

CHANGES TO O. REG 170/03 AND O. REG 169/03

Attention owners and operators of drinking water systems,

Upcoming changes to Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards (OWDQS), and testing and reporting requirements found in Ontario Regulation 170/03 and 169/03 under the Safe Drinking Water may impact your drinking water system

Ontario is acting on internationally recognized scientific research and expert advice to align Ontario with current science and best practices.

To reduce the burden on drinking water system owners and operators, the changes will be phased-in over the next four years.

Effective January 1, 2016:

1. Removal of 13 pesticides from the standards and testing requirements

You will no longer need to test for 13 pesticides. These pesticides have not been detected in Ontario drinking water for at least 10 years and have been removed from the list of drinking water standards and the list of organic chemical testing requirements:

Aldicarb
Aldrin + Dieldrin
Bendiocarb
Chlordane (total)
Cyanazine
Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) + metabolites
Dinoseb
Heptachlor + Heptachlor Epoxide
Lindane (total)
Methoxychlor
Parathion
Temephos
2,4,5 – Trichlorophenoxy acetic acid (2,4,5-T)

2. Addition of 2 methyl-4-chlorophenoxyacetic acid (MCPA)

You will need to include the test for MCPA when you are scheduled to test for Schedule 24 organic chemical parameters (once every one, three, or five years depending on your system and source).

You need to submit a Laboratory Services Notification (LSN) form to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) to indicate the licensed laboratory that will be testing your MCPA samples. You must submit this form before your Schedule 24 sampling cycle date. Email the form to LSB.Reg170 LSB@ontario.ca.

If you are unable to get MCPA included with the rest of the Schedule 24 parameters by your normal sample date for the first test cycle following January 1, 2016, the MCPA test can still be carried out separately as long as it is done prior to the end of the first, third, or fifth calendar year, depending on your system and source.

Click here for a list of Ontario Licensed Laboratories.

3. New sampling, testing and reporting requirements for trihalomethanes (THMs)

a) Calculating and Reporting THM samples

Laboratories are no longer responsible for calculating a drinking water system's running annual average (RAA). You will be responsible for calculating the RAA and reporting it to the ministry.

You will be required to calculate a new RAA and notify existing authorities of any adverse test results within seven days of the end of every calendar quarter. You will no longer be required to make contact with existing authorities by telephone for a THM report.

Resamples will no longer be required as part of the prescribed corrective actions for adverse results for THMs because multiple test results are already used in calculating the THM RAA.

How to calculate the Running Annual Average (RAA) for THMs

Starting January 1, 2016, a new calculation method for THMs will come into effect. The Ontario standard for THMs is 0.100 mg/L, expressed as a RAA of quarterly testing results.

The quarters are defined as:

- January 1st to March 31st
- April 1st to June 30th
- July 1st to September 30th
- October 1st to December 31st

The **RAA of calendar quarterly results** for THM must be calculated each calendar quarter using the following formula:

$$[A+B+C+D] \div 4$$

"A" is the average of all* the results from the samples tested in that calendar quarter

"B" is the average of all* the results from the samples tested in the calendar quarter immediately after "A"

"C" is the average of all* the results from the samples tested in the calendar quarter immediately after "B"

"D" is the average of all* the results from the samples tested in the calendar quarter immediately after "C"

*If more than one test is taken in a quarter, the previous calculation **using only the highest THM sample result will be invalid**. All THM sample results must be used to determine the new average value for each calendar quarter.

b) Reduced THM sampling schedule for small systems

A reduced THM sampling schedule will be available to small municipal and non-municipal year round residential systems. If none of your system's THM sample results from the last 12 consecutive calendar quarters exceed half of the THM standard (0.100 mg/L), you will not need to submit THM samples for the next eight consecutive quarters.

Following eight consecutive quarters without sampling, THM samples must be submitted for four consecutive quarters to establish your reduced sampling schedule of every third year.

Once on the reduced schedule, if your system's treatment equipment, water chemistry, or water source changes at any time, contact the ministry to determine if you are still eligible..

Additional future changes:

January 1, 2017:

- New testing requirements for HAAs
- Updated standards for carbon tetrachloride, benzene, vinyl chloride, chlorate, chlorite and MCPA

January 1, 2018:

- Updated standard for arsenic

January 1, 2020:

- New standard for HAAs and reporting requirements along with an opportunity for reduced sampling of HAAs for smaller systems

For additional information please contact your local water inspector or the [Public Information Centre](#).

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