

NATIONAL RECOMMENDED WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

Additional Notes:

1. Criteria Maximum Concentration and Criterion Continuous Concentration

The Criteria Maximum Concentration (CMC) is an estimate of the highest concentration of a material in surface water to which an aquatic community can be exposed briefly without resulting in an unacceptable effect. The Criterion Continuous Concentration (CCC) is an estimate of the highest concentration of a material in surface water to which an aquatic community can be exposed indefinitely without resulting in an unacceptable effect. The CMC and CCC are just two of the six parts of an aquatic life criterion; the other four parts are the acute averaging period, chronic averaging period, acute frequency of allowed exceedence, and chronic frequency of allowed exceedence. Because 304(a) aquatic life criteria are national guidance, they are intended to be protective of the vast majority of the aquatic communities in the United States.

2. Criteria Recommendations for Priority Pollutants, Non Priority Pollutants and Organoleptic Effects

This compilation lists all priority toxic pollutants and some non priority toxic pollutants, and both human health effect and organoleptic effect criteria issued pursuant to CWA §304(a). Blank spaces indicate that EPA has no CWA §304(a) criteria recommendations. For a number of non-priority toxic pollutants not listed, CWA §304(a) "water + organism" human health criteria are not available, but EPA has published MCLs under the SDWA that may be used in establishing water quality standards to protect water supply designated uses. Because of variations in chemical nomenclature systems, this listing of toxic pollutants does not duplicate the listing in Appendix A of 40 CFR Part 423. Also listed are the Chemical Abstracts Service CAS registry numbers, which provide a unique identification for each chemical.

3. Human Health Risk

The human health criteria for the priority and non priority pollutants are based on carcinogenicity of 10^{-6} risk. Alternate risk levels may be obtained by moving the decimal point (e.g., for a risk level of 10^{-5} , move the decimal point in the recommended criterion one place to the right).

4. Water Quality Criteria published pursuant to Section 304(a) or Section 303(c) of the CWA

Many of the values in the compilation were published in the California Toxics Rule. Although such values were published pursuant to Section 303(c) of the CWA, they represent the Agency's most recent calculation of water quality criteria and are thus the Agency's 304(a) criteria.

5. Calculation of Dissolved Metals Criteria

The 304(a) criteria for metals, shown as dissolved metals, are calculated in one of two ways. For freshwater metals criteria that are hardness-dependent, the dissolved metal criteria were calculated using a hardness of 100 mg/l as CaCO_3 for illustrative purposes only. Saltwater and freshwater metals' criteria that are not hardness-dependent are calculated by multiplying the total recoverable criteria before rounding by the appropriate conversion factors. The final dissolved metals' criteria in the table are rounded to two significant figures. Information regarding the calculation of hardness dependent conversion factors are included in the footnotes.

6. Maximum Contaminant Levels

The compilation includes footnotes for pollutants with Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) more stringent than the recommended water quality criteria in the compilation. MCLs for these pollutants are not included in the compilation, but can be found in the appropriate drinking water regulations (40 CFR 141.11-16 and 141.60-63), or can be accessed through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or the Internet

(<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/drinking/standards/dwstandards.pdf>).

7. Organoleptic Effects

The compilation contains 304(a) criteria for pollutants with toxicity-based criteria as well as non-toxicity based criteria. The basis for the non-toxicity based criteria are organoleptic effects (e.g., taste and odor) which would make water and edible aquatic life unpalatable but not toxic to humans. The table includes criteria for organoleptic effects for 23 pollutants. Pollutants with organoleptic effect criteria more stringent than the criteria based on toxicity (e.g., included in both the priority and non-priority pollutant tables) are footnoted as such.

8. Gold Book

The "Gold Book" is Quality Criteria for Water: 1986. EPA 440/5-86-001.

9. Correction of Chemical Abstract Services Number

The Chemical Abstract Services number (CAS) for Bis(2-Chloroisopropyl) Ether, has been revised in IRIS and in the table. The correct CAS number for this chemical is 108-60-1. The previous CAS number for this pollutant was 39638-32-9.

10. Contaminants with Blanks

EPA has not calculated criteria for contaminants with blanks. However, permit authorities should address these contaminants in NPDES permit actions using the States' existing narrative criteria for toxics.

11. Specific Chemical Calculations

A. Selenium

Aquatic Life

This compilation contains aquatic life criteria for selenium that are the same as those published in the proposed CTR. In the CTR, EPA proposed an acute criterion for selenium based on the criterion proposed for selenium in the Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System (61 FR 58444). The GLI and CTR proposals take into account data showing that selenium's two prevalent oxidation states in water, selenite and selenate, present differing potentials for aquatic toxicity, as well as new data indicating that various forms of selenium are additive. The new approach produces a different selenium acute criterion concentration, or CMC, depending upon the relative proportions of selenite, selenate, and other forms of selenium that are present.

EPA is currently undertaking a reassessment of selenium, and expects the 304(a) criteria for selenium will be revised based on the final reassessment (63FR26186). However, until such time as revised water quality criteria for selenium are published by the Agency, the recommended water quality criteria in this compilation are EPA's current 304(a) criteria.

Appendices

Appendix A - Conversion Factors for Dissolved Metals

Metal	Conversion Factor freshwater CMC	Conversion Factor freshwater CCC	Conversion Factor saltwater CMC	Conversion Factor saltwater CCC ¹
Arsenic	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Cadmium	$1.136672 \cdot \{(\ln \text{ hardness}) (0.041838)\}$	$1.101672 \cdot \{(\ln \text{ hardness}) (0.041838)\}$	0.994	0.994
Chromium III	0.316	0.860	--	--
Chromium VI	0.982	0.962	0.993	0.993
Copper	0.960	0.960	0.83	0.83
Lead	$1.46203 \cdot \{(\ln \text{ hardness}) (0.145712)\}$	$1.46203 \cdot \{(\ln \text{ hardness}) (0.145712)\}$	0.951	0.951
Mercury	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
Nickel	0.998	0.997	0.990	0.990
Selenium	--	--	0.998	0.998
Silver	0.85	--	0.85	--
Zinc	0.978	0.986	0.946	0.946

Appendix B - Parameters for Calculating Freshwater Dissolved Metals Criteria That Are Hardness-Dependent

Chemical	Freshwater Conversion Factors (CF)			
	m_A	b_A	m_C	b_C
Cadmium	1.0166	-3.924	0.7409	-4.719
Chromium III	0.8190	3.7256	0.8190	0.6848
Copper	0.9422	-1.700	0.8545	-1.702
Lead	1.273	-1.460	1.273	-4.705
Nickel	0.8460	2.255	0.8460	0.0584
Silver	1.72	-6.59	--	--
Zinc	0.8473	0.884	0.8473	0.884

Hardness-dependant metals' criteria may be calculated from the following:

CMC (dissolved) = $\exp \{m_A [\ln(\text{hardness})] + b_A\}$ (CF)

CCC (dissolved) = $\exp \{m_C [\ln(\text{hardness})] + b_C\}$ (CF)

Appendix C - Calculation of Freshwater Ammonia Criterion

1. The one-hour average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg N/L) does not exceed, more than once every three years on the average, the CMC (acute criterion) calculated using the following equations.

