

## HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

### 12. Chemical fact sheets

#### 12.1 *Chemical contaminants in drinking-water*

##### **Formaldehyde**

##### ***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 formaldehyde. The second edition of the Guidelines established a health-based guideline value of 0.9 mg/l for formaldehyde in drinking-water. This value was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004. In the first addendum to the third edition, published in 2006, it was concluded that in view of the significant difference between the expected concentrations of formaldehyde in drinking-water and the tolerable concentration, it was not necessary to set a formal guideline value for formaldehyde. This assessment was brought forward to the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.