

*Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*

**Safe Drinking Water Regulations**

**Exposure Draft**

**TABLE OF PROVISIONS**

<i>Regulation</i>	<i>Page</i>
<b>Part 1—Preliminary</b>	<b>3</b>
1 Objective	3
2 Authorising provision	3
3 Commencement	3
4 Revocation	3
5 Definitions	4
<b>Part 2—Management of risks to water supply</b>	<b>7</b>
6 Risk management plan	7
7 Risk management plan audit	16
8 Audit certificate	16
9 Approval of risk management plan auditors	16
10 Reporting water treatment that does not meet the microbial reporting threshold to the Secretary	17
<b>Part 3—Water sampling areas and water sampling programs</b>	<b>19</b>
11 Water sampling area	19
12 Variation of water sampling area	20
13 Directions by Secretary for water sampling area	22
14 Development of water sampling program—water supplier	23
15 Development of water sampling program—water storage manager	25
<b>Part 4—Drinking water quality standards</b>	<b>26</b>
16 Drinking water quality standards	26
17 Frequency of collecting drinking water samples	27
18 Secretary may determine frequency for collecting drinking water samples	28
19 Analysis of drinking water samples	29
20 Requirement to give analysis results to Secretary	30

Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025

Part 1—Preliminary

---

<b>Part 5—Other matters</b>	<b>33</b>
21 Additional details to be included in a water supplier's annual report	33
22 Additional details to be included in a water storage manager's annual report	36
23 Infringement offences and infringement penalties	38
<b>Schedule 1—Risk management plan audit certificate</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Schedule 2—Aesthetic quality standards—other chemical or physical characteristics</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Schedule 3—Infringements</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Endnotes</b>	<b>43</b>

## **Part 1—Preliminary**

### **1 Objective**

The objective of these Regulations is to provide further for the supply of safe drinking water by—

- (a) setting out further matters to be addressed in risk management plans and the risks to be addressed in those plans; and
- (b) specifying the documents to be made available for inspection in a risk management plan audit; and
- (c) prescribing drinking water quality standards; and
- (d) specifying the issues relating to the quality of drinking water and regulated water that are to be dealt with by a water supplier and water storage manager in an annual report; and
- (e) providing for other matters required to be prescribed under the **Safe Drinking Water Act 2003**.

### **2 Authorising provision**

These Regulations are made under section 56 of the **Safe Drinking Water Act 2003**.

### **3 Commencement**

These Regulations come into operation on 6 July 2025.

### **4 Revocation**

The Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015<sup>1</sup> are **revoked**.

## 5 Definitions

In these Regulations—

***accredited testing organisation*** means an organisation that holds accreditation from NATA in relation to testing potable water for characteristics specified in a water supplier's water sampling program;

***Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*** means the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines published by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the National Resource Management Ministerial Council, as in force from time to time;

***critical control point***, in relation to water supplied by a water agency, means a point in the system of supply at which—

- (a) an action, procedure or process can be applied to that water; and
- (b) the effective operation of that action, procedure or process is essential to prevent a hazard to human health or to reduce the hazard to an acceptable level;

***critical limit***, in relation to an action, procedure or process that is applied to water at a critical control point, means the limit at which the action, procedure or process ceases to operate effectively;

***drinking water treatment process*** means a process that is—

- (a) applied to water that is, or is to be, supplied as drinking water; and
- (b) designed to render the water suitable for supply as drinking water; and
- (c) applied with the intention of rendering the water suitable for supply as drinking water;

***emergency*** has the same meaning as in the **Emergency Management Act 1986**;

***emergency management*** has the same meaning as in the **Emergency Management Act 1986**;

***hazard*** means a biological, chemical, physical or radiological agent that has the potential to cause harm;

***microbial health outcome target*** means the microbial health-based target specified in Section 1.3 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines;

**Note**

The microbial health-based target specified in Section 1.3 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines as in force on the commencement of these Regulations is  $1 \times 10^{-6}$  Disability Adjusted Life Years per person per year.

***microbial reporting threshold*** means a microbial health-based target of  $1 \times 10^{-5}$  Disability Adjusted Life Years per person per year;

**NATA** means National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia, ACN 004 379 748;

**new water sampling area** means a water sampling area other than an area referred to in regulation 11(2);

**sample characteristic** means a microbial, chemical or physical characteristic of drinking water for which a drinking water quality standard is specified;

**Note**

The drinking water quality standards are specified in regulation 16 for the purposes of section 17(1) of the Act.

