



Storage tank rules

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The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment continuously evaluates and assesses data from its sanitary surveys, drinking water monitoring and situations which could adversely impact public health. Additionally, the department recognizes that storage tank deficiencies have contributed to acute drinking water emergencies across the state and probably to the drinking water Alamosa Salmonella outbreak that occurred in 2008. The department determined that storage tanks with sanitary defects (e.g., improper hatches, vent corrosion, foundation issues, etc.)



are routinely cited as significant deficiencies during sanitary surveys. Since 2010, tank significant deficiencies were cited more than 400 times during sanitary surveys. As a result, the department included a storage tank rule in the revisions to Regulation 11 of the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations, section 11.28, effective April 1, 2016. While this revision will apply to all of Colorado's drinking water

systems, the rule only applies to storage tanks within the distribution system (i.e., after the entry point), referred to as finished water storage tanks. The rule requires that public water systems develop and maintain a written plan for finished water storage tanks that contains the following:

- An inventory for all finished water storage tanks the tank type and construction materials, listed volume, approximate dimensions, location, identified inlets, outlets, overflows, hatches and vents, coating types, date put into service, and maintenance history.
- Methods and the schedule for performing and documenting periodic and comprehensive inspections for each finished water storage tank.
 - Periodic inspections are visual external storage tank inspections that are typically performed by the water system to identify evident sanitary defects (e.g., lack of a screen or vent). Periodic inspections of each tank must be conducted at least quarterly or be on a department accepted alternative schedule.
 - Comprehensive inspections are internal and external tank inspections that are used to identify sanitary defects covering all aspects of the condition of the storage tank. Comprehensive inspections must be conducted at least every five years or be on a department accepted alternative schedule.
- Timelines for correcting typical storage tank sanitary defects.

The department is currently working on rule related guidance, templates and policy statements. As deliverables are finalized, they will be listed on the department's website at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd.