

Providing Drinking Water Safely

Ontario's regulatory approach

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Drowning Prevention

- Provide safety information
 - Supervision
 - Lifejackets

Food Transportation and Storage

For transport or storage,

- keep food tightly covered in clean food containers or single-use food bags, wraps or foil.

Transporting hot food

- use insulated thermal containers or wrap it in foil and cover with heavy towels. Include a thermometer to check that the food stays at 60°C (140°F) or hotter.

Transporting cold food

- use a cooler with ice or frozen gel packs. Include a thermometer to check that the food stays at 4°C (40°F) or colder.

Safety with Drinking Water

- Potable
- Can be made potable
- Restriction of use

Regulatory Commitments

Commitments to the manner in which Ontarians wish to operate is often found in existing regulations.

- New regulations
 - often carry forward the basic reasoning behind existing regulations
 - or work in conjunction with existing regulations

Food Premises, Regulation 562

Pre - 1960

- Supply of “**potable**” water adequate for the operation of the premises
- Running water under pressure in areas where food is processed and utensils washed

Recreational Camps, Regulation 568

Pre – 1970

- Water supply is from a source approved by the medical officer of health
- “potable”
- may require operator to treat the water

Camps in Unorganized Territory, Reg. 554

Pre – 1970

- Water supply is from a source approved by the medical officer of health
- “potable”
- If not under pressure provided in sanitary containers with a pouring faucet

Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 10

2003

- Despite any other Act, a requirement that water be “**potable**”
 - in any Act, regulation, order or by-law
 - shall be deemed to be a requirement to meet prescribed drinking water quality standards

Drinking Water Systems, O. Reg. 170/03

- Surface water requires treatment to make it “potable”
- Posting option could alter need for treatment or sampling and testing

Posting option restrictions

- no electrical power
- not at a food service establishment

Small Drinking Water Systems Public Consultation

Members of the northern and tourist community pointed out

- Best protection in some case may be through posting
- Only one health dollar and it may be better spent providing protection in ways other through mechanical means

Small Drinking Water Systems Regulation 319/08

- List of basic requirements
- Some not activated until a date set
- Requirements can be added, altered, allowed through a “directive”
- Local Medical Officer of Health may vary parts of the regulation or in accordance with their opinion direct posting allowances

Additional Requirements

- Must be spelled out in a “directive” document
- Determined to be necessary in consideration with
 - a risk assessment,
 - the regulations,
 - Ontario Public Health Standards, Protocols and Guidance documents
 - Opinion of the medical officer of health
- Reviewable by the medical officer of health

Variations

The medical officer of health may on a temporary bases alter requirements for

- maintenance
- training
- reporting
- treatment
- sampling and testing

Posting

For posting to be allowed it must be in line with the local medical officer's of health opinion that

- Access to the system is sufficiently restricted
- Risk to the users of the system is acceptable
- Or for specific service connection may be subject to post treatment or distribution contamination

- Questions?
- Discussion
- Comments

Contact information

- Handouts with contact information for the local boards of health offices.
 - This information can also be obtained from the Ministry's website
 - http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/contact/phu/phuloc_mn.html
-
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Potable Water

Safe to put in a pot for the eventual purposes of consumption

- Free from poisons/chemicals
- Free from debris/objects
- Free from disease organism or would be once boiled

Meets Drinking Water Quality Standards

319/08 Activation

- A directive must be issued to all existing system in order for the regulation to apply
- A date must be specified for the activation of section 16, treatment of surface water