**source water category** means a category for a source of water specified in Table 5.4 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines;

**the Act** means the **Safe Drinking Water Act 2003**;

**treatment target**, in relation to a source water category, means a target specified for that category in Table 5.5 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines;

**water agency** means a water storage manager or a water supplier;

**water sampling area** means an area specified under regulation 11;

**water sampling program** means a program developed under regulation 14 or 15.

## **Part 2—Management of risks to water supply**

### **6 Risk management plan**

- (1) For the purposes of section 9(1)(e) of the Act, a risk management plan must contain the following matters—
  - (a) details of the water agency's policy for managing drinking water quality, including—
    - (i) a statement of the water agency's commitment to manage the quality of the water supplied by the water agency; and
    - (ii) how the water agency has endorsed that commitment; and
    - (iii) how the commitment is communicated to the water agency's employees;
  - (b) for a risk management plan prepared by a water supplier, details of each water sampling area specified by the water supplier, including—
    - (i) a clearly marked map of the boundaries of each water sampling area; and
    - (ii) all information reasonably available to the water supplier that assists to identify the boundaries of each water sampling area; and

- (iii) for a new water sampling area or a water sampling area varied under regulation 12—
  - (A) how the boundaries of that water sampling area have been determined; and
  - (B) how the matters specified in regulation 11(3) or 12(2) (as the case requires) were considered in determining the boundaries of that water sampling area;
- (c) in relation to water quality risks for water supplied by the water agency, the positions held by persons employed or engaged by the water agency who are responsible for managing those risks;
- (d) details of procedures for consultation with other water agencies in relation to water quality risks for water supplied—
  - (i) to the water agency by other water agencies; and
  - (ii) by the water agency to other water agencies;
- (e) details of emergency management arrangements for emergencies or incidents that have, or may have, an adverse effect on the quality or safety of water supplied by the water agency, including—
  - (i) the positions held by persons employed or engaged by the water agency who



- are responsible for dealing with those emergencies or incidents; and
- (ii) methods for communicating information to the public in relation to those emergencies or incidents;
- (f) for a risk management plan prepared by a water supplier, details of the water sampling program developed by the water supplier, including—
  - (i) the matters specified in regulation 14(2); and
  - (ii) how the locations for collecting water samples have been determined; and
  - (iii) how the matters referred to in regulation 14(3), (4) and (5) were considered in developing the program;
- (g) for a risk management plan prepared by a water storage manager, details of the water sampling program developed by the water storage manager, including—
  - (i) the matters specified in regulation 15(2); and
  - (ii) how the locations for collecting water samples have been determined;
- (h) in circumstances where the water agency adds chemicals to drinking water supplied by the water agency, details of procedures and systems for—

- (i) ensuring that the amount and purity of those chemicals do not adversely affect the quality of that drinking water or pose a risk to human health; and
    - (ii) controlling the addition of any residue or chemical by-products to that drinking water;
  - (i) details of the required competency and training of persons who are employed or engaged by the water agency, to the extent that the competency or training relates to the monitoring and management of water quality risks for water supplied by the water agency;
  - (j) any policies, standards and guidelines adopted by the water agency in relation to the required competency and training described in paragraph (i);
  - (k) details of the infrastructure of the system of supply and other features of that system that are designed to assist in the management of water quality risks for water supplied by the water agency, including the method for verifying the effectiveness of the infrastructure and other features;
  - (l) details of the process for inspecting and maintaining water storage, treatment and distribution assets to ensure the management of water quality risks for water supplied by the water agency;
  - (m) details of measures taken to monitor and manage water quality risks for water
-

- supplied by the water agency, including any methods for verifying the effectiveness of those measures;
- (n) details of critical control points across the system of supply, including—
    - (i) how those critical control points are identified and recorded; and
    - (ii) the water quality risks at each critical control point; and
    - (iii) the critical limits that apply at each critical control point; and
    - (iv) if a critical limit is reached at a critical control point—
      - (A) any additional actions, procedures or processes that are to be applied to the water at the critical control point; and
      - (B) any policies or guidelines that are to be implemented;
  - (o) details of the process for assessing emerging or potential water quality risks;
  - (p) details of an improvement plan that specifies how the water agency proposes to improve its management of the quality of the water supplied by the water agency;
  - (q) details of the processes for the short-term and long-term review of data to monitor water quality risks for water supplied by the water agency.
-

