

Improvements to the Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O.Reg. 170/03) for Systems Serving Designated Facilities

Safe drinking water is a priceless resource and everyone's responsibility, and the McGuinty government has listened to the concerns of drinking water system owners in Ontario. As part of its overall plan for clean, safe and affordable drinking water, the government has delivered on its promise to make the Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03 made under the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*) more workable and affordable. The changes to this regulation improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the rules for the municipal and private residential systems that provide water to our homes, and for the small systems serving schools, day cares, and health/social care facilities which take care of our children, the sick and the elderly. This is good news for owners and operators of these regulated systems, and should help them to continue to play their role as providers of safe drinking water.

Ontario Regulation 170/03 applies to various types of drinking water systems, including systems that serve a designated facility such as a school, day care, or health/social care facility. The changes below apply to systems that serve designated facilities that are not municipal residential systems. If your system is a municipal residential system or a non-municipal year-round residential system that does not serve a designated facility, please refer to the appropriate information sheet at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/sdwa/dwsr.htm.

Highlights for Systems Serving Designated Facilities

Testing:

- Less frequent testing (twice weekly) of chlorine residual in water distribution systems;
- Clearer testing requirements for bacteria and less frequent testing following the required installation of treatment equipment;
- Clearer definitions of terms such as weekly, bi-weekly and monthly to remove confusion.

Treatment:

- Improved flexibility for engineers allowing supervised persons to visit system, and eliminating 5 or 10 year return visits;
- Point-of-entry treatment equipment continues to be allowed;
- Improved flexibility for dispatching operators to equipment problems where automatic shut-offs are already in place.

Corrective Action:

- Clearer and less drastic corrective actions in response to adverse water quality to better focus on appropriate measures when there may be a risk to drinking water;
- Clearer direction on adverse conditions and corrective action related to low chlorine residual in the distribution system.

For more information, including additional examples of designated facilities, please refer to the document titled "Providing Safe Drinking Water to the Public – A Guide for Owners and Operators of Systems Serving Designated Facilities", available through the ministry's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923 or the ministry website, www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/sdwa/dwsr.htm