

MCLs, DLRs, and PHGs for Regulated Drinking Water Contaminants

Last Update: October 10, 2008

The following table includes:

CDPH's maximum contaminant levels (MCLs)

CDPH's detection limits for purposes of reporting (DLRs)

Public health goals (PHGs) from the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

(Units are in milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million (ppm), unless otherwise noted.)

To convert to micrograms per liter (µg/L) or parts per billion, move the decimal point 3 places to the right. 1ppm=1000ppb.

	MCL	DLR	PHG	Date of PHG
Chemicals with MCLs in 22 CCR §64431—Inorganic Chemicals				
Aluminum	1	0.05	0.6	2001
Antimony	0.006	0.006	0.02	1997
Arsenic	0.010 (federal MCL)	0.002	0.000004	2004
Asbestos (MFL = million fibers per liter; for fibers >10 microns long)	7 MFL	0.2 MFL	7 MFL	2003
Barium	1	0.1	2	2003
Beryllium	0.004	0.001	0.001	2003
Cadmium	0.005	0.001	0.00004	2006
Chromium, Total - OEHHA withdrew the 1999 0.0025-mg/L PHG in November 2001	0.05	0.01	withdrawn	1999
Chromium-6 - MCL to be established - currently regulated under the total chromium MCL	--	0.001	--	--
Cyanide	0.15	0.1	0.15	1997
Fluoride	2	0.1	1	1997
Mercury (inorganic)	0.002	0.001	0.0012	1999-a*
Nickel	0.1	0.01	0.012	2001
Nitrate (as NO ₃)	45	2	45	1997
Nitrite (as N)	1 as N	0.4	1 as N	1997
Nitrate + Nitrite	10 as N	--	10 as N	1997
Perchlorate	0.006	0.004	0.006	2004
Selenium	0.05	0.005	--	--
Thallium	0.002	0.001	0.0001	1999-b

Copper and Lead, 22 CCR §64672.3

Values referred to as MCLs for lead and copper are not actually MCLs; instead, they are called "Action Levels" under the lead and copper rule

Copper	1.3	0.05	0.3	2008
Lead	0.015	0.005	0.002	1997
Lead	--	--	0.0002	2008 draft
Radionuclides with MCLs in 22 CCR §64441 and §64443—Radioactivity				
[units are picocuries per liter (pCi/L), unless otherwise stated; n/a = not applicable]				
Gross alpha particle activity - OEHHA concluded in 2003 that a PHG was not practical	15	3	none	n/a
Gross beta particle activity - OEHHA concluded in 2003 that a PHG was not practical	4 mrem/yr	4	none	n/a
Radium-226	--	1	0.05	2006
Radium-228	--	1	0.019	2006
Radium-226 + Radium-228	5	--	--	--
Strontium-90	8	2	0.35	2006
Tritium	20,000	1,000	400	2006
Uranium	20	1	0.43	2001
Chemicals with MCLs in 22 CCR §64444—Organic Chemicals				
(a) Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)				
Benzene	0.001	0.0005	0.00015	2001
Carbon tetrachloride	0.0005	0.0005	0.0001	2000
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	0.6	0.0005	0.6	1997
1,4-Dichlorobenzene (p-DCB)	0.005	0.0005	0.006	1997
1,1-Dichloroethane (1,1-DCA)	0.005	0.0005	0.003	2003
1,2-Dichloroethane (1,2-DCA)	0.0005	0.0005	0.0004	1999-a
1,1-Dichloroethylene (1,1-DCE)	0.006	0.0005	0.01	1999
cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.006	0.0005	0.1	2006
trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene	0.01	0.0005	0.06	2006
Dichloromethane (Methylene chloride)	0.005	0.0005	0.004	2000
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.005	0.0005	0.0005	1999
1,3-Dichloropropene	0.0005	0.0005	0.0002	1999-c
Ethylbenzene	0.3	0.0005	0.3	1997
Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE)	0.013	0.003	0.013	1999
Monochlorobenzene	0.07	0.0005	0.2	2003
Styrene	0.1	0.0005	0.0005	2008 draft
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	0.001	0.0005	0.0001	2003
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE)	0.005	0.0005	0.00006	2001
Toluene	0.15	0.0005	0.15	1999
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	0.005	0.0005	0.005	1999
1,1,1-Trichloroethane (1,1,1-TCA)	0.2	0.0005	1	2006
1,1,2-Trichloroethane (1,1,2-TCA)	0.005	0.0005	0.0003	2006
Trichloroethylene (TCE)	0.005	0.0005	0.0008	1999

Trichloroethylene (TCE)	--	--	0.0017	2008 draft
Trichlorofluoromethane (Freon 11)	0.15	0.005	0.7	1997
1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-Trifluoroethane (Freon 113)	1.2	0.01	4	1997
Vinyl chloride	0.0005	0.0005	0.00005	2000
Xylenes	1.75	0.0005	1.8	1997
(b) Non-Volatile Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOCs)				
Alachlor	0.002	0.001	0.004	1997
Atrazine	0.001	0.0005	0.00015	1999
Bentazon	0.018	0.002	0.2	1999
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.0002	0.0001	0.000004	1997
Carbofuran	0.018	0.005	0.0017	2000
Chlordane	0.0001	0.0001	0.00003	1997-c
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)	0.07	0.01	0.07	1997
2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)	--	--	0.02	2008 draft
Dalapon	0.2	0.01	0.79	1997
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)	0.0002	0.00001	1.7E-06	1999
Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	0.4	0.005	0.2	2003
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP)	0.004	0.003	0.012	1997
Dinoseb	0.007	0.002	0.014	1997
Diquat	0.02	0.004	0.015	2000
Endrin	0.002	0.0001	0.0018	1999-d
Endothal	0.1	0.045	0.58	1997
Ethylene dibromide (EDB)	0.00005	0.00002	0.00001	2003
Glyphosate	0.7	0.025	0.9	2007
Heptachlor	0.00001	0.00001	0.000008	1999
Heptachlor epoxide	0.00001	0.00001	0.000006	1999
Hexachlorobenzene	0.001	0.0005	0.00003	2003
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0.05	0.001	0.05	1999
Lindane	0.0002	0.0002	0.000032	1999-a
Methoxychlor	0.03	0.01	0.03	1999
Molinate	0.02	0.002	0.001	2008
Oxamyl	0.05	0.02	0.05	1997
Oxamyl	--	--	0.026	2008 draft
Pentachlorophenol	0.001	0.0002	0.0004	1997
Pentachlorophenol	--	--	0.0003	2008 draft
Picloram	0.5	0.001	0.5	1997
Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	0.0005	0.0005	0.00009	2007
Simazine	0.004	0.004	0.004	2001
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	0.05	0.001	0.025	2003
2,3,7,8-TCDD (dioxin)	3x10 ⁻⁸	5x10 ⁻⁹	1x10 ⁻⁹	2007 draft

Thiobencarb	0.07	0.001	0.07	2000
Toxaphene	0.003	0.001	0.00003	2003
Chemicals with MCLs in 22 CCR §64533—Disinfectant Byproducts				
Bromate	0.010	0.005	0.0001	2008 draft
Chlorite	1	0.02	0.05	2008 draft
<p>*a-OEHHA's 2005 review of this chemical resulted in no change in the PHG</p> <p>b-OEHHA's 2004 review of this chemical resulted in no change in the PHG</p> <p>c-OEHHA's 2006 review of this chemical resulted in no change in the PHG</p> <p>d-OEHHA's 2008 review of this chemical resulted in no change in the PHG</p>				