- (2) For the purposes of section 9(1)(e) of the Act, if a water agency manages a source of untreated water that is to be treated and supplied as drinking water, a risk management plan prepared by the water agency must contain—
  - (a) the matters specified in subregulation (3) for the period from 5 July 2025 to 5 July 2026; and
  - (b) the matters specified in subregulation (4) on and from 6 July 2026.
- (3) The specified matters for the purposes of subregulation (2)(a) are details of the methodology that is used by the water agency to quantify microbial hazards in relation to that water, including—
  - (a) the extent to which pathogenic microorganisms are present in water that enters the drinking water treatment process; and
  - (b) the extent to which that drinking water treatment process—
    - (i) removes those pathogenic microorganisms from the water; or
    - (ii) reduces the amount of those pathogenic microorganisms in the water.
- (4) The specified matters for the purposes of subregulation (2)(b) are the following—

- (a) details of procedures for assessing and monitoring the level of enteric pathogens in the source of untreated water;
  - (b) if the source of untreated water is contaminated with enteric pathogens, details of procedures for assessing and monitoring the source of that contamination;
  - (c) details of the process for determining a source water category for the source of untreated water in accordance with Section 5.4.3 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines;
  - (d) details of procedures for reviewing and revising the source water category for the source of untreated water.
- (5) For the purposes of section 9(1)(e) of the Act, if a water agency applies a drinking water treatment process to untreated water, a risk management plan prepared by the water agency must contain the following matters on and from 6 July 2026—
- (a) details of procedures for assessing the treatment required to be applied to the untreated water, based on its source water category, for that water to meet the microbial health outcome target;
  - (b) details of procedures for designing and monitoring the drinking water treatment process to ensure that the water to which the process is applied meets the treatment targets for the source water category of that water;

- (c) details of procedures for recording the effectiveness of the drinking water treatment process in treating the water to meet—
    - (i) the microbial health outcome target; and
    - (ii) the treatment targets for the source water category of that water;
  - (d) if the water to which the drinking water treatment process is applied does not meet the targets referred to in paragraph (c), details of procedures for implementing improvements to ensure that the water meets those targets.
- (6) For the purposes of section 9(2) of the Act, the specified risks to be addressed are the following—
- (a) the risk to human health that arises from the presence in water of—
    - (i) pathogenic microorganisms; and
    - (ii) inorganic chemicals, including inorganic disinfection by-products; and
    - (iii) organic chemicals, including pesticides, pesticide residues and organic disinfection by-products; and
    - (iv) radionuclides; and
    - (v) algal toxins;
  - (b) the risk to the taste, odour or clarity of water that arises from—

- (i) the presence in water of an algal toxin, a pathogen, a chemical, dissolved gases or any other substance; and
    - (ii) the pH or turbidity level of the water; and
    - (iii) the colour or temperature of the water;
  - (c) the risks arising from an incident that may cause the organisms or substances referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b)(i) to be introduced, whether by humans or the natural environment, into—
    - (i) in the case of a water supplier, the water supplier's system of supply; or
    - (ii) in the case of a water storage manager, the water supplied by the water storage manager;
  - (d) the risk of the organisms or substances referred to in paragraphs (a) or (b)(i) entering into water supplied by the water agency because of the transfer or distribution of that water.
- (7) In this regulation—
- water quality risk***, in relation to water supplied by a water agency, includes—
- (a) a risk referred to in section 9(1)(b) of the Act; and
  - (b) a risk that is specified for the purposes of section 9(2) of the Act.

**Note**

Section 9(1)(b) of the Act provides for a risk management plan to identify the risks to the quality of the water supplied by the water agency and the risks that may be posed by the quality of the water.

Subregulation (6) specifies risks to be addressed in a risk management plan for the purposes of section 9(2) of the Act.

**7 Risk management plan audit**

For the purposes of section 10(2) of the Act, the specified documents are—

- (a) the risk management plan; and
- (b) any document referred to in the risk management plan or containing material that relates to the risk management plan; and
- (c) any document that records or provides evidence of the implementation of the risk management plan.

**8 Audit certificate**

For the purposes of section 12(2) of the Act, the form of the certificate is set out in Schedule 1.