Where salmonid fish are present:

CMC = $\frac{0.275}{\text{-----}} + \frac{39.0}{\text{-----}}$

$$1 + 10^{7.204 - \text{pH}} \quad 1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.204}$$

Or where salmonid fish are not present:

$$\text{CMC} = \frac{0.411}{1 + 10^{7.204 - \text{pH}}} + \frac{58.4}{1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.204}}$$

2A. The thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg N/L) does not exceed, more than once every three years on the average, the CCC (chronic criterion) calculated using the following equations.

When fish early life stages are present:

$$\text{CCC} = \frac{0.0577}{1 + 10^{7.688 - \text{pH}}} + \frac{2.487}{1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.688}} \bullet \bullet \bullet \text{MIN}(2.85, 1.45 \bullet 10^{0.028 \bullet (25 - T)})$$

When fish early life stages are absent:

$$\text{CCC} = \frac{0.0577}{1 + 10^{7.688 - \text{pH}}} + \frac{2.487}{1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.688}} \bullet \bullet \bullet 1.45 \bullet 10^{0.028 \bullet (25 - \text{MAX}(T, 7))}$$

2B. In addition, the highest four-day average within the 30-day period should not exceed 2.5 times the CCC.



Water Quality Criteria

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/criteria/wqctable/>
Last updated on Tuesday, January 13th, 2009.

You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Water](#) [Water Science](#) [Water Quality Criteria](#) Current National Recommended Water Quality Criteria

Current National Recommended Water Quality Criteria

EPA's compilation of national recommended water quality criteria is presented as a summary table containing recommended water quality criteria for the protection of aquatic life and human health in surface water for approximately 150 pollutants. These criteria are published pursuant to Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and provide guidance for states and tribes to use in adopting water quality standards.

- [Fact Sheet](#) (May 25, 2005)
- [Print version of this table \(PDF\)](#) (25 pp., 159 K)
- [Previous versions](#) of national recommended water quality criteria table
- [Chemical-specific criteria documents from the 1980s](#)
- [Water quality standards](#)

Priority Pollutants | Non Priority Pollutants
Organoleptic Effects (e.g., taste and odor) | Additional Notes

- **Appendix A**—Conversion Factors for Dissolved Metals
- **Appendix B**—Parameters for Calculating Freshwater Dissolved Metals Criteria That Are Hardness-Dependent
- **Appendix C**—Calculation of Freshwater Ammonia Criterion
- **Gold & Red Books**

Priority Pollutants

	Priority Pollutant	CAS Number	Freshwater		Saltwater		Human Health for the consumption of		FR Cite/Source
			CMC ¹ (acute) (µg/L)	CCC ¹ (chronic) (µg/L)	CMC ¹ (acute) (µg/L)	CCC ¹ (chronic) (µg/L)	Water + Organism (µg/L)	Organism Only (µg/L)	
1	Antimony	7440360					5.6 <u>B</u>	640 <u>B</u>	65FR66443
2	Arsenic	7440382	340 <u>A,D,K</u>	150 <u>A,D,K</u>	69 <u>A,D,bb</u>	36 <u>A,D,bb</u>	0.018 <u>C,M,S</u>	0.14 <u>C,M,S</u>	65FR31682 57FR60848
3	Beryllium	7440417					<u>Z</u>		65FR31682
4	Cadmium	7440439	2.0 <u>D,E,K,bb</u>	0.25 <u>D,E,K,bb</u>	40 <u>D,bb</u>	8.8 <u>D,bb</u>	<u>Z</u>		EPA-822-R-01-001 65FR31682
5a	Chromium (III)	16065831	570 <u>D,E,K</u>	74 <u>D,E,K</u>			<u>Z Total</u>		EPA820/B-96-001 65FR31682
5b	Chromium (VI)	18540299	16 <u>D,K</u>	11 <u>D,K</u>	1,100 <u>D,bb</u>	50 <u>D,bb</u>	<u>Z Total</u>		65FR31682
6	Copper	7440508	13 <u>D,E,K,cc</u>	9.0 <u>D,E,K,cc</u>	4.8 <u>D,cc,ff</u>	3.1 <u>D,cc,ff</u>	1,300 <u>U</u>		65FR31682
7	Lead	7439921	65 <u>D,E,bb,gg</u>	2.5 <u>D,E,bb,gg</u>	210 <u>D,bb</u>	8.1 <u>D,bb</u>			65FR31682
8a	Mercury	7439976							62FR42160
8b	Methylmercury	22967926	1.4 <u>D,K,hh</u>	0.77 <u>D,K,hh</u>	1.8 <u>D,ee,hh</u>	0.94 <u>D,ee,hh</u>		0.3 mg/kg <u>I</u>	EPA823-R-01-001
9	Nickel	7440020	470 <u>D,E,K</u>	52 <u>D,E,K</u>	74 <u>D,bb</u>	8.2 <u>D,bb</u>	610 <u>B</u>	4,600 <u>B</u>	65FR31682 62FR42160
10	Selenium	7782492	<u>L,R,I</u>	5.0 <u>I</u>	290 <u>D,bb,dd</u>	71 <u>D,bb,dd</u>	170 <u>Z</u>	4200	65FR31682 65FR66443
11	Silver	7440224	3.2 <u>D,E,G</u>		1.9 <u>D,G</u>				65FR31682
12	Thallium	7440280					0.24	0.47	68FR75510
13	Zinc	7440666	120 <u>D,E,K</u>	120 <u>D,E,K</u>	90 <u>D,bb</u>	81 <u>D,bb</u>	7,400 <u>U</u>	26,000 <u>U</u>	65FR31682 65FR66443
14	Cyanide	57125	22 <u>K,Q</u>	5.2 <u>K,Q</u>	1 <u>Q,bb</u>	1 <u>Q,bb</u>	140 <u>jj</u>	140 <u>jj</u>	EPA820/B-96-001 57FR60848 68FR75510
							7 million		

