

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Chloride

History of guideline development

The 1958 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* suggested that concentrations of chloride greater than 600 mg/l would markedly impair the potability of the water. The 1963 and 1971 International Standards retained this value as a maximum allowable or permissible concentration. In the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, a guideline value of 250 mg/l was established for chloride, based on taste considerations. No health-based guideline value for chloride in drinking-water was proposed in the 1993 Guidelines, although it was confirmed that chloride concentrations in excess of about 250 mg/l can give rise to detectable taste in water. This assessment was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, and the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.