

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Parathion

History of guideline development

The 1958 and 1963 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* did not refer to parathion, but the 1971 International Standards suggested that pesticide residues that may occur in community water supplies make only a minimal contribution to the total daily intake of pesticides for the population served. Parathion was not evaluated in the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, in the second edition, published in 1993, or in the addendum to the second edition, published in 1998. In the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, it was concluded that as the health-based value was much higher than parathion concentrations likely to be found in drinking-water, the presence of parathion in drinking-water under usual conditions would be unlikely to represent a hazard to human health, and a guideline value for parathion was not deemed necessary. This assessment was brought forward to the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.