15	Asbestos	1332214					fibers/L I		57FR60848
16	2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	1746016					5.0E-9 C	5.1E-9 C	65FR66443
17	Acrolein	107028					190	290	65FR66443
18	Acrylonitrile	107131					0.051 B,C	0.25 B,C	65FR66443
19	Benzene	71432					2.2 B,C	51 B,C	IRIS 01/19/00 & 65FR66443
20	Bromoform	75252					4.3 B,C	140 B,C	65FR66443
21	Carbon Tetrachloride	56235					0.23 B,C	1.6 B,C	65FR66443
22	Chlorobenzene	108907					130 Z,U	1,600 U	68FR75510
23	Chlorodibromomethane	124481					0.40 B,C	13 B,C	65FR66443
24	Chloroethane	75003							
25	2-Chloroethylvinyl Ether	110758							
26	Chloroform	67663					5.7 C,P	470 C,P	62FR42160
27	Dichlorobromomethane	75274					0.55 B,C	17 B,C	65FR66443
28	1,1-Dichloroethane	75343							
29	1,2-Dichloroethane	107062					0.38 B,C	37 B,C	65FR66443
30	1,1-Dichloroethylene	75354					330	7,100	68FR75510
31	1,2-Dichloropropane	78875					0.50 B,C	15 B,C	65FR66443
32	1,3-Dichloropropene	542756					0.34 C	21 C	68FR75510
33	Ethylbenzene	100414					530	2,100	68FR75510
34	Methyl Bromide	74839					47 B	1,500 B	65FR66443
35	Methyl Chloride	74873							65FR31682
36	Methylene Chloride	75092					4.6 B,C	590 B,C	65FR66443
37	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	79345					0.17 B,C	4.0 B,C	65FR66443
38	Tetrachloroethylene	127184					0.69 C	3.3 C	65FR66443
39	Toluene	108883					1,300 Z	15,000	68FR75510
40	1,2-Trans-Dichloroethylene	156605					140 Z	10,000	68FR75510
41	1,1,1-Trichloroethane	71556					Z		65FR31682
42	1,1,2-Trichloroethane	79005					0.59 B,C	16 B,C	65FR66443
43	Trichloroethylene	79016					2.5 C	30 C	65FR66443
44	Vinyl Chloride	75014					0.025 C,kk	2.4 C,kk	68FR75510
45	2-Chlorophenol	95578					81 B,U	150 B,U	65FR66443
46	2,4-Dichlorophenol	120832					77 B,U	290 B,U	65FR66443
47	2,4-Dimethylphenol	105679					380 B	850 B,U	65FR66443
48	2-Methyl-4,6-Dinitrophenol	534521					13	280	65FR66443
49	2,4-Dinitrophenol	51285					69 B	5,300 B	65FR66443
50	2-Nitrophenol	88755							
51	4-Nitrophenol	100027							
52	3-Methyl-4-Chlorophenol	59507					U	U	
53	Pentachlorophenol	87865	19 E,K	15 E,K	13 bb	7.9 bb	0.27 B,C	3.0 B,C,H	65FR31682 65FR66443
54	Phenol	108952					21,000 B,U	1,700,000 B,U	65FR66443
55	2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	88062					1.4 B,C	2.4 B,C,U	65FR66443
56	Acenaphthene	83329					670 B,U	990 B,U	65FR66443
57	Acenaphthylene	208968							
58	Anthracene	120127					8,300 B	40,000 B	65FR66443
59	Benzidine	92875					0.000086 B,C	0.00020 B,C	65FR66443
60	Benzo(a) Anthracene	56553					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443
61	Benzo(a) Pyrene	50328					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443
62	Benzo(b) Fluoranthene	205992					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443
63	Benzo(ghi) Perylene	191242							
64	Benzo(k) Fluoranthene	207089					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443

65	Bis(2-Chloroethoxy) Methane	111911							
66	Bis(2-Chloroethyl) Ether	111444					0.030 B,C	0.53 B,C	65FR66443
67	Bis(2-Chloroisopropyl) Ether	108601					1,400 B	65,000 B	65FR66443
68	Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate ^X	117817					1.2 B,C	2.2 B,C	65FR66443
69	4-Bromophenyl Phenyl Ether	101553							
70	Butylbenzyl Phthalate ^W	85687					1,500 B	1,900 B	65FR66443
71	2-Chloronaphthalene	91587					1,000 B	1,600 B	65FR66443
72	4-Chlorophenyl Phenyl Ether	7005723							
73	Chrysene	218019					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443
74	Dibenzo(a,h)Anthracene	53703					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443
75	1,2-Dichlorobenzene	95501					420	1,300	68FR75510
76	1,3-Dichlorobenzene	541731					320	960	65FR66443
77	1,4-Dichlorobenzene	106467					63	190	68FR75510
78	3,3'-Dichlorobenzidine	91941					0.021 B,C	0.028 B,C	65FR66443
79	Diethyl Phthalate ^W	84662					17,000 B	44,000 B	65FR66443
80	Dimethyl Phthalate ^W	131113					270,000	1,100,000	65FR66443
81	Di-n-Butyl Phthalate ^W	84742					2,000 B	4,500 B	65FR66443
82	2,4-Dinitrotoluene	121142					0.11 C	3.4 C	65FR66443
83	2,6-Dinitrotoluene	606202							
84	Di-n-Octyl Phthalate	117840							
85	1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	122667					0.036 B,C	0.20 B,C	65FR66443
86	Fluoranthene	206440					130 B	140 B	65FR66443
87	Fluorene	86737					1,100 B	5,300 B	65FR66443
88	Hexachlorobenzene	118741					0.00028 B,C	0.00029 B,C	65FR66443
89	Hexachlorobutadiene	87683					0.44 B,C	18 B,C	65FR66443
90	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	77474					40 U	1,100 U	68FR75510
91	Hexachloroethane	67721					1.4 B,C	3.3 B,C	65FR66443
92	Ideno(1,2,3-cd)Pyrene	193395					0.0038 B,C	0.018 B,C	65FR66443
93	Isophorone	78591					35 B,C	960 B,C	65FR66443
94	Naphthalene	91203							
95	Nitrobenzene	98953					17 B	690 B,H,U	65FR66443
96	N-Nitrosodimethylamine	62759					0.00069 B,C	3.0 B,C	65FR66443
97	N-Nitrosodi-n-Propylamine	621647					0.0050 B,C	0.51 B,C	65FR66443
98	N-Nitrosodiphenylamine	86306					3.3 B,C	6.0 B,C	65FR66443
99	Phenanthrene	85018							
100	Pyrene	129000					830 B	4,000 B	65FR66443
101	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	120821					35	70	68FR75510
102	Aldrin	309002	3.0 G		1.3 G		0.000049 B,C	0.000050 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443
103	alpha-BHC	319846					0.0026 B,C	0.0049 B,C	65FR66443
104	beta-BHC	319857					0.0091 B,C	0.017 B,C	65FR66443
105	gamma-BHC (Lindane)	58899	0.95 K		0.16 G		0.98	1.8	65FR31682 68FR75510
106	delta-BHC	319868							
107	Chlordane	57749	2.4 G	0.0043 G,aa	0.09 G	0.004 G,aa0	.00080 B,C	0.00081 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443
108	4,4'-DDT	50293	1.1 G,ii	0.001 G,aa,ii	0.13 G,ii	0.001 G,aa,ii	0.00022 B,C	0.00022 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443
109	4,4'-DDE	72559					0.00022 B,C	0.00022 B,C	65FR66443
110	4,4'-DDD	72548					0.00031 B,C	0.00031 B,C	65FR66443
111	Dieldrin	60571	0.24 K	0.056 K,Q	0.71 G	0.0019 G,aa	0.000052 B,C	0.000054 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443
112	alpha-Endosulfan	959988	0.22 G,Y	0.056 G,Y	0.034 G,Y	0.0087 G,Y	62 B	89 B	65FR31682 65FR66443

