

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Ethylbenzene

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 ethylbenzene. The 1993 Guidelines proposed a health-based guideline value of 0.3 mg/l for ethylbenzene, noting that this value exceeds the lowest reported odour threshold for ethylbenzene in drinking-water (0.002 mg/l). 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.