



Mexico's National Drinking Water Quality Standards

Organoleptic and Physical Characteristics

#	Characteristic	Permissible Limit
1	Colour	20 units of true color in the platinum-cobalt scale
2	Odour and taste	Agreeable (will be accepted those that are tolerable for the majority of consumers, provided that they are not the result of conditions objectionable from the biological or chemical point of view)
3	Turbidity	5 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) or its equivalent in another method

Microbiological Characteristics

#	Characteristic	Permissible Limit
1	Total coliform organisms	Absence or non-detectable
2	<i>E. Coli</i> or fecal coliforms or thermotolerant organisms	Absence or non-detectable

*) Official Mexican Standard NOM-127-SSA1-1994





Chemical characteristics

#	Characteristic	Permissible Limit
1	Aluminum	0.20 mg/l
2	Arsenic ¹	0.05 mg/l
3	Barium	0.70 mg/l
4	Cadmium	0.005 mg/l
5	Cyanides (such as CN)	0.07 mg/l
6	Free residual chlorine	0.2-1.50 mg/l
7	Chlorides (as Cl)	250.00 mg/l
8	Copper	2.00 mg/l
9	Total chromium	0.05 mg/l
10	Total Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	500.00 mg/l
11	Phenols or phenolic compounds	0.3 mg/l
12	Iron	0.30 mg/l
13	Fluorides (as F)	1.50 mg/l

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	Aromatic hydrocarbons:	
14	Benzene	10.00 mg/l
15	Ethylbenzene	300.00 mg/l
16	Toluene	700.00 mg/l
17	Xylene (three isomers)	500.00 mg/l
18	Manganese	0.15 mg/l
19	Mercury	0.001 mg/l
20	Nitrates (such as N)	10.00 mg/l
21	Nitrites (as N)	1.00 mg/l
22	Ammoniacal nitrogen (as N)	0.50 mg/l
23	pH	6.5-8.5 pH units
	Pesticides:	
24	Aldrin and dieldrin (separated or combined)	0.03 mg/l
25	Chlordane (total isomers)	0.20 mg/l
26	DDT (total isomers)	1.00 mg/l
27	Gamma-HCH (lindane)	2.00 mg/l
28	Hexachlorobenzene	1.00 mg/l

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29	Heptachlor and heptachlor epoxide	0.03 mg/l
30	Methoxychlor	20.00 mg/l
31	2,4-D	30.00 mg/l
32	Lead	0.01 mg/l
33	Sodium	200.00 mg/l
34	Total dissolved solids	1000.00 mg/l
35	Sulfates (as SO ₄)	400.00 mg/l
36	Methylene blue active substances	0.50 mg/l
37	Total trihalomethanes	0.20 mg/l
38	Free residual iodine	0.2-0.5 mg/l
39	Zinc	5.00 mg/l

NOTES

1 The allowable limit for arsenic shall be adjusted annually, in accordance with the following table

Permissible limit, mg/l	Year
0.045	2001
0.040	2002
0.035	2003
0.030	2004
0.025	2005

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Radioactive Characteristics

#	Characteristic	Permissible Limit
1	Global alpha radioactivity	0.56 Bq/l
2	Global beta radioactivity	1.85 Bq/l

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