113	beta-Endosulfan	33213659	0.22 G,Y	0.056 G,Y	0.034 G,Y	0.0087 G,Y	62 B	89 B	65FR31682 65FR66443
114	Endosulfan Sulfate	1031078					62 B	89 B	65FR66443
115	Endrin	72208	0.086 K	0.036 K,Q	0.037 G	0.0023 G,aa	0.059	0.060	65FR31682 68FR75510
116	Endrin Aldehyde	7421934					0.29 B	0.30 B,H	65FR66443
117	Heptachlor	76448	0.52 G	0.0038 G,aa	0.053 G	0.0036 G,aa	0.000079 B,C	0.000079 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443
118	Heptachlor Epoxide	1024573	0.52 G,V	0.0038 G,V,aa	0.053 G,V	0.0036 G,V,aa	0.000039 B,C	0.000039 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443
119	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)			0.014 N,aa		0.03 N,aa	0.000064 B,C,N	0.000064 B,C,N	65FR31682 65FR66443
120	Toxaphene	8001352	0.73	0.0002 aa	0.21	0.0002 aa	0.00028 B,C	0.00028 B,C	65FR31682 65FR66443

Footnotes

A This recommended water quality criterion was derived from data for arsenic (III), but is applied here to total arsenic, which might imply that arsenic (III) and arsenic (V) are equally toxic to aquatic life and that their toxicities are additive. In the [arsenic criteria document \(PDF\)](#) (74 pp., 3.2 MB) (EPA 440/5-84-033, January 1985), Species Mean Acute Values are given for both arsenic (III) and arsenic (V) for five species and the ratios of the SMAVs for each species range from 0.6 to 1.7. Chronic values are available for both arsenic (III) and arsenic (V) for one species; for the fathead minnow, the chronic value for arsenic (V) is 0.29 times the chronic value for arsenic (III). No data are known to be available concerning whether the toxicities of the forms of arsenic to aquatic organisms are additive.

B This criterion has been revised to reflect The Environmental Protection Agency's q1* or RfD, as contained in the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) as of May 17, 2002. The fish tissue bioconcentration factor (BCF) from the 1980 Ambient Water Quality Criteria document was retained in each case.

C This criterion is based on carcinogenicity of 10⁻⁶ risk. Alternate risk levels may be obtained by moving the decimal point (e.g., for a risk level of 10⁻⁵, move the decimal point in the recommended criterion one place to the right).

D Freshwater and saltwater criteria for metals are expressed in terms of the dissolved metal in the water column. The recommended water quality criteria value was calculated by using the previous 304(a) aquatic life criteria expressed in terms of total recoverable metal, and multiplying it by a conversion factor (CF). The term "Conversion Factor" (CF) represents the recommended conversion factor for converting a metal criterion expressed as the total recoverable fraction in the water column to a criterion expressed as the dissolved fraction in the water column. (Conversion Factors for saltwater CCCs are not currently available. Conversion factors derived for saltwater CMCs have been used for both saltwater CMCs and CCCs). See "Office of Water Policy and Technical Guidance on Interpretation and Implementation of Aquatic Life Metals Criteria (PDF)," (49 pp., 3MB) October 1, 1993, by Martha G. Prothro, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water, available from the [Water Resource Center](#) and 40CFR§131.36(b)(1). Conversion Factors applied in the table can be found in Appendix A to the Preamble- Conversion Factors for Dissolved Metals.

E The freshwater criterion for this metal is expressed as a function of hardness (mg/L) in the water column. The value given here corresponds to a hardness of 100 mg/L. Criteria values for other hardness may be calculated from the following: CMC (dissolved) = exp{m_A [ln(hardness)] + b_A} (CF), or CCC (dissolved) = exp{m_C [ln(hardness)] + b_C} (CF) and the parameters specified in Appendix B- Parameters for Calculating Freshwater Dissolved Metals Criteria That Are Hardness-Dependent.

F Freshwater aquatic life values for pentachlorophenol are expressed as a function of pH, and are calculated as follows: CMC = exp(1.005(pH)-4.869); CCC = exp(1.005(pH)-5.134). Values displayed in table correspond to a pH of 7.8.

G This Criterion is based on 304(a) aquatic life criterion issued in 1980, and was issued in one of the following documents: [Aldrin/Dieldrin \(PDF\)](#) (153 pp., 7.3 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-019), [Chlordane \(PDF\)](#) (68 pp., 3.1 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-027), [DDT \(PDF\)](#) (175 pp., 8.3 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-038), [Endosulfan \(PDF\)](#) (155 pp., 7.3 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-046), [Endrin \(PDF\)](#) (103 pp., 4.6 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-047), [Heptachlor \(PDF\)](#) (114 pp., 5.4 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-052), [Hexachlorocyclohexane \(PDF\)](#) (109 pp., 4.8 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-054), Silver (EPA 440/5-80-071). The Minimum Data Requirements and derivation procedures were different in the 1980 Guidelines than in the [1985 Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) (104 pp., 3.3 MB). For example, a "CMC" derived using the 1980 Guidelines was derived to be used as an instantaneous maximum. If assessment is to be done using an averaging period, the values given should be divided by 2 to obtain a value that is more comparable to a CMC derived using the 1985 Guidelines.

H No criterion for protection of human health from consumption of aquatic organisms excluding water was presented in the 1980 criteria document or in the [1986 Quality Criteria for Water](#). Nevertheless, sufficient information was presented in the 1980 document to allow the calculation of a criterion, even though the results of such a calculation were not shown in the document.

I This criterion for asbestos is the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) developed under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

J This fish tissue residue criterion for methylmercury is based on a total fish consumption rate of 0.0175 kg/day.

K This recommended criterion is based on a 304(a) aquatic life criterion that was issued in the [1995 Updates: Water Quality Criteria Documents for the Protection of Aquatic Life in Ambient Water](#), (EPA-820-B-96-001, September 1996). This value was derived using the GLI Guidelines (60FR15393-15399, March 23, 1995; 40CFR132 Appendix A); the difference between the 1985 Guidelines and the GLI Guidelines are explained on page iv of the 1995 Updates. None of the decisions concerning the derivation of this criterion were affected by any considerations that are specific to the Great Lakes.

L The CMC = 1/[(f1/CMC1) + (f2/CMC2)] where f1 and f2 are the fractions of total selenium that are treated as selenite and selenate, respectively, and CMC1 and CMC2 are 185.9 g/l and 12.82 g/l, respectively.

M EPA is currently reassessing the criteria for arsenic.