**9 Approval of risk management plan auditors**

For the purposes of section 13(2) of the Act, the auditor approval criteria are that the person—

- (a) either—
  - (i) holds an accreditation from an institution which, in the opinion of the Secretary, makes the person suitable for



approval as a risk management plan auditor; or

- (ii) demonstrates to the Secretary that the person has the necessary experience, qualifications and skills to conduct audits of risk management plans independently; and
- (b) is, in the reasonable opinion of the Secretary, a suitable person to be approved as an auditor; and
- (c) provides to the Secretary a written declaration that the person has no conflict of interest that would affect the person's ability to conduct an audit of a risk management plan objectively.

**10 Reporting water treatment that does not meet the microbial reporting threshold to the Secretary**

- (1) This regulation applies to a water agency that applies a drinking water treatment process to a source of untreated water.
- (2) On and from 6 July 2026, if a water agency becomes aware that the application of the drinking water treatment process is not sufficient for the water to meet the microbial reporting threshold, the water agency must notify the Secretary in writing within 10 days after becoming aware of that fact.
- (3) A notification under subregulation (2) must specify—

- (a) details of the operation of the drinking water treatment process; and
- (b) the actions that the water agency has taken, or proposes to take, to ensure that the water meets the microbial reporting threshold.

Exposure Draft

## **Part 3—Water sampling areas and water sampling programs**

### **11 Water sampling area**

- (1) A water supplier must specify an area that is supplied with drinking water by the water supplier to be a water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan.
- (2) An area supplied with drinking water by a water supplier that is specified to be a water sampling locality under the Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015 immediately before their revocation is, on and from that revocation, a water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan as if the water supplier had specified that area to be a water sampling area under subregulation (1).
- (3) If a water supplier specifies a new water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan, the water supplier must consider the following matters in determining the boundaries of that new water sampling area—
  - (a) the source or sources of the water that will be supplied as drinking water in the water sampling area;
  - (b) the drinking water treatment processes to be applied to water that will be supplied as drinking water in the water sampling area;

- (c) the distribution system that will be used to supply drinking water in the water sampling area.
- (4) Within 10 days after a water supplier specifies a new water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan, the water supplier must—
  - (a) give written notice to the Secretary of the new water sampling area, including—
    - (i) how the boundaries of the new water sampling area have been determined; and
    - (ii) how the matters specified in subregulation (3) were considered in determining the boundaries of the new water sampling area; and
    - (iii) a clearly marked map of the boundaries of the new water sampling area; and
    - (iv) all information reasonably available to the water supplier that assists to identify the boundaries of the new water sampling area; and
  - (b) update the water supplier's risk management plan to specify details of the new water sampling area.

## **12 Variation of water sampling area**

- (1) A water supplier may vary the boundaries of a water sampling area specified in the water supplier's risk management plan.

- (2) In varying the boundaries of a water sampling area, a water supplier must consider—
  - (a) the source or sources of the water that will be supplied as drinking water in the water sampling area;
  - (b) the drinking water treatment processes to be applied to water that will be supplied as drinking water in the water sampling area;
  - (c) the distribution system that will be used to supply drinking water in the water sampling area.
- (3) Within 10 days after a water supplier varies the boundaries of a water sampling area, the water supplier must—
  - (a) give written notice to the Secretary of that variation, including—
    - (i) how the boundaries of the water sampling area have been varied; and
    - (ii) how the matters specified in subregulation (2) were considered in varying the boundaries of the water sampling area; and
    - (iii) a clearly marked map of the boundaries of the varied water sampling area; and
    - (iv) all information reasonably available to the water supplier that assists to identify the boundaries of the varied water sampling area; and

- (b) update the details of the water sampling area specified in the water supplier's risk management plan.

### **13 Directions by Secretary for water sampling area**

- (1) If the Secretary believes that water samples collected at a water sampling area specified in a water supplier's risk management plan do not, or will not, represent the drinking water supplied by the water supplier to the public, the Secretary may direct the water supplier to do one or more of the following—
  - (a) vary the boundaries of that area and any associated water sampling area;
  - (b) specify a new water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan.
- (2) If the Secretary believes that a water supplier is supplying drinking water to an area (an ***additional area***) that is not specified as a water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan, the Secretary may direct the water supplier to do one or more of the following—
  - (a) vary the boundaries of one or more water sampling areas specified in the water supplier's risk management plan to ensure the additional area is specified as a water sampling area;

- (b) specify the additional area as a new water sampling area for the purposes of the water supplier's risk management plan.
- (3) A direction under subregulation (1) or (2) must—
  - (a) be in writing; and
  - (b) describe how the boundaries of the new water sampling area or the varied water sampling area (as the case requires) are to be determined.
- (4) A water supplier who is given a direction under subregulation (1) or (2) must comply with that direction.

