

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Chloral hydrate

History of guideline development

The 1958, 1963 and 1971 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* and the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, did not refer to chloral hydrate. The 1993 Guidelines established a provisional health-based guideline value of 0.01 mg/l for chloral hydrate in drinking-water. The guideline value was designated as provisional because of the limitations of the available database, necessitating the use of an uncertainty factor of 10 000. This guideline value was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines. In the first addendum to the third edition of the Guidelines, it was concluded that it was not necessary to derive a guideline value for chloral hydrate because it usually occurs in drinking-water at concentrations well below those at which toxic effects are observed. This assessment was brought forward to the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.