N This criterion applies to total pcbs, (e.g., the sum of all congener or all isomer or homolog or Aroclor analyses.)

O The derivation of the CCC for this pollutant (Endrin) did not consider exposure through the diet, which is probably important for aquatic life occupying upper trophic levels.

P Although a new RfD is available in IRIS, the surface water criteria will not be revised until the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR) is completed, since public comment on the relative source contribution (RSC) for chloroform is anticipated.

Q This recommended water quality criterion is expressed as g free cyanide (as CN)/L.

R This value for selenium was announced ([61FR58444-58449](#), November 14, 1996) as a proposed GLI 303(c) aquatic life criterion. EPA is currently working on this criterion and so this value might change substantially in the near future.

S This recommended water quality criterion for arsenic refers to the inorganic form only.

T This recommended water quality criterion for selenium is expressed in terms of total recoverable metal in the water column. It is scientifically acceptable to use the conversion factor (0.996- CMC or 0.922- CCC) that was used in the GLI to convert this to a value that is expressed in terms of dissolved metal.

U The organoleptic effect criterion is more stringent than the value for priority toxic pollutants.

V This value was derived from data for heptachlor and the criteria document provides insufficient data to estimate the relative toxicities of heptachlor and heptachlor epoxide.

W Although EPA has not published a completed criteria document for butylbenzyl phthalate it is EPA's understanding that sufficient data exist to allow calculation of aquatic criteria. It is anticipated that industry intends to publish in the peer reviewed literature draft aquatic life criteria generated in accordance with EPA Guidelines. EPA will review such criteria for possible issuance as national WQC.

X There is a full set of aquatic life toxicity data that show that DEHP is not toxic to aquatic organisms at or below its solubility limit.

Y This value was derived from data for endosulfan and is most appropriately applied to the sum of alpha-endosulfan and beta-endosulfan.

Z A more stringent MCL has been issued by EPA. Refer to drinking water regulations (40 CFR 141) or Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) for values.

aa This criterion is based on a 304(a) aquatic life criterion issued in 1980 or 1986, and was issued in one of the following documents: Aldrin/Dieldrin (PDF) (153 pp., 7.3 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-019), Chlordane (PDF) (68 pp., 3.1 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-027), DDT (PDF) (175 pp., 8.3 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-038), Endrin (PDF) (103 pp., 4.6 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-047), Heptachlor (PDF) (114 pp., 5.4 MB) (EPA 440/5-80-052), Polychlorinated biphenyls (EPA 440/5-80-068), Toxaphene (EPA 440/5-86-006). This CCC is currently based on the Final Residue Value (FRV) procedure. Since the publication of the Great Lakes Aquatic Life Criteria Guidelines in 1995 (60FR15393-15399, March 23, 1995), the Agency no longer uses the Final Residue Value procedure for deriving CCCs for new or revised 304(a) aquatic life criteria. Therefore, the Agency anticipates that future revisions of this CCC will not be based on the FRV procedure.

bb This water quality criterion is based on a 304(a) aquatic life criterion that was derived using the 1985 Guidelines (PDF) (104 pp., 3.3 MB) (Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses, PB85-227049, January 1985) and was issued in one of the following criteria documents: Arsenic (PDF) (74 pp., 3.2 MB) (EPA 440/5-84-033), Cadmium (EPA-822-R-01-001), Chromium (EPA 440/5-84-029), Copper (PDF) (150 pp., 6.2 MB) (EPA 440/5-84-031), Cyanide (PDF) (67 pp., 2.7 MB) (EPA 440/5-84-028), Lead (EPA 440/5-84-027), Nickel (EPA 440/5-86-004), Pentachlorophenol (EPA 440/5-86-009), Toxaphene, (EPA 440/5-86-006), Zinc (EPA 440/5-87-003).

cc When the concentration of dissolved organic carbon is elevated, copper is substantially less toxic and use of Water-Effect Ratios might be appropriate.

dd The selenium criteria document (EPA 440/5-87-006, September 1987) provides that if selenium is as toxic to saltwater fishes in the field as it is to freshwater fishes in the field, the status of the fish community should be monitored whenever the concentration of selenium exceeds 5.0 g/L in salt water because the saltwater CCC does not take into account uptake via the food chain.

ee This recommended water quality criterion was derived on page 43 of the mercury criteria document (PDF) (144 pp., 5.4 MB) (EPA 440/5-84-026, January 1985). The saltwater CCC of 0.025 ug/L given on page 23 of the criteria document is based on the Final Residue Value procedure in the 1985 Guidelines. Since the publication of the Great Lakes Aquatic Life Criteria Guidelines in 1995 (60FR15393-15399, March 23, 1995), the Agency no longer uses the Final Residue Value procedure for deriving CCCs for new or revised 304(a) aquatic life criteria.

ff This recommended water quality criterion was derived in *Ambient Water Quality Criteria Saltwater Copper Addendum* (Draft, April 14, 1995) and was promulgated in the Interim final National Toxics Rule ([60FR22228-222237](#), May 4, 1995).

gg EPA is actively working on this criterion and so this recommended water quality criterion may change substantially in the near future.

hh This recommended water quality criterion was derived from data for inorganic mercury (II), but is applied here to total mercury. If a substantial portion of the mercury in the water column is methylmercury, this criterion will probably be under protective. In addition, even though inorganic mercury is converted to methylmercury and methylmercury bioaccumulates to a great extent, this criterion does not account for uptake via the food chain because sufficient data were not available when the criterion was derived.

ii This criterion applies to DDT and its metabolites (i.e., the total concentration of DDT and its metabolites should not exceed this value).

jj This recommended water quality criterion is expressed as total cyanide, even though the IRIS RfD we used to derive the criterion is based on free cyanide. The multiple forms of cyanide that are present in ambient water have significant differences in toxicity due to their differing abilities to liberate the CN-moiety. Some complex cyanides require even more extreme conditions than refluxing with sulfuric acid to liberate the CN-moiety. Thus, these complex cyanides are expected to have little or no 'bioavailability' to humans. If a substantial fraction of the cyanide present

in a water body is present in a complexed form (e.g., $\text{Fe}_4[\text{Fe}(\text{CN})_6]_3$), this criterion may be over conservative.

kk This recommended water quality criterion was derived using the cancer slope factor of 1.4 (LMS exposure from birth).

