

Fact Sheet Date: March 12, 1998

**NEW YORK STATE
- HUMAN HEALTH FACT SHEET -**

**Ambient Water Quality Value for
Protection of Sources of Potable Water**

SUBSTANCE: Trimethylbenzenes	CAS REGISTRY NUMBERS: 25551-13-7
(1,2,3-Trimethylbenzene;	526-73-8
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene;	95-63-6
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene)	108-67-8

AMBIENT WATER QUALITY VALUE: 5 ug/L*

Remarks: *Applies to each isomer individually.

BASIS:	Surface Water:	Principal Organic Contaminant Classes
	Groundwater:	Former Reference to 10 NYCRR Subpart 5-1 Principal Organic Contaminant (POC) General Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

New York State developed a guidance value for trimethylbenzenes in water of 50 ug/L based on a review of literature up to 1984 (NYS, 1985). This was based on section 701.15(e) of 6 NYCRR that describes a general value of 50 ug/L when the database is inadequate to derive a specific value. Recent assessments (1983-1989) of health effects have been reviewed (NTP, 1989; USEPA, 1990; USEPA, 1987).

Very little data exist on the health effects of chronic oral exposure to trimethylbenzenes, either in humans or animals (USEPA, 1987; USEPA, 1990). A search of the literature revealed no studies adequate for derivation of a guidance value. Trimethylbenzenes have not been recommended for bioassay testing (NTP, 1989).

DERIVATION OF VALUE

Surface Water

Regulations [6 NYCRR 702.2(b)] require that the value be the most stringent of the values derived using the procedures found in sections 702.3 through 702.7. The principal organic contaminant class value of 5 ug/L (702.3(b)) represents the most stringent value that can be derived for each of 1,2,3-, 1,2,4- and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene. Therefore, the ambient surface water quality value for each of 1,2,3-, 1,2,4- and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene is 5 ug/L.

Groundwater

The principal organic contaminant (POC) groundwater standard of 5 ug/L (6 NYCRR 703.5) applies to each of 1,2,3-, 1,2,4- and 1,3,5-trimethylbenzene individually. This standard became effective on January 9, 1989 by inclusion by reference to 10 NYCRR Subpart 5-1 standards. The basis and derivation of the POC standard are described in a separate fact sheet.

REFERENCES

NTP, 1989. National Toxicology Program. Review of Current DHHS, DOE and EPA Research Related to Toxicology. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Research Triangle Park, NC.

U.S. EPA, 1990. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Database. Office of Health and Environmental Assessment. Washington, D.C.

U.S. EPA, 1987. Health Effects Assessment for Trimethylbenzenes. Environmental Criteria and Assessment Office, Cincinnati, OH.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water
AS
July 17, 1990