

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Vinyl chloride

History of guideline development

The 1958, 1963 and 1971 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* did not refer to vinyl chloride. In the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, no guideline value was recommended, because the occurrence of vinyl chloride in water seemed to be associated primarily with the use of poorly polymerized polyvinylchloride water pipes, a problem that was more appropriately controlled by product specification. The 1993 Guidelines calculated a guideline value of 0.005 mg/l for vinyl chloride based on an upper-bound excess lifetime cancer risk of 10^{-5} . In the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, the guideline value was lowered to 0.0003 mg/l, still based on an upper-bound excess lifetime cancer risk of 10^{-5} . This guideline value was brought forward to the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.