Non Priority Pollutants

Non Priority Pollutant	CAS Number	Freshwater		Saltwater		Human Health for the consumption of		FR Cite/Source
		CMC (acute) (µg/L)	CCC (chronic) (µg/L)	CMC (acute) (µg/L)	CCC (chronic) (µg/L)	Water + Organism (µg/L)	Organism Only (µg/L)	
1 Alkalinity	—		20000 <u>F</u>					Gold Book
2 Aluminum pH 6.5 – 9.0	7429905	750 <u>G,I</u>	87 <u>G,I,L</u>					53FR33178
3 Ammonia	7664417	FRESHWATER CRITERIA ARE pH, Temperature and Life-stage DEPENDENT—SEE DOCUMENT <u>D</u>						EPA822-R-99-014
		SALTWATER CRITERIA ARE pH AND TEMPERATURE DEPENDENT						EPA440/5-88-004
4 Aesthetic Qualities	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT						Gold Book
5 Bacteria	—	FOR PRIMARY RECREATION AND SHELLFISH USES—SEE DOCUMENT						Gold Book
6 Barium	7440393					1,000 <u>A</u>		Gold Book
7 Boron	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT						Gold Book
8 Chloride	16887006	860000 <u>G</u>	230000 <u>G</u>					53FR19028
9 Chlorine	7782505	19	11	13	7.5	<u>C</u>		Gold Book
10 Chlorophenoxy Herbicide (2,4,5,-TP)	93721					10 <u>A</u>		Gold Book
11 Chlorophenoxy Herbicide (2,4-D)	94757					100 <u>A,C</u>		Gold Book
12 Chlorpyrifos	2921882	0.083 <u>G</u>	0.041 <u>G</u>	0.011 <u>G</u>	0.0056 <u>G</u>			Gold Book
13 Color	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT <u>F</u>						Gold Book
14 Demeton	8065483		0.1 <u>F</u>		0.1 <u>F</u>			Gold Book
15 Ether, Bis(Chloromethyl)	542881					0.00010 <u>E, H</u>	0.00029 <u>E,H</u>	65FR66443
16 Gases, Total Dissolved	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT <u>E</u>						Gold Book
17 Guthion	86500		0.01 <u>F</u>		0.01 <u>F</u>			Gold Book
18 Hardness	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT						Gold Book
19 Hexachlorocyclo-hexane-Technical	319868					0.0123	0.0414	Gold Book
20 Iron	7439896		1000 <u>F</u>			300 <u>A</u>		Gold Book
21 Malathion	121755		0.1 <u>F</u>		0.1 <u>F</u>			Gold Book
22 Manganese	7439965					50 <u>A,Q</u>	100 <u>A</u>	Gold Book
23 Methoxychlor	72435		0.03 <u>F</u>		0.03 <u>F</u>	100 <u>A,C</u>		Gold Book
24 Mirex	2385855		0.001 <u>F</u>		0.001 <u>F</u>			Gold Book
25 Nitrates	14797558					10,000 <u>A</u>		Gold Book
26 Nitrosamines	—					0.0008	1.24	Gold Book
27 Dinitrophenols	25550587					69	5300	65FR66443
28 Nonylphenol	1044051	28	6.6	7.0	1.7			71FR9337
29 Nitrosodibutylamine, <u>N</u>	924163					0.0063 <u>A,H</u>	0.22 <u>A,H</u>	65FR66443
30 Nitrosodiethylamine, <u>N</u>	55185					0.0008 <u>A,H</u>	1.24 <u>A,H</u>	Gold Book
31 Nitrosopyrrolidine, <u>N</u>	930552					0.016 <u>H</u>	34 <u>H</u>	65FR66443
32 Oil and Grease	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT <u>E</u>						Gold Book
Oxygen, Dissolved Freshwater		WARMWATER AND COLDWATER MATRIX—SEE DOCUMENT <u>N</u>						Gold Book
33 Oxygen, Dissolved	7782447	SALTWATER—SEE DOCUMENT						EPA-822R-00-012
Saltwater								
34 Diazinon	333415	0.17	0.17	0.82	0.82			71FR9336
35 Parathion	56382	0.065 <u>J</u>	0.013 <u>J</u>					Gold Book
36 Pentachlorobenzene	608935					1.4 <u>E</u>	1.5 <u>E</u>	65FR66443

37	pH	—	6.5 – 9 E	6.5 – 8.5 E,K	5 – 9		Gold Book
38	Phosphorus Elemental	7723140		0.1 E,K			Gold Book
39	Nutrients	—	See EPA's Ecoregional criteria for Total Phosphorus, Total Nitrogen, Chlorophyll <i>a</i> and Water Clarity (Secchi depth for lakes; turbidity for streams and rivers) (& Level III Ecoregional criteria)				P
40	Solids Dissolved and Salinity	—			250,000 A		Gold Book
41	Solids Suspended and Turbidity	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT F				Gold Book
42	Sulfide-Hydrogen Sulfide	7783064	2.0 E	2.0 E			Gold Book
43	Tainting Substances	—	NARRATIVE STATEMENT—SEE DOCUMENT				Gold Book
44	Temperature	—	SPECIES DEPENDENT CRITERIA—SEE DOCUMENT M				Gold Book
45	Tetrachlorobenzene,1,2,4,5-	95943			0.97 E	1.1 E	65FR66443
46	Tributyltin (TBT)	—	0.46 Q	0.072 Q	0.42 Q	0.0074 Q	69FR342
47	Trichlorophenol,2,4,5-	95954			1,800 B,E	3,600 B,E	65FR66443

Footnotes

A This human health criterion is the same as originally published in the Red Book which predates the 1980 methodology and did not utilize the fish ingestion BCF approach. This same criterion value is now published in the Gold Book.

B The organoleptic effect criterion is more stringent than the value presented in the non priority pollutants table.

C A more stringent Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) has been issued by EPA under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Refer to drinking water regulations 40CFR141 or Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) for values.

D According to the procedures described in the *Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses*, except possibly where a very sensitive species is important at a site, freshwater aquatic life should be protected if both conditions specified in Appendix C to the Preamble- Calculation of Freshwater Ammonia Criterion are satisfied.

E This criterion has been revised to reflect EPA's q1* or RfD, as contained in the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) as of May 17, 2002. The fish tissue bioconcentration factor (BCF) used to derive the original criterion was retained in each case.

F The derivation of this value is presented in the Red Book (EPA 440/9-76-023, July, 1976).

G This value is based on a 304(a) aquatic life criterion that was derived using the 1985 Guidelines (*Guidelines for Deriving Numerical National Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Organisms and Their Uses*, PB85-227049, January 1985) and was issued in one of the following criteria documents: Aluminum (EPA 440/5-86-008); Chloride (EPA 440/5-88-001); Chlorpyrifos (EPA 440/5-86-005).

H This criterion is based on carcinogenicity of 10⁻⁶ risk. Alternate risk levels may be obtained by moving the decimal point (e.g., for a risk level of 10⁻⁵, move the decimal point in the recommended criterion one place to the right).

I This value for aluminum is expressed in terms of total recoverable metal in the water column.

J This value is based on a 304(a) aquatic life criterion that was issued in the 1995 Updates: *Water Quality Criteria Documents for the Protection of Aquatic Life in Ambient Water* (EPA-820-B-96-001). This value was derived using the GLI Guidelines (60FR15393-15399, March 23, 1995; 40CFR132 Appendix A); the differences between the 1985 Guidelines and the GLI Guidelines are explained on page iv of the 1995 Updates. No decision concerning this criterion was affected by any considerations that are specific to the Great Lakes.

