

Presented below are water quality standards that are in effect for Clean Water Act purposes.

EPA is posting these standards as a convenience to users and has made a reasonable effort to assure their accuracy. Additionally, EPA has made a reasonable effort to identify parts of the standards that are not approved, disapproved, or are otherwise not in effect for Clean Water Act purposes.

February 14, 2025

WAC 173-201A-240(5)(b), Table 240: Aquatic Life Criteria

Effective December 20, 2024

Please note that this table shows current aquatic life criteria in effect for Clean Water Act (CWA) purposes. Please refer to Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington, Chapter 173-201A WAC on the repository website for human health criteria in effect for CWA purposes.

Table 240

Toxics Substances Criteria

Compound/Chemical	Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)#	Category	Aquatic Life Criteria - Freshwater		Aquatic Life Criteria - Marine Water	
			Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic
Metals:						
Antimony	7440360	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	-	-	-	-
Arsenic	7440382	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	360.0 (c,dd)	190.0 (d,dd)	69.0 (c,ll,dd)	36.0 (d,cc,ll,dd)
Asbestos	1332214	Toxic pollutants and hazardous substances	-	-	-	-
Beryllium	7440417	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	-	-	-	-
Cadmium	7440439	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(i,c,dd)	(j,d,dd)	42.0 (c,dd)	9.3 (d,dd)
Chromium (III)	16065831	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(m,c,gg)	(n,d,gg)	-	-
Chromium (VI)	18540299	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	15.0 (c,l,ii,dd)	10.0 (d,jj,dd)	1,100.0 (c,l,ll,dd)	50.0 (d,ll,dd)
Copper	7440508	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(o,c,dd)	(p,d,dd)	4.8 (c,ll,dd)	3.1 (d,ll,dd)
Lead	7439921	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(q,c,dd)	(r,d,dd)	210.0 (c,ll,dd)	8.1 (d,ll,dd)
Mercury	7439976	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	2.1 (c,kk,dd)	0.012 (d,ff,s)	1.8 (c,ll,dd)	0.025 (d,ff,s)
Methylmercury	22967926	Nonconventional	-	-	-	-
Nickel	7440020	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(t,c,dd)	(u,d,dd)	74.0 (c,ll,dd)	8.2 (d,ll,dd)
Selenium	7782492	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	20.0 (c,ff)	5.0 (d,ff)	290 (c,ll,dd)	71.0 (d,x,ll,dd)

Compound/Chemical	Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)#	Category	Aquatic Life Criteria - Freshwater		Aquatic Life Criteria - Marine Water	
			Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic
Silver	7440224	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(y,a,dd)	-	1.9 (a,ll,dd)	-
Thallium	7440280	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	-	-	-	-
Zinc	7440666	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	(aa,c,dd)	(bb,d,dd)	90.0 (c,ll,dd)	81.0 (d,ll,dd)
Other chemicals:						
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	71556	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	79345	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	79005	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,1-Dichloroethane	75343	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,1-Dichloroethylene	75354	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	120821	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	95501	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,2-Dichloroethane	107062	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,2-Dichloropropane	78875	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,3-Dichloropropene	542756	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	122667	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
1,2-Trans-Dichloroethylene	156605	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	541731	Volatile	-	-	-	-
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	106467	Volatile	-	-	-	-
2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin)	1746016	Dioxin	-	-	-	-
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	88062	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
2,4-Dichlorophenol	120832	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
2,4-Dimethylphenol	105679	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
2,4-Dinitrophenol	51285	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	121142	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
2,6-Dinitrotoluene	606202	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
2-Chloroethyvinyl Ether	110758	Volatile	-	-	-	-
2-Chloronaphthalene	91587	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
2-Chlorophenol	95578	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
2-Methyl-4,6-Dinitrophenol (4,6-dinitro-o-cresol)	534521	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-

Compound/Chemical	Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)#	Category	Aquatic Life Criteria - Freshwater		Aquatic Life Criteria - Marine Water	
			Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic
2-Nitrophenol	88755	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
3,3'-Dichlorobenzidine	91941	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
3-Methyl-4-Chlorophenol (parachlorometa cresol)	59507	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
4,4'-DDD	72548	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
4,4'-DDE	72559	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
4,4'-DDT	50293	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
4,4'-DDT(and metabolites)		Pesticides/PC Bs	1.1 (a)	0.001 (b)	0.13 (a)	0.001 (b)
4-Bromophenyl Phenyl Ether	101553	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
4-Chorophenyl Phenyl Ether	7005723	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
4-Nitrophenol	100027	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
Acenaphthene	83329	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Acenaphthylene	208968	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Acrolein	107028	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Acrylonitrile	107131	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Aldrin	309002	Pesticides/PC Bs	2.5 (a,e)	0.0019 (b,e)	0.71 (a,e)	0.0019 (b,e)
alpha-BHC	319846	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
alpha-Endosulfan	959988	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
Anthracene	120127	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Benzene	71432	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Benzidine	92875	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Benzo(a) Anthracene	56553	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Benzo(a) Pyrene	50328	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Benzo(b) Fluoranthene	205992	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Benzo(ghi) Perylene	191242	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Benzo(k) Fluoranthene	207089	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
beta-BHC	319857	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
beta-Endosulfan	33213659	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-

Compound/Chemical	Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)#	Category	Aquatic Life Criteria - Freshwater		Aquatic Life Criteria - Marine Water	
			Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic
Bis(2-Chloroethoxy) Methane	111911	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Bis(2-Chloroethyl) Ether	111444	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Bis(2-Chloroisopropyl) Ether	39638329	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Bis(2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate	117817	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Bromoform	75252	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Butylbenzyl Phthalate	85687	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Carbon Tetrachloride	56235	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Chlordane	57749	Pesticides/PC Bs	2.4 (a)	0.0043 (b)	0.09 (a)	0.004 (b)
Chlorobenzene	108907	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Chlorodibromomethane	124481	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Chloroethane	75003	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Chloroform	67663	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Chrysene	218019	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Cyanide	57125	Metals, cyanide, and total phenols	22.0 (c,ee)	5.2 (d,ee)	1.0 (c,mm,ee)	(d,mm,ee)
delta-BHC	319868	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
Dibenzo(a,h) Anthracene	53703	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Dichlorobromomethane	75274	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Dieldrin	60571	Pesticides/PC Bs	2.5 (a,e)	0.0019 (b,e)	0.71 (a,e)	0.0019 (b,e)
Diethyl Phthalate	84662	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Dimethyl Phthalate	131113	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Di-n-Butyl Phthalate	84742	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Di-n-Octyl Phthalate	117840	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Endosulfan		Pesticides/PC Bs	0.22 (a)	0.056 (b)	0.034 (a)	0.0087 (b)
Endosulfan Sulfate	1031078	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
Endrin	72208	Pesticides/PC Bs	0.18 (a)	0.0023 (b)	0.037 (a)	0.0023 (b)
Endrin Aldehyde	7421934	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
Ethylbenzene	100414	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Fluoranthene	206440	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Fluorene	86737	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-

Compound/Chemical	Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)#	Category	Aquatic Life Criteria - Freshwater		