

Stage 7 Amendments to the Contaminated Sites Regulation

[Stage 7 amendments to the Contaminated Sites Regulation](#) (the Regulation) under the *Environmental Management Act* (the Act) will come into effect on May 31, 2011.

The amendments will replace the existing drinking water standards in the Regulation with the corresponding drinking water standards in the Director's Interim Standards for Contaminated Sites, "Generic Numerical Drinking Water Standards for Aluminum, Iron and Manganese". Key changes to the standards in Schedules 6 and 10 of the Regulation will include new standards for aluminum, iron, manganese, and MCPA. In addition, a new drinking water standard for MCPA will be added to Schedule 6 of the Regulation.

Purpose of the Interim Standards for aluminum, iron and manganese

The environmental quality standards in the Regulation focus on the protection of human health and environment. The existing drinking water standards for aluminum, iron and manganese in the Regulation were adopted from the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines, which were established to address aesthetic concerns related to possible staining of laundry and clogging of plumbing fixtures, as opposed to concerns related to the protection of human health. For these substances, the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines, which were derived to address

aesthetic concerns, are more stringent than those which would be derived to protect human health. Thus, for the purposes of regulating the identification and remediation of contaminated sites, the existing drinking water standards for aluminum, iron and manganese are unnecessarily stringent and can result in unnecessary site investigation and remediation costs.

In order to address this problem of unnecessarily stringent standards, the Director's Interim Standards for aluminum, iron and manganese were introduced and derived using Health Canada's methodology for deriving drinking water standards specific to the protection of human health. The Interim Standards for aluminum, iron and manganese replaced the Regulation's drinking water standards for those substances and came into effect on June 1, 2010, for one year.

Because the Director's Interim Standards will expire on May 31, 2011, it is now necessary to update the current drinking water standards in the Regulation with the corresponding drinking water standards in the Director's Interim Standards.

Key changes to the numerical drinking water standards

Schedule 6. Generic Numerical Water Standards

The Stage 7 amendments will contain the following changes to Schedule 6:

- An amended drinking water standard for aluminum (9 500 µg/L);
- An amended drinking water standard for iron (6 500 µg/L);
- An amended drinking water standard for manganese (550 µg/L);
- A new drinking water standard for 2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid (MCPA) (100 µg/L);
- The addition of footnotes 56 and 57 for the new standards for aluminum, iron, and manganese. The footnotes will explain that the new standards are specific to the protection of human health and may not address aesthetic concerns relating to drinking water quality.

Schedule 10. Generic Numerical Water Standards

The Stage 7 amendments will contain the following changes to Schedule 10:

- An amended drinking water standard for manganese (550 µg/L);
- An amended drinking water standard for MCPA (100 µg/L); The addition of footnotes 10 and 11 for the new standard for manganese to explain that the new standard is specific to the protection of human health and may not address aesthetic concerns relating to drinking water quality.

Note: This summary is solely for the convenience of the reader. The current legislation and regulations should be consulted for complete information.

For more information, contact the Environmental Management Branch at site@gov.bc.ca.