**14 Development of water sampling program—water supplier**

- (1) For the purposes of monitoring drinking water quality, a water supplier must develop a program for collecting and analysing water samples from the drinking water and regulated water supplied by the water supplier to the public.
- (2) A water sampling program developed by a water supplier must specify—
  - (a) locations at which water samples will be collected within each water sampling area specified in the water supplier's risk management plan; and
  - (b) how frequently water samples will be collected at those locations, which must include—

- (i) at least once per week in each water sampling area for a water sample that is tested for *Escherichia coli*; and
    - (ii) at least once per month in each water sampling area for a water sample that is tested for total trihalomethanes; and
    - (iii) at least once per month in each water sampling area for a water sample that is tested for its pH level; and
    - (iv) at least once per week in each water sampling area for a water sample that is tested for its turbidity level; and
  - (c) the characteristics for which water samples will be tested; and
  - (d) how frequently water samples will be tested.
- (3) In determining the locations to be specified under subregulation (2)(a), the water supplier must ensure that the samples collected at those locations will represent the drinking water supplied to the public from each water sampling area specified in the water supplier's risk management plan.
- (4) In determining the collection frequency to be specified under subregulation (2)(b), the water supplier must ensure that a sufficient number of samples are collected during the period of supply that will represent, so far as practicable, the drinking water supplied by the water supplier to the public during that period.



- (5) In determining the characteristics to be specified under subregulation (2)(c) and the testing frequency to be specified under subregulation (2)(d), the water supplier must consider—
  - (a) how the characteristics and testing frequency will assist the water supplier to monitor its compliance with the drinking water quality standards; and
  - (b) any chemicals or other substances that will be used to treat drinking water supplied to the public in each water sampling area specified in the water supplier's risk management plan.

**15 Development of water sampling program—water storage manager**

- (1) For the purposes of monitoring drinking water quality, a water storage manager must develop a program for collecting and analysing water samples from the water supplied by the water storage manager to a water supplier.
- (2) A water sampling program developed by a water storage manager must specify—
  - (a) locations at which water samples will be collected; and
  - (b) how frequently water samples will be collected; and
  - (c) the characteristics for which water samples will be tested; and
  - (d) how frequently water samples will be tested.

## **Part 4—Drinking water quality standards**

### **16 Drinking water quality standards**

- (1) For the purposes of section 17(1) of the Act, the specified quality standards are—
  - (a) the health-based quality standards specified in subregulation (2); and
  - (b) the aesthetic quality standards specified in subregulation (3).
- (2) The health-based quality standards are the following—
  - (a) all samples of the drinking water that are at least 100 millilitres must not contain *Escherichia coli*;
  - (b) if the drinking water contains a chemical or physical characteristic specified in Table 10.6 of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines, the amount of the characteristic in a sample of the drinking water must not exceed the health guideline value (if any) that is specified opposite that characteristic in that Table;
  - (c) if the drinking water contains a microbial, chemical or physical characteristic that is not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), the amount of the characteristic in the drinking water must be less than an amount that would pose a risk to human health, whether that risk arises from the characteristic by

itself or in combination with other characteristics.

- (3) The aesthetic quality standards are the following—
- (a) the average pH value of samples of the drinking water that are collected during a period of 12 months must be at least 6.5 but not exceed 9.2;
  - (b) the turbidity of 95 per cent of samples of the drinking water collected during a period of 12 months must not exceed 5 nephelometric turbidity units;
  - (c) the average amount of dissolved oxygen in samples of the drinking water that are collected during a period of 12 months must be more than 85 per cent;
  - (d) if the drinking water contains a chemical or physical characteristic specified in Column 2 of Schedule 2, the average amount of the characteristic in samples of the drinking water that are collected during a period of 12 months must not exceed the aesthetic guideline value that is specified opposite that characteristic in Column 3 of that Schedule.
- (4) For the purposes of section 19(1), the aesthetic quality standards specified in subregulation (3) are not primarily intended to protect public health and may be varied under that section.

