OVERVIEW OF PFAS DRINKING WATER RULES

ABOUT PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, are contaminants of emerging concern. PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that are fire resistant and repel oil, stains, grease, and water. They have been widely used in fire-fighting foams, stain repellants, nonstick cookware, waterproof clothing and shoes, fast food wrappers, personal care products, and many other consumer goods. PFAS chemicals are very persistent, meaning that they do not easily break down in the environment.

PFAS in Drinking Water

These chemicals are widely used and can ultimately move into our groundwater and surface waters such as lakes, rivers, and streams. Some public water supplies obtain their water from groundwater, some from surface waters, and some from a blend of groundwater and surface water sources. Approximately 75 percent of Michigan residents get their drinking water from a community water supply.

NEW PFAS RULES

In October 2019, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) submitted draft PFAS drinking water rules to Governor Whitmer. The final rules took effect of August 3, 2020. These rules amend current drinking water rules by establishing maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and sampling requirements for seven PFAS compounds, affecting approximately 2,700 water supplies in Michigan.

Seven PFAS Compounds Regulated under the Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act

The following table lists the seven regulated PFAS compounds and their associated MCLs.

Contaminant	MCL (ng/L)*
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	6
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	8
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	16
Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	51
Hexafluoropropylene Oxide Dimer Acid (HFPO-DA)	370
Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (PFBS)	420
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA)	400,000

*ng/L = Nanogram/liter

PFAS Monitoring Requirements for Public Water Supplies

The standard monitoring schedule for community and nontransient noncommunity public water supplies is quarterly. A water supply must sample quarterly if a contaminant is detected above the reporting limit in any sample. A supply may be reduced to annual monitoring based on satisfactory results of prior sampling.

Determining a Public Water Supply's Compliance with a PFAS MCL

Compliance with a PFAS MCL is based on the running annual average at each sampling point. A supply is not in violation until either one year of quarterly sampling has been completed or fewer samples cause the running annual average to exceed an MCL. If a supply fails to collect all required quarterly samples, compliance is based on the running annual average of the samples collected. If the supply is determined to be out of compliance with a PFAS MCL, the supply must notify the public within 30 days.

Additional Information

For more information, visit Michigan.gov/PFASDrinkingWaterRules.
Additional information about PFAS can be found by visiting Michigan.gov/PFASresponse.