

Issued by the Director of Public Health
under the *Public Health Act 1997*

Tasmanian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines

Containing legal requirements for
drinking water suppliers in Tasmania

Effective
2 November 2015

Issuing Statement and Commencement Date

I, Dr Mark Veitch, being and as the Acting Director of Public Health, acting pursuant to a direction under section 21A of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*, and the *Public Health Act 1997* (the Act), hereby:

1. revoke previously issued guidelines under the Act relating to drinking water; and
2. issue these Guidelines, being the *Tasmanian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines*; and
3. determine that these Guidelines come into effect on and from **2 November 2015**.

Dr Mark Veitch
A/Director of Public Health
2 November 2015

PART 4 WATER CARRIERS

Note:

Under section 136E of the *Act*, a *water carrier* must register with the *council* in whose municipality the *water carrier* stores the majority of its vehicles. A *water carrier* must supply water in a manner that does not pose a *threat to public health* and in accordance with *council* registration conditions and relevant guidelines issued under the *Act* (see below).

18. Certificate of registration

- (1) A *water carrier* must ensure a copy of the certificate of registration issued to the *water carrier* under the *Act* is available for immediate production upon the request of a *drinking water recipient* or an *authorised officer*.

19. Transport and equipment

- (1) A *water carrier* must not supply *drinking water* using a *water tank* or equipment that has been used for a purpose other than the supply of water.
- (2) Where a *water carrier* uses a *water tank* or equipment to supply water that is not *drinking water*, the *water carrier* must not subsequently supply *drinking water* until such time as the *water tank* and equipment are cleaned in accordance with the cleaning requirements in these Guidelines.
- (3) A *water carrier* must not supply *drinking water* using a *water tank* or equipment that does not comply with these Guidelines.
- (4) A *water carrier* must only use devices approved by a *regulated entity* to connect to the *regulated entity's* outlet.

Note:

Clauses 23, 28 and 30 of these Guidelines also contain cleaning requirements.

20. Drinking water source

- (1) A *water carrier* must not supply *drinking water* from a water source other than a water source that is under the management and control of:
 - (a) a *regulated entity*; or
 - (b) a person registered under the *Act* as a *private drinking water supplier* and who supplies *drinking water* under a *private water scheme*.
- (2) A *water carrier* must not supply *drinking water* from a water source under the management and control of a person registered under the *Act* as a *private drinking water supplier* without the prior written approval of that person.
- (3) A *water carrier* must not supply *drinking water* from a water source under the management and control of a *regulated entity* without the prior written approval of the *regulated entity*.

21. Notifying a threat to public health

- (1) For the purposes of section 128(1C) of the *Act*, a *water carrier*, on becoming aware that the quality of *drinking water* that it manages or controls is, or is likely to become, a *threat to public health*, must notify the *council*, in whose municipality the *water carrier* is required to be registered, in accordance with the procedures set out at clause 21(2) below.
- (2) The notification procedure is as follows:
 - (a) The *water carrier* must make immediate telephone contact with the *council*.
 - (b) Upon making contact as above, the *water carrier* must inform the *council* of the circumstances relating to the *threat to public health* and the action being undertaken to remove, correct, prevent and monitor that threat.
 - (c) The *water carrier* must provide to the *council* written confirmation of the matters at clause (b) above within twenty-four (24) hours after the initial telephone contact under clause (a).

22. Drinking water quality

- (l) A *water carrier* must establish, prior to the supply of *drinking water*:
 - (a) whether the *drinking water* is compliant or non-compliant with the relevant microbiological and non-microbiological guideline values in the ADWG; or
 - (b) that it is not practicable to establish the matters in (a).

23. Supply controls

Microbiological non-compliance or compliance unknown

- (l) A *water carrier* may only supply *drinking water* that is non-compliant with relevant microbiological guideline values in the ADWG or where compliance with microbiological ADWG guideline values is not known if, prior to supplying, the *water carrier*:

EITHER

- (a) provides to the *drinking water recipient*:
 - i. written contact details of *Public Health Officer(s)* to whom queries about the safe use of the water can be directed; and
 - ii. verbal and written advice of the matters referred to in the generic boil water advisory template in the ADWG.

OR

- (b) provides to the *drinking water recipient*:
 - i. verbal advice that the water cannot be safely consumed unless it is first boiled; and
 - ii. a relevant written *boil water alert* issued by the relevant *regulated entity*.

Non-microbiological non-compliance or compliance unknown

- (2) A *water carrier* must not supply *drinking water* that is non-compliant with non-microbiological guideline values in the ADWG or where compliance with non-microbiological ADWG guideline values is not known.

Cleaning before subsequent supply

- (3) Where, after the supply of *drinking water*, a *water carrier* is advised by a *regulated entity* or otherwise becomes aware that *drinking water* the *water carrier* has supplied is non-compliant with ADWG guideline values, the *water carrier* must not subsequently supply *drinking water* until such time as the *water tank* and equipment used by the *water carrier* to supply *drinking water* are cleaned in accordance with the cleaning requirements outlined in these Guidelines.

Note:

Clauses 19, 28 and 30 of these Guidelines also contain cleaning requirements.

24. Warnings and Information

- (1) Where, after the supply of *drinking water*, a *water carrier* is advised by a *regulated entity* or otherwise becomes aware that *drinking water* the *water carrier* has supplied is non-compliant with microbiological guideline values in the ADWG, the *water carrier* must, as soon as practicable:

EITHER

- (a) provide to the *drinking water recipient*:
- i. written contact details of *Public Health Officer(s)* to whom queries about the safe use of the water can be directed; and
 - ii. verbal and written advice of the matters referred to in the generic boil water advisory template in the ADWG;

OR

- (b) provide to the *drinking water recipient*:
- i. verbal advice that the water cannot be safely consumed unless it is first boiled; and
 - ii. the relevant written *boil water alert* issued by the relevant regulated entity.

