

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Pentachlorophenol

History of guideline development

The 1958 and 1963 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* did not refer to PCP, but the 1971 International Standards suggested that pesticide residues that may occur in community water supplies make only a minimal contribution to the total daily intake of pesticides for the population served. In the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, a health-based guideline value of 0.01 mg/l was recommended for PCP. The 1993 Guidelines established a health-based guideline value of 0.009 mg/l for PCP in drinking-water. This value was considered provisional because PCP was evaluated only at the Final Task Group Meeting on the basis of an EHC monograph (No. 71). The concentration of PCP associated with a 10^{-5} upper-bound excess lifetime cancer risk was found to be similar to the provisional guideline value established in 1993, and so that provisional guideline value was retained in the addendum to the Guidelines, published in 1998. In the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, the provisional guideline value of 0.009 mg/l was retained, with the provisional designation based on variations in metabolism between experimental animals and humans. This provisional guideline value was brought forward to the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.