## **17 Frequency of collecting drinking water samples**

A water supplier must ensure that samples of drinking water are collected from each location specified in the water supplier's water sampling program—

- (a) for a water sample that is tested for a sample characteristic to which a determination under regulation 18 applies, at least as often as the frequency specified in that determination; and
- (b) in any other case, at least as often as the frequency specified in the water supplier's water sampling program.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

**18 Secretary may determine frequency for collecting drinking water samples**

- (1) The Secretary may determine, in relation to drinking water that is to be tested for a sample characteristic specified in the determination, the frequency at which samples of that drinking water must be collected in a water sampling area.
- (2) A determination under subregulation (1) may be made—
  - (a) on an application by a water supplier; or
  - (b) on the Secretary's own initiative.
- (3) In making a determination under subregulation (1), the Secretary may have regard to—
  - (a) the number of persons who take water from the water sampling area, including any

- variation in that number at different times during the year; and
- (b) the number of water samples to be collected during the period specified in the determination that would ensure that those samples represent, so far as practicable, the drinking water supplied from the water sampling area during that period; and
  - (c) any chemicals or other substances used to treat the drinking water from the water sampling area; and
  - (d) any other matter the Secretary considers relevant.
- (4) A determination under subregulation (1) must specify the following—
- (a) the water supplier to which the determination applies;
  - (b) the water sampling area to which the determination applies;
  - (c) how frequently water samples are to be collected in the water sampling area;
  - (d) the sample characteristic to which the determination applies;
  - (e) the period of the determination, including the date on which that period commences.
- (5) A determination under subregulation (1) must be published in the Government Gazette.

## **19 Analysis of drinking water samples**

A water supplier must ensure that each sample of drinking water collected from each location specified in the water supplier's water sampling program is analysed by an accredited testing organisation—

- (a) for each characteristic that is specified in the water supplier's water sampling program; and
- (b) at the testing frequency that is specified in the water supplier's water sampling program.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

## **20 Requirement to give analysis results to Secretary**

- (1) Within 10 days after a water supplier receives analysis results, the water supplier must give a written summary of the results to the Secretary if those results indicate that—
  - (a) a sample characteristic of the water contravenes a health-based drinking water quality standard; or
  - (b) in the reasonable opinion of the water supplier, the level of a characteristic measured in the water may pose a risk to public health or result in widespread public complaint.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

### **Note**

The health-based drinking water quality standards are specified in regulation 16(2) for the purposes of section 17(1) of the Act.

- (2) Within 10 days after the end of each reporting period, a water supplier must give to the Secretary a written summary of any analysis results received in relation to a water sample collected during that reporting period that indicate that—
- (a) the pH value of the water is less than 6.5 or more than 9.2; or
  - (b) the turbidity of the water exceeds 5 nephelometric turbidity units; or
  - (c) the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water is 85 per cent or less; or
  - (d) if the water contains a chemical or physical characteristic specified in Column 2 of Schedule 2, the amount of the chemical or physical characteristic in the water exceeds the aesthetic guideline value that is specified opposite that characteristic in Column 3 of that Schedule.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (3) A water supplier that gives a written summary of analysis results to the Secretary under subregulation (1) or (2) must ensure that the summary specifies—
- (a) the measurements of the sample characteristic or other parameter; and
  - (b) previous measurements of the sample characteristic or other parameter; and

- (c) any related results of other samples from the water supplier that have been analysed by an accredited testing organisation; and
- (d) the actions that the water supplier has taken, or proposes to take, in response to the contravention or risk.

Penalty: 20 penalty units.

- (4) In this regulation—

***analysis results*** means the results of an analysis referred to in regulation 19;

***reporting period*** means—

- (a) the period beginning on 1 January and ending on 31 March; and
- (b) the period beginning on 1 April and ending on 30 June; and
- (c) the period beginning on 1 July and ending on 30 September; and
- (d) the period beginning on 1 October and ending on 31 December.