K According to page 181 of the Red Book:

For open ocean waters where the depth is substantially greater than the euphotic zone, the pH should not be changed more than 0.2 units from the naturally occurring variation or any case outside the range of 6.5 to 8.5. For shallow, highly productive coastal and estuarine areas where naturally occurring pH variations approach the lethal limits of some species, changes in pH should be avoided but in any case should not exceed the limits established for fresh water, i.e., 6.5-9.0.

L There are three major reasons why the use of Water-Effect Ratios might be appropriate.

1. The value of 87 µg/l is based on a toxicity test with the striped bass in water with pH = 6.5-6.6 and hardness <10 mg/L. Data in "Aluminum Water-Effect Ratio for the 3M Plant Effluent Discharge, Middleway, West Virginia" (May 1994) indicate that aluminum is substantially less toxic at higher pH and hardness, but the effects of pH and hardness are not well quantified at this time.
2. In tests with the brook trout at low pH and hardness, effects increased with increasing concentrations of total aluminum even though the concentration of dissolved aluminum was constant, indicating that total recoverable is a more appropriate measurement than dissolved, at least when particulate aluminum is primarily aluminum hydroxide particles. In surface waters, however, the total recoverable procedure might measure aluminum associated with clay particles, which might be less toxic than aluminum associated with aluminum hydroxide.
3. EPA is aware of field data indicating that many high quality waters in the U.S. contain more than 87 g aluminum/L, when either total recoverable or dissolved is measured.

M U.S. EPA. 1973. *Water Quality Criteria* 1972. EPA-R3-73-033. National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA.; U.S. EPA. 1977. *Temperature Criteria for Freshwater Fish: Protocol and Procedures*. EPA-600/3-77-061. National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA.

N U.S. EPA. 1986. *Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen*. EPA 440/5-86-003. National Technical Information Service, Springfield, VA.

○ This criterion for manganese is not based on toxic effects, but rather is intended to minimize objectionable qualities such as laundry stains and objectionable tastes in beverages.

P Lakes and Reservoirs in Nutrient Ecoregion: II EPA 822-B-00-007, III EPA 822-B-01-008, IV EPA 822-B-01-009, V EPA 822-B-01-010, VI EPA 822-B-00-008, VII EPA 822-B-00-009, VIII EPA 822-B-01-015, IX EPA 822-B-00-011, XI EPA 822-B-00-012, XII EPA 822-B-00-013, XIII EPA 822-B-00-014, XIV EPA 822-B-01-011; **Rivers and Streams in Nutrient Ecoregion:** I EPA 822-B-01-012, II EPA 822-B-00-015, III EPA 822-B-00-016, IV EPA 822-B-01-013, V EPA 822-B-01-014, VI EPA 822-B-00-017, VII EPA 822-B-00-018, VIII EPA 822-B-01-015, IX EPA 822-B-00-019, X EPA 822-B-01-016, XI EPA 822-B-00-020, XII EPA 822-B-00-021, XIV EPA 822-B-00-022; and **Wetlands in Nutrient Ecoregion (PDF)** (77 pp., 257 K) XIII EPA 822-B-00-023.

Q EPA announced the availability of a draft updated tributyltin (TBT) document on August 7, 1997 (62FR42554). The Agency has reevaluated this document and anticipates releasing an updated document for public comment in the near future.

Organoleptic Effects (e.g., taste and odor)

	Pollutant	CAS Number	Organoleptic Effect Criteria (µg/L)	FR Cite/Source
1	Acenaphthene	83329	20	Gold Book
2	Monochlorobenzene	108907	20	Gold Book
3	3-Chlorophenol	—	0.1	Gold Book
4	4-Chlorophenol	106489	0.1	Gold Book
5	2,3-Dichlorophenol	—	0.04	Gold Book
6	2,5-Dichlorophenol	—	0.5	Gold Book
7	2,6-Dichlorophenol	—	0.2	Gold Book
8	3,4-Dichlorophenol	—	0.3	Gold Book
9	2,4,5-Trichlorophenol	95954	1	Gold Book
10	2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	88062	2	Gold Book
11	2,3,4,6-Tetrachlorophenol	—	1	Gold Book
12	2-Methyl-4-Chlorophenol	—	1800	Gold Book
13	3-Methyl-4-Chlorophenol	59507	3000	Gold Book
14	3-Methyl-6-Chlorophenol	—	20	Gold Book
15	2-Chlorophenol	95578	0.1	Gold Book
16	Copper	7440508	1000	Gold Book
17	2,4-Dichlorophenol	120832	0.3	Gold Book
18	2,4-Dimethylphenol	105679	400	Gold Book
19	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	77474	1	Gold Book
20	Nitrobenzene	98953	30	Gold Book
21	Pentachlorophenol	87865	30	Gold Book
22	Phenol	108952	300	Gold Book
23	Zinc	7440666	5000	45 FR79341

Notes:

1. These criteria are based on organoleptic (taste and odor) effects. Because of variations in chemical nomenclature systems, this listing of pollutants does not duplicate the listing in Appendix A of 40 CFR Part 423. Also listed are the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry numbers, which provide a unique identification for each chemical.

Additional Notes

1. Criteria Maximum Concentration and Criterion Continuous Concentration

The Criteria Maximum Concentration (CMC) is an estimate of the highest concentration of a material in surface water to which an aquatic community can be exposed briefly without resulting in an unacceptable effect. The Criterion Continuous Concentration (CCC) is an estimate of the highest concentration of a material in surface water to which an aquatic community can be exposed indefinitely without resulting in an unacceptable effect. The CMC and CCC are just two of the six parts of an aquatic life criterion; the other four parts are the acute averaging period, chronic averaging period, acute frequency of allowed exceedence, and chronic frequency of allowed exceedence. Because 304(a) aquatic life criteria are national guidance, they are intended to be protective of the vast majority of the aquatic communities in the United States.

2. Criteria Recommendations for Priority Pollutants, Non Priority Pollutants and Organoleptic Effects

This compilation lists all priority toxic pollutants and some non priority toxic pollutants, and both human health effect and organoleptic effect criteria issued pursuant to CWA §304(a). Blank spaces indicate that EPA has no CWA §304(a) criteria recommendations. For a number of non-priority toxic pollutants not listed, CWA §304(a) "water + organism" human health criteria are not available, but EPA has published MCLs under the SDWA that may be used in establishing water quality standards to protect water supply designated uses. Because of variations in chemical nomenclature systems, this listing of toxic pollutants does not duplicate the listing in Appendix A of 40 CFR Part 423. Also listed are the Chemical Abstracts Service CAS registry numbers, which provide a unique identification for each chemical.

3. Human Health Risk

The human health criteria for the priority and non priority pollutants are based on carcinogenicity of 10^{-6} risk. Alternate risk levels may be obtained by moving the decimal point (e.g., for a risk level of 10^{-5} , move the decimal point in the recommended criterion one place to the right).

