

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Inorganic tin

History of guideline development

The 1958 and 1963 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* did not refer to inorganic tin. The 1971 *International Standards* stated that tin should be controlled in drinking-water, but that insufficient information was available to enable a tentative limit to be established. In the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, it was concluded that no action was required for tin. The establishment of a guideline value for inorganic tin was not deemed necessary in the 1993 *Guidelines*, as, because of the low toxicity of inorganic tin, a tentative guideline value could be derived 3 orders of magnitude higher than the normal tin concentration in drinking-water. Therefore, the presence of tin in drinking-water does not represent a hazard to human health. This assessment was brought forward to the third edition of the *Guidelines*, published in 2004, and the fourth edition of the *Guidelines*, published in 2011.