

## Section 6 International Guideline Comparison

The following table shows a comparison between international drinking water and FDA bottled water guidelines:

**Table 16 Comparison of international drinking water and FDA bottled water guidelines<sup>1</sup>**

Parameter	USEPA <sup>2</sup> maximum contaminant level (MCL)	Canada <sup>3</sup> maximum acceptable concentration	EEC <sup>4</sup> maximum admissible concentration	Japan <sup>5</sup> maximum admissible concentration	WHO <sup>6</sup> guideline	Bottled Water U.S. Federal Drug Administration level
Aluminum	0.05–0.2 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	—	0.2 mg/L	0.2 mg/L	0.2 mg/L	—
Ammonium	—	—	0.5 mg/L	No standard	1.5 mg/L	—
Antimony	0.006 mg/L	—	0.01 mg/L	0.002 mg/L <sup>8</sup>	0.005 mg/L	—
Arsenic	0.05 mg/L	0.025 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.05 mg/L
Barium	2.0 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	No standard	No standard	0.7 mg/L	2.0 mg/L
Boron	—	5.0 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	0.2 mg/L <sup>8</sup>	0.3 mg/L	—
Cadmium	0.005 mg/L	0.005 mg/L	0.005 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.003 mg/L	0.005 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	250 mg/L	250 mg/L	200 mg/L	250 mg/L	
Chromium	0.1 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.1 mg/L
Coliforms, total Organisms/100 mL	£% positive	0	0 or MPN £1	0	0	£1 MF
Coliforms ( <i>E. coli</i> ) Organisms/100 mL	0	0	0	0	0	—
Color	15 cu <sup>7</sup>	15 cu	20 mg Pt-Co/L	5 cu	15 cu	<15 cu
Copper	1.3 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	1.0 mg/L	2.0 mg/L	1.0 mg/L	1–2 mg/L	1.0 mg/L
Cyanides	0.2 mg/L	0.2 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.07 mg/L	—
Fluoride	2.0–4.0 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	1.5 mg/L	0.7–1.5 mg/L	0.8 mg/L	1.5 mg/L	—
Hardness	—	—	50 mg/L	300 mg/L	—	—
Iron	0.3 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	0.3 mg/L	0.2 mg/L	0.3 mg/L	0.3 mg/L	—
Lead	0.015 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.005 mg/L
Manganese	0.05 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.05 mg/L	0.01–0.05 mg/L	0.1–0.5 mg/L	—
Mercury	0.002 mg/L	0.001 mg/L	0.001 mg/L	0.0005 mg/L	0.001 mg/L	0.002 mg/L
Molybdenum	—	—	—	0.07 mg/L	0.07 mg/L	—
Nickel	0.1 mg/L	—	0.02 mg/L	0.01 mg/L <sup>8</sup>	0.02 mg/L	—
Nitrate/Nitrite, total	10.0 mg/L as N	—	—	10.0 mg/L as N	—	10 mg/L as N
Nitrates	10.0 mg/L as N	10.0 mg/L as N	50 mg/L	10 mg/L as N	50 mg/L as NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	—
Nitrites	1 mg/L as N	3.2 mg/L	0.1 mg/L	10 mg/L	3 mg/L as NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup>	1 mg/L as N
Odor	3 TON <sup>9</sup>	—	2 dilution no. @ 12 °C; 3 dilution no. @ 25 °C.	3 TON	—	—
pH	6.5–8.5	6.5–8.5	6.5–9.5	5.8–8.6	6.5–8.5	—
Phosphorus	—	—	5 mg/L	No Standard	—	—
Phenols	—	0.002 mg/L	0.5 µg/L C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH	0.005 mg/L	—	—

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**Table 16 Comparison of international drinking water and FDA bottled water guidelines<sup>1</sup> (continued)**

Parameter	USEPA <sup>2</sup> maximum contaminant level (MCL)	Canada <sup>3</sup> maximum acceptable concentration	EEC <sup>4</sup> maximum admissible concentration	Japan <sup>5</sup> maximum admissible concentration	WHO <sup>6</sup> guideline	Bottled Water U.S. Federal Drug Administration level
Potassium	—	—	12 mg/L	No Standard	—	—
Selenium	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	0.05 mg/L
Silica Dioxide	—	—	10 mg/L	No Standard	—	—
Silver	0.1 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	0.05 mg/L	0.01 mg/L	No standard	No standard	—
Solids, total dissolved	500 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	500 mg/L	No standard	500 mg/L	1000 mg/L	—
Sodium	—	—	75-150 mg/L	200 mg/L	200 mg/L	—
Sulfate	250 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	500 mg/L	250 mg/L	No Standard	250 mg/L	—
Turbidity	0.5-5 NTU	1 NTU	4 JTU	1-2 units	5 NTU	<5 NTU
Zinc	5 mg/L <sup>7</sup>	5.0 mg/L	No Standard	1.0 mg/L	3.0 mg/L	—

<sup>1</sup> Contact the local regulatory agency for the most current information.

<sup>2</sup> United States Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>3</sup> These limits are established by Health Canada.

<sup>4</sup> In the EEC (European Economic Community), limits are set by the European Committee for Environmental Legislation.

<sup>5</sup> In Japan, limits are established by the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Secondary MCL.

<sup>8</sup> Identified as a parameter to be regulated in the future.

<sup>9</sup> Threshold Odor Number.