Response form for public review

**Document title: PFOS and PFOA in Drinking-water,** ***Draft background document for development of WHO Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality***

**Author:** World Health Organization

**Background**

One of the primary goals of WHO and its member states is that “all people, whatever their stage of development and their social and economic conditions, have the right to have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water.” A major WHO function to achieve such goals is the responsibility “to propose ... regulations, and to make recommendations with respect to international health matters ....”

The first WHO document dealing specifically with public drinking-water quality was published in 1958 as *International Standards for Drinking-water*. It was subsequently revised in 1963 and in 1971 under the same title. In 1984–1985, the first edition of the WHO *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* (GDWQ) was published in three volumes: Volume 1, Recommendations; Volume 2, Health criteria and other supporting information; and Volume 3, Surveillance and control of community supplies. Second editions of these volumes were published in 1993, 1996 and 1997,

respectively. Addenda to Volumes 1 and 2 of the second edition were published in 1998, addressing selected chemicals. An addendum on microbiological aspects reviewing selected microorganisms was published in 2002. In 2004, Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the GDWQ were revised, combined and published as the 3rd edition of the GDWQ. Following a further revision and publication of addenda, the 4th edition of the GDWQ was published in 2011 and the 1st addendum to the 4th edition was published in 2017.

The GDWQ are subject to a rolling revision process. Through this process, microbial, chemical and radiological aspects of drinking-water are subject to periodic review, and documentation related to aspects of protection and control of public drinking-water quality is accordingly prepared/updated. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), have not previously been considered in the WHO GDWQ nor the *International Standards for Drinking-Water.* These compounds are currently being considered for inclusion in the 3rd addendum to the 4th edition of the GDWQ, for publication in Q4 of 2022 or Q1 of 2023.

**Public review process**

As part of the GDWQ document preparation and adoption process, all chemical background documents are subject to international peer and public review. Please note that comments provided will not be posted to the public web site. The details given on the comment form will not be voluntarily shared or sold to any outside company and will only be used for verification. Please note that WHO reserves the right to contact reviewers in case comments require further clarification. By submitting ideas and comments in response to this questionnaire, you agree to abide by the instructions and accept the terms to which submissions are subject in all respects.

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As a sign of recognition for your work, all reviewers that have given their consent, will be acknowledged in the final background document to the GDWQ.

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