

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Epichlorohydrin

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 epichlorohydrin. The 1993 Guidelines proposed a provisional health-based guideline value of 0.0004 mg/l for epichlorohydrin. The value was provisional because it was derived using an uncertainty factor of 10 000. It was noted that a practical quantification level for epichlorohydrin is of the order of 0.03 mg/l, but concentrations in drinking-water can be controlled by specifying the epichlorohydrin content of products coming into contact with it. This guideline value was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, and the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.