## **Part 5—Other matters**

### **21 Additional details to be included in a water supplier's annual report**

For the purposes of section 26(1) and (2) of the Act, the required contents of a water supplier's annual report are—

- (a) details of any new water sampling areas and any variations to water sampling areas specified in the water supplier's risk management plan; and
- (b) if an emergency or incident occurred during the financial year that affected the quality of water supplied by the water supplier, information about actions taken by the water supplier in response to that emergency or incident; and
- (c) any issues that arose as a consequence of the actions referred to in paragraph (b); and
- (d) if the Secretary accepted a written undertaking by the water supplier under section 30 of the Act during the financial year, a summary of that undertaking; and
- (e) a summary of the findings of the most recent risk management plan audit of the water supplier's risk management plan and any issues that the approved auditor raised during the risk management plan audit; and

- (f) if the water supplier applied a drinking water treatment process to water supplied by the water supplier during the financial year—
  - (i) a summary of how the water was disinfected or treated; and
  - (ii) a summary of any other processes applied to the water; and
  - (iii) a summary of any issues that arose as a consequence of applying those processes; and
  - (iv) a list of all chemicals and other substances used to disinfect or treat the water; and
- (g) in relation to the water supplied by the water supplier during the financial year, details of the water's compliance with the drinking water quality standards; and

**Note**

The drinking water quality standards are specified in regulation 16 for the purposes of section 17(1) of the Act.

- (h) details of the water supplier's compliance with regulation 17 during the financial year; and
- (i) if water supplied by the water supplier during the financial year did not comply with a drinking water quality standard, information about actions taken by the water supplier in relation to that water; and

- (j) in relation to the analysis of water samples collected by the water supplier during the financial year—
  - (i) an evaluation of analysis results and information in respect of those water samples; and
  - (ii) a comparison of those results and information with corresponding results and information in respect of water samples collected during the previous 2 years; and
- (k) if a variation of an aesthetic standard was approved under section 19 of the Act in respect of drinking water supplied by the water supplier during a period of the financial year, a summary of—
  - (i) that variation; and
  - (ii) any conditions imposed under section 21 of the Act in relation to that variation; and
- (l) if an exemption from a water quality standard was approved under section 20 of the Act in respect of drinking water supplied by the water supplier during a period of the financial year, a summary of—
  - (i) that variation; and
  - (ii) any conditions imposed under section 21 of the Act in relation to that variation; and

- (m) a summary of—
  - (i) any complaints received by the water supplier during the financial year that related to the quality of drinking water supplied by the water supplier; and
  - (ii) the water supplier's responses to those complaints and analysis of any issues that arose from those complaints; and
- (n) a summary of steps taken by the water supplier to manage the aesthetic characteristics of the drinking water supplied by the water supplier during the financial year, including steps taken to manage the taste, odour, clarity and pH of that water; and
- (o) if the water supplier supplied regulated water during the financial year, details of—
  - (i) that regulated water; and
  - (ii) the declaration under section 6 of the Act in respect of that regulated water; and
  - (iii) the steps taken in accordance with section 25 of the Act.

**22 Additional details to be included in a water storage manager's annual report**

For the purposes of section 26(1) and (2) of the Act, the required contents of a water storage manager's annual report are—

- (a) if an emergency or incident occurred during the financial year that affected the quality of

- water supplied by the water storage manager, information about actions taken by the water storage manager in response to that emergency or incident; and
- (b) any issues that arose as a consequence of the actions referred to in paragraph (a); and
  - (c) if the Secretary accepted a written undertaking by the water storage manager under section 30 of the Act during the financial year, a summary of that undertaking; and
  - (d) a summary of the findings of the most recent risk management plan audit of the water storage manager's risk management plan and any issues that the approved auditor raised during the risk management plan audit; and
  - (e) if the water storage manager applied a drinking water treatment process to water supplied by the water storage manager during the financial year—
    - (i) a summary of how the water was disinfected or treated; and
    - (ii) a summary of any other processes applied to the water; and
    - (iii) a summary of any issues that arose as a consequence of applying those processes; and
    - (iv) a list of all chemicals and other substances used to disinfect or treat the water; and
-

- (f) if a water storage manager was exempted under section 8(3) of the Act from compliance with section 8(1) of the Act during a period of the financial year, details of that exemption and any condition imposed in relation to that exemption.

**23 Infringement offences and infringement penalties**

- (1) For the purposes of section 47A(1) of the Act, an offence specified in Column 1 of the Table in Schedule 3 is prescribed as an infringement offence.
- (2) For the purposes of section 47A(3) of the Act, the prescribed infringement penalty for an infringement offence referred to in subregulation (1) is the penalty specified in Column 2 of the Table in Schedule 3 in respect of that infringement offence.