- (2) Where, after the supply of *drinking water*, a *water carrier* is advised by a *regulated entity* or otherwise becomes aware that *drinking water* the *water carrier* has supplied is non-compliant with non-microbiological guideline values in the ADWG, the *water carrier* must, as soon as practicable:

EITHER

- (a) provide to the *drinking water recipient*:
- i. written contact details of *Public Health Officer(s)* to whom queries about the safe use of the water can be directed; and
 - ii. verbal and written advice that the water, even if boiled, cannot be safely consumed and is therefore not to be used for drinking or cooking purposes;

OR

- (b) provide to the *drinking water recipient*:
- i. verbal advice that the water, even if boiled, cannot be safely consumed and is therefore not to be used for drinking or cooking purposes; and
 - ii. relevant written warnings about the safe use of the water or risk of using the water issued by the relevant *regulated entity*.

25. Records (logbook)

- (1) A *water carrier* must record the dates on which the *water carrier's water tank(s)* and equipment are cleaned in accordance with the requirements of these Guidelines.
- (2) A *water carrier* must record the following matters in respect of every supply of *drinking water*:
 - (a) location of the premises to which the *drinking water* is supplied;
 - (b) date of the supply;
 - (c) quantity of *drinking water* supplied;
 - (d) source from which the *water carrier* obtained the *drinking water*;
 - (e) whether the *drinking water* was, at the time of supply, compliant with microbiological and non-microbiological ADWG guideline values, or why it was not practicable to so establish;
 - (f) whether the *drinking water* was, subsequent to supply, identified as non-compliant with microbiological and non-microbiological ADWG guideline values; and
 - (g) the warnings and information (as required by these Guidelines) provided by the *water carrier* to the *drinking water recipient*.
- (3) A *water carrier* must ensure a copy of the records referred to in clauses (1) and (2) above are, upon the request of an *authorised officer*, provided to the *authorised officer* within a reasonable time.

26. Water tank construction

- (1) A *water carrier* must ensure *water tanks* used by the *water carrier*:
 - (a) are constructed of durable material (for example, stainless steel, fibreglass, aluminium, coated mild steel, high density polyethylene);
 - (b) are, in relation to all surfaces that will come into contact with *drinking water*, made of material which is suitable for contact with *drinking water* as detailed in AS/NZS 4020, AS 2070, and ATS 5200.026 as in force from time to time;
 - (c) are not constructed of bituminous or tar-based substances;
 - (d) are securely mounted to the vehicle;
 - (e) have sufficient opening to permit easy inspection and cleaning of the interior of the *water tank*; and
 - (f) incorporate a means of preventing backflow contamination of the source water (when collecting *drinking water*) and water in the *water tank* (when supplying *drinking water*).

27. Water tank labelling

- (1) A *water carrier* must ensure *water tanks* used by the *water carrier* are clearly labelled, on both sides of the *water tank*, with the words 'WATER ONLY' in capital letters of at least 200 millimetres in height.

28. Water tank cleaning

- (1) A *water carrier* must ensure *water tanks* used by the *water carrier* are cleaned regularly, and in any event not less than once every 3 months, in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) physically cleaning and flushing; and
 - (b) filling for at least 30 minutes with drinking water containing at least 5 milligrams per litre of *free chlorine*.
- (2) A *water carrier* must not use stabilised chlorine (chlorinated cyanurates) to clean *water tanks*.

Note:

- Clauses 19, 23 and 30 of these Guidelines also contain cleaning requirements.

Notes on 'free chlorine':

- A *free chlorine* level of 5 milligrams per litre can be produced in 1,000 litres of water by adding one of the following:
 - 40 millilitres of sodium hypochlorite solution with a concentration of 12.5 percent available chlorine; or
 - 7 grams of calcium hypochlorite granules with a concentration of 75 percent available chlorine that have been dissolved in *drinking water* in a clean plastic bucket before adding to the tank.
- Unscented household bleach may be used as *free chlorine*, taking into account the percentage of available chlorine in the bleach and the 5 milligrams per litre target *free chlorine* residual.

29. Equipment construction

- (1) A *water carrier* must ensure that water hoses used by the *water carrier* are of a high-grade dairy hose material or other suitable material for contact with *drinking water* as detailed in AS/NZS 4020, AS 2070, and ATS 5200.026 as in force from time to time.
- (2) A *water carrier* must ensure that all pipe work and fittings used by the *water carrier* are made of materials suitable for contact with *drinking water* as detailed in AS/NZS 4020, AS 2070, and ATS 5200.026 as in force from time to time.

30. Equipment cleaning

- (1) A *water carrier* must ensure that all pipes and fittings used by the *water carrier* are cleaned regularly, and in any event not less than once every 3 months, in a solution containing at least 5 milligrams per litre of *free chlorine* for a contact time of at least 30 minutes.

Note:

- See notes above on how to achieve a *free chlorine* level of 5 milligrams per litre.
- Clauses 19, 23 and 28 of these Guidelines also contain cleaning requirements.

APPENDIX A

Public Health Officers

The person(s) occupying the following position(s) within Public Health Services Department of Health and Human Services (Tas) is a *Public Health Officer* for the purposes of these Guidelines:

- *State Water Officer*
- *Senior Environmental Health Officer*
- *State Manager, Environmental Health Services*

Contact details

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