intended for voluntary use by certifying organizations, utilities, regulatory agencies, and/or manufacturers as a basis of providing assurances that adequate health protection exists for covered products. Product certification issues, including frequency of testing and requirements for follow-up testing, evaluation, enforcement, and other policy issues, are not addressed by this Standard.

All references to gallons (gal) are in U.S. gallons.

This version includes the following revisions:

Issue 120:

This revision added an option to perform a full 90 days of exposure to establish the Day 90 contaminant concentration where Day 90 assessments are currently allowed.

Issue 121:

This revision updated the terminology that describes the chlorine content of various test waters to be stated as “free available chlorine.”

Issue 122:

This revision added nanofiltration to the exemptions under section 3.2 and 3.3.2, and revised the formulation exemption to the restriction of lead-containing materials under Section 3.5. for component materials in which the generic material type is contained in Table 3.1

Issue 124:

This revision removed the reference to the 2.0 square inch restriction on material formulation information found under section 3.3.

Issue 125:

This revision updated the compositions of four of the stainless steels listed in Table C1 to match the material specifications in the ASTM product standards cited for them in the table.

Issue 126:

This revision updated several pass/fail values included in Annex D - drinking water criteria.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. This Standard is maintained on a Continuous Maintenance schedule and can be opened for comment at any time. Comments should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on Drinking Water Additives – System Components at standards@nsf.org, or NSF International, Standards Department, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

Consortium Organizations

NSF International

Popularly referred to as NSF, NSF International is a noncommercial agency. It is incorporated under the laws of Michigan as a not-for-profit organization devoted to research, education, and service. It seeks to solve problems involving man and his environment. It wishes to promote health and enrich the quality of life through conserving and improving that environment. Its fundamental principle of operation is to serve as a neutral medium in which business and industry, official regulatory agencies, and the public come together to deal with problems involving products, equipment, procedures, and services related to health and the environment. It is conceived and administered as a public service organization.

NSF is perhaps best known for its role in developing standards and criteria for equipment, products, and services that bear upon health. NSF was the lead organization in the Consortium responsible for developing this Standard. NSF conducts research; tests and evaluates equipment, products, and services for compliance with standards and criteria; and grants and controls the use of NSF registered Marks.

NSF offers product certification (Listing Services) for all products covered by its standards. Each program has established policies governing the associated product evaluation, Listing Services, follow-up, and enforcement activities. The NSF Listing Mark is widely recognized as a sign that the product or service to which it relates complies with the applicable NSF standard(s).

AWWA Research Foundation

The mission of the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (now the Water Research Foundation), is to sponsor practical, applied research on behalf of the drinking water industry of North America. The scope of the research program embraces all aspects of water supply operation, from development and maintenance of water resources to treatment technologies and water quality issues, from storage and distribution system operations to health effects studies and utility planning and management activities. Water Research Foundation (WRF) serves as the centralized industry institution for planning, managing, and funding cooperative research and development in drinking water, including the subsequent transfer of technology and results for practical application by the water utility community.

WRF's purpose in this cooperative program is to provide a communication link with the water utilities throughout North America and serve as the focal point for identification of research needs of the water supply industry with respect to the additives program.

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) is a nonprofit organization whose eligible membership is comprised of drinking water program administrators in each of the 50 states and seven U. S. territories. Through the organization, representatives speak with a collective voice to Congressional committees, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), professional and trade associations, water utilities, and the general public on issues related to state drinking water programs. With its mission of protecting the public health through assurance of high-quality drinking water, and promoting responsible, reasonable, and feasible drinking water programs at the state and federal levels, the Association is a valued contributor to the consortium, and to the program. It provides the link between the additives program and the state drinking water programs.

The Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers

The Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers (COSHEM), known formerly as the Conference of State Sanitary Engineers (CSSE), is currently inactive as an organization. It brought to the consortium expertise and involvement of state health and environmental program managers. The Conference was the focal point for health concerns of all state environmental programs, including drinking water, wastewater, air, solid and hazardous wastes, radiology, occupational health, and food. A standing committee on water supply focused on drinking water issues and kept the membership informed. The Conference played an important role early in the program through two-way communication with state health and environmental program decisionmakers.

American Water Works Association

The purpose of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) is to promote public health, safety, and welfare by improving the quality and increasing the quantity of water delivered to the public, and to developing and furthering an understanding of the problems relating thereto by:

- advancing the knowledge of the design, construction, operation, water treatment, and management of water utilities;
- developing standards for procedures, equipment, and materials used by public water supply systems;
- advancing the knowledge of problems involved in the development of resources, production, and distribution of safe and adequate water supplies;
- educating the public on the problems of water supply and promoting a spirit of cooperation between consumers and suppliers in solving these problems; and
- conducting research to determine the causes of problems with providing a safe and adequate water supply, and proposing solutions thereto in an effort to improve the quality and quantity of the water supply provided to the public.

AWWA brings to the Consortium its established position as the largest public drinking water association in North America, with a broad membership that includes utilities, consultants, manufacturers/distributors/agents, contractors, and other organizations with a direct interest in drinking water.

NSF/ANSI Standard for Drinking Water Additives —

Drinking water system components — Health effects

1 Purpose, scope, and normative references

1.1 Purpose

This Standard establishes minimum health effects requirements for the chemical contaminants and impurities that are indirectly imparted to drinking water from products, components, and materials used in drinking water systems. This Standard does not establish performance, taste and odor, or microbial growth support requirements for drinking water system products, components, or materials.

1.2 Scope

1.2.1 This Standard is intended to cover specific materials or products that come into contact with: drinking water, drinking water treatment chemicals, or both. The focus of the Standard is evaluation of contaminants or impurities imparted indirectly to drinking water. The products and materials covered include, but are not limited to, process media (e.g., carbon, sand), protective materials (e.g., coatings, linings, liners), joining and sealing materials (e.g., solvent cements, welding materials, gaskets), pipes and related products (e.g., pipes, tanks, fittings), mechanical devices used in treatment/transmission/distribution systems (e.g., valves, chlorinators, separation membranes, point-of-entry drinking water treatment systems), and mechanical plumbing devices (e.g., faucets, endpoint control valves).

1.2.2 Point-of-use drinking water treatment devices are not covered by the scope of this Standard.

1.3 Normative references

The following documents contain requirements that, by reference in this text, constitute requirements of this Standard. At the time this Standard was balloted, the editions listed below were valid. All documents are subject to revision, and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the recent editions of the documents indicated below. The most recent published edition of the document shall be used for undated references.

21 CFR 58, *Good Laboratory Practice for Non-Clinical Laboratory Studies*³

40 CFR Part 136, *Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants*⁴

40 CFR Part 141, *National Primary Drinking Water Regulations*⁴

40 CFR Part 160, *Good Laboratory Practice Standards*⁴

³ USFDA, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857 <www.fda.gov>

⁴ Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 <www.gpo.gov>