## Schedule 1—Risk management plan audit certificate

Regulation 8

Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025

Certificate Number: *[insert a number to specifically identify this certificate from any other audit certificate issued by the approved auditor]*

Audit period: *[insert period of audit relevant to this certificate]*

To: *[insert full name and address of person who commissioned the audit]*

Australian Business Number (ABN): *[insert the business number of the water supplier or water storage manager]*

I, *[insert full name of approved auditor]*, after conducting a risk management plan audit in relation to the water supplied by *[insert name of the water supplier or water storage manager]*, am of the opinion that—

*\*[insert name of water supplier]* *\*has/\*has not* complied with the obligations imposed by section 7(1) of the **Safe Drinking Water Act 2003** during the audit period.

*\*[insert name of water storage manager]* *\*has/\*has not* complied with the obligations imposed by section 8(1) of the **Safe Drinking Water Act 2003** during the audit period.

*\*The details of the reasons for non-compliance are—*

*\*insert/attach the details of the reasons for non-compliance*

Signature of approved auditor:

Date:

*\* Delete if not applicable*

Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025

Schedule 2—Aesthetic quality standards—other chemical or physical characteristics

**Schedule 2—Aesthetic quality standards—  
other chemical or physical characteristics**

Regulation 16(3)

<i>Column 1 Item</i>	<i>Column 2 Characteristic</i>	<i>Column 3 Aesthetic guideline value</i>
1	Aluminium (acid-soluble)	0.2 mg/L
2	Ammonia (as NH <sub>3</sub> )	0.5 mg/L
3	Chloride	250 mg/L
4	Chlorine dioxide	0.4 mg/L
5	Chlorobenzene	0.01 mg/L
6	2-chlorophenol	0.0001 mg/L
7	2,4-dichlorophenol	0.0003 mg/L
8	2,4,6-trichlorophenol	0.002 mg/L
9	Colour (true)	15 Hazen units
10	Copper	1 mg/L
11	1,2-dichlorobenzene	0.001 mg/L
12	1,3-dichlorobenzene	0.02 mg/L
13	1,4-dichlorobenzene	0.0003 mg/L
14	Ethylbenzene	0.003 mg/L
15	Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	200 mg/L
16	Hydrogen sulfide	0.05 mg/L
17	Iron	0.3 mg/L
18	Manganese	0.1 mg/L
19	Silica	80 mg/L
20	Sodium	180 mg/L



Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2025

Schedule 2—Aesthetic quality standards—other chemical or physical characteristics

---

<i>Column 1 Item</i>	<i>Column 2 Characteristic</i>	<i>Column 3 Aesthetic guideline value</i>
21	Styrene (vinylbenzene)	0.004 mg/L
22	Sulfate	250 mg/L
23	Toluene	0.025 mg/L
24	Total dissolved solids	600 mg/L
25	Trichlorobenzenes (total)	0.005 mg/L
26	Xylene	0.02 mg/L
27	Zinc	3 mg/L

---

## Schedule 3—Infringements

Regulation 23

**TABLE**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Column 1 Infringement offence</i>	<i>Column 2 Infringement penalty</i>
1	An offence against section 12(3) of the Act	10 penalty units
2	An offence against section 14 of the Act	10 penalty units
3	An offence against section 15 of the Act	10 penalty units
4	An offence against section 37(1) of the Act	2 penalty units
5	An offence against section 49 of the Act	7 penalty units
6	An offence against regulation 17	4 penalty units
7	An offence against regulation 19	4 penalty units
8	An offence against regulation 20(1)	4 penalty units
9	An offence against regulation 20(2)	4 penalty units
10	An offence against regulation 20(3)	4 penalty units

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Reg. 4: S.R. No. 88/2015.

### Table of Applied, Adopted or Incorporated Matter

The following table of applied, adopted or incorporated matter is included in accordance with the requirements of regulation 5 of the Subordinate Legislation Regulations 2024.

Statutory rule provision	Title of applied, adopted or incorporated document	Matter in applied, adopted or incorporated document
Regulation 5, definition of <i>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines</i>	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Paper 6 National Water Quality Management Strategy, published by the National Health and Medical Research Council and the National Resource Management Ministerial Council, Commonwealth of Australia in October 2011	The whole