

## HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

### 12. Chemical fact sheets

#### 12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

##### Xylenes

##### ***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 xylenes. The 1993 Guidelines proposed a health-based guideline value of 0.5 mg/l for xylenes, noting that this value exceeds the lowest reported odour threshold for xylenes in drinking-water (0.02 mg/l). This guideline value was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004, and the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011.