4. Water Quality Criteria published pursuant to Section 304(a) or Section 303(c) of the CWA

Many of the values in the compilation were published in the California Toxics Rule. Although such values were published pursuant to Section 303(c) of the CWA, they represent the Agency's most recent calculation of water quality criteria and are thus the Agency's 304(a) criteria.

5. Calculation of Dissolved Metals Criteria

The 304(a) criteria for metals, shown as dissolved metals, are calculated in one of two ways. For freshwater metals criteria that are hardness-dependent, the dissolved metal criteria were calculated using a hardness of 100 mg/l as CaCO₃ for illustrative purposes only. Saltwater and freshwater metals' criteria that are not hardness-dependent are calculated by multiplying the total recoverable criteria before rounding by the appropriate conversion factors. The final dissolved metals' criteria in the table are rounded to two significant figures. Information regarding the calculation of hardness dependent conversion factors are included in the footnotes.

6. Maximum Contaminant Levels

The compilation includes footnotes for pollutants with Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) more stringent than the recommended water quality criteria in the compilation. MCLs for these pollutants are not included in the compilation, but can be found in the appropriate drinking water regulations (40 CFR 141.11-16 and 141.60-63), or can be accessed through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791) or [online](#).

7. Organoleptic Effects

The compilation contains 304(a) criteria for pollutants with toxicity-based criteria as well as non-toxicity based criteria. The basis for the non-toxicity based criteria are organoleptic effects (e.g., taste and odor) which would make water and edible aquatic life unpalatable but not toxic to humans. The table includes criteria for organoleptic effects for 23 pollutants. Pollutants with organoleptic effect criteria more stringent than the criteria based on toxicity (e.g., included in both the priority and non-priority pollutant tables) are footnoted as such.

8. Gold Book

The "Gold Book" is Quality Criteria for Water: 1986. EPA 440/5-86-001.

9. Correction of Chemical Abstract Services Number

The Chemical Abstract Services number (CAS) for Bis(2-Chlorisopropyl) Ether, has been revised in IRIS and in the table. The correct CAS number for this chemical is 108-60-1. The previous CAS number for this pollutant was 39638-32-9.

10. Contaminants with Blanks

EPA has not calculated criteria for contaminants with blanks. However, permit authorities should address these contaminants in NPDES permit actions using the States' existing narrative criteria for toxics.

11. Specific Chemical Calculations

Selenium—Aquatic Life

This compilation contains aquatic life criteria for selenium that are the same as those published in the proposed CTR. In the CTR, EPA proposed an acute criterion for selenium based on the criterion proposed for selenium in the Water Quality Guidance for the Great Lakes System (61 FR 58444). The GLI and CTR proposals take into account data showing that selenium's two prevalent oxidation states in water, selenite and selenate, present differing potentials for aquatic toxicity, as well as new data indicating that various forms of selenium are additive. The new approach produces a different selenium acute criterion concentration, or CMC, depending upon the relative proportions of selenite, selenate, and other forms of selenium that are present.

EPA is currently undertaking a reassessment of selenium, and expects the 304(a) criteria for selenium will be revised based on the final reassessment (63FR26186). However, until such time as revised water quality criteria for selenium are published by the Agency, the recommended water quality criteria in this compilation are EPA's current 304(a) criteria.

Appendix A—Conversion Factors for Dissolved Metals

Metal	Conversion Factor			
	freshwater CMC	freshwater CCC	saltwater CMC	saltwater CCC ¹

Arsenic	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Cadmium	$1.136672 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.041838)]$	$1.101672 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.041838)]$	0.994	0.994
Chromium III	0.316	0.860	—	—
Chromium VI	0.982	0.962	0.993	0.993
Copper	0.960	0.960	0.83	0.83
Lead	$1.46203 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.145712)]$	$1.46203 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.145712)]$	0.951	0.951
Mercury	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85
Nickel	0.998	0.997	0.990	0.990
Selenium	—	—	0.998	0.998
Silver	0.85	—	0.85	—
Zinc	0.978	0.986	0.946	0.946

Appendix B—Parameters for Calculating Freshwater Dissolved Metals Criteria That Are Hardness-Dependent

Chemical	m_A	b_A	m_C	b_C	Freshwater Conversion Factors (CF)	
					CMC	CCC
Cadmium	1.0166	-3.924	0.7409	-4.719	$1.136672 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.041838)]$	$1.101672 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.041838)]$
Chromium III	0.8190	3.7256	0.8190	0.6848	0.316	0.860
Copper	0.9422	-1.700	0.8545	-1.702	0.960	0.960
Lead	1.273	-1.460	1.273	-4.705	$1.46203 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.145712)]$	$1.46203 - [(\ln \text{hardness})(0.145712)]$
Nickel	0.8460	2.255	0.8460	0.0584	0.998	0.997
Silver	1.72	-6.59	—	—	0.85	—
Zinc	0.8473	0.884	0.8473	0.884	0.978	0.986

Hardness-dependant metals' criteria may be calculated from the following:

$$\text{CMC (dissolved)} = \exp\{m_A [\ln(\text{hardness})] + b_A\} \text{ (CF)}$$

$$\text{CCC (dissolved)} = \exp\{m_C [\ln(\text{hardness})] + b_C\} \text{ (CF)}$$

Appendix C - Calculation of Freshwater Ammonia Criterion

- The one-hour average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg N/L) does not exceed, more than once every three years on the average, the CMC (acute criterion) calculated using the following equations:
 - Where salmonid fish are present:
 - $\text{CMC} = (0.275 / (1 + 10^{7.204 - \text{pH}})) + (39.0 / (1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.204}))$
 - Or where salmonid fish are not present:
 - $\text{CMC} = (0.411 / (1 + 10^{7.204 - \text{pH}})) + (58.4 / (1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.204}))$
- The thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg N/L) does not exceed, more than once every three years on the average, the CCC (chronic criterion) calculated using the following equations:
 - When fish early life stages are present:
 - $\text{CCC} = ((0.0577 / (1 + 10^{7.688 - \text{pH}})) + (2.487 / (1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.688}))) \times \text{MIN}(2.85, 1.45 \cdot 10^{0.028 \cdot (25 - T)})$
 - When fish early life stages are absent:
 - $\text{CCC} = ((0.0577 / (1 + 10^{7.688 - \text{pH}})) + (2.487 / (1 + 10^{\text{pH} - 7.688}))) \times 1.45 \cdot 10^{0.028 \cdot (25 - \text{MAX}(T, 7))}$
 - In addition, the highest four-day average within the 30-day period should not exceed 2.5 times the CCC.

The Gold Book

Quality Criteria for Water, 1986 (PDF) (477 pp., 4.6 MB) May 1986

The Red Book

Quality Criteria for Water, 1976 (PDF) (534 pp., 6.2 MB) July 1976

Chemical Specific Criteria Documents from the 1980s