



Overview of Regulation 11

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On March 10, 2015, the Water Quality Control Commission adopted revisions to the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations. These revisions included the revised total coliform rule, storage tank rule, backflow prevention and cross-connection control rule, and water hauler rule, requiring minimum disinfectant residual of 0.2 mg/L in the distribution system and other minor corrections and clarifications of the existing requirements. The following provides a summary of the regulatory requirements:



Water Hauler Rule, effective May 1, 2015: The water hauler rule establishes requirements specific to a supplier that is a public water system that hauls water. The water hauler must operate in accordance with a department-approved operational plan. Water haulers must also collect additional chlorine residual samples each day based on the number of tanks or containers used each day and how many times the tank or container is filled. The rule also specifies recordkeeping requirements including maintenance records and information about the water that is delivered.

Backflow Prevention and Cross-connection Control Rule, effective January 1, 2016: This rule replaces the cross-connection control rule. The new rule requires the supplier to develop a written backflow prevention and cross-connection control program and an annual report.

The rule requires suppliers to survey all non-single-family-residential connections in the system for cross connections with annual survey milestones for the first five years of the rule. Any cross-connections that are identified must be controlled. Additionally, backflow prevention assemblies must be tested and backflow prevention methods must be inspected annually. During the first five years of the rule, the supplier must meet annual testing milestones, until the supplier is testing over 90 percent of the backflow prevention assemblies each year.

Revised Total Coliform Rule, effective April 1, 2016: This federally-mandated rule will replace the total coliform rule on April 1, 2016. The new rule removes the monthly total coliform maximum contaminant level violation and replaces it with level 1 and level 2 assessments. The assessments are meant to identify the potential cause of contamination and corrective action is required for any sanitary defects identified during an assessment. The new rule also introduces changes to repeat sampling requirements, triggers for increased sampling requirements for a supplier sampling for total coliform on a quarterly frequency, and reporting requirements for E. coli-positive special purpose samples. New requirements for seasonal systems are established in this rule as well.

Storage Tank Rule, effective April 1, 2016: This rule establishes requirements for inspecting finished water storage tanks. These requirements include the development of a written plan for storage tank inspections. Suppliers must also perform and document periodic and comprehensive inspections of their water tanks at designated intervals. The supplier must correct any sanitary defects identified during those inspections.

Minimum 0.2 mg/L disinfectant residual in the distribution system, effective April 1, 2016: These amendments replace the requirement to maintain a detectable residual disinfectant concentration in the distribution system. The new requirements establish that a minimum of 0.2 mg/L disinfectant residual must be maintained in the distribution system. Compliance is only calculated based on the samples that are collected at the same time as total coliform samples (i.e., operational samples do not count toward compliance determination). The supplier could have apply to the department for an extension if capital improvements are needed to comply with these requirements. Extension requests must have been submitted to the department by December 31, 2015.

This newsletter contains more detailed articles on the above listed rules. For the full text and details of all of the regulatory revisions and requirements, please visit www.colorado.gov/cdphe/water-quality-control-commission-regulations to download the current version of Regulation 11. Templates, forms, guidance and policy are also provided on the department's website at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd.