

## HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

### 12. Chemical fact sheets

#### 12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

##### Cyanogen chloride

###### ***History of guideline development***

The 1958, 1963 and 1971 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* and the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, did not refer to cyanogen chloride. The 1993 Guidelines derived a health-based guideline value for cyanogen chloride based on cyanide, as cyanogen chloride is rapidly metabolized to cyanide in the body and as there are few data on the oral toxicity of cyanogen chloride. The guideline value was established as 0.07 mg/l for cyanide as total cyanogenic compounds. This guideline value was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004. The fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011, concluded that as cyanogen chloride is unlikely to be found in drinking-water at concentrations that are of health concern, it was unnecessary to develop a formal guideline value for cyanogen chloride. It was also noted that it is important that treatment be optimized to minimize the formation of cyanogen chloride while maintaining adequate chloramine residuals where chloramination is practised.