

## HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

### 12. Chemical fact sheets

#### 12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

##### Dichloroacetic acid

##### ***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 DCA. In the 1993 Guidelines, a provisional guideline value of 0.05 mg/l was derived for DCA; the guideline value was designated as provisional because the data were insufficient to ensure that the value was technically achievable. This guideline value was brought forward to the third edition. In the first addendum to the third edition, published in 2006, the provisional guideline value of 0.05 mg/l was retained, because the data on treatment were insufficient to ensure that the health-based value of 0.04 mg/l, the concentration associated with a  $10^{-5}$  upper-bound excess lifetime cancer risk, was technically achievable in a wide range of circumstances. It was also noted that difficulties in meeting a guideline value must never be a reason to compromise adequate disinfection. In the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011, the guideline value of 0.05 mg/l was again designated as provisional on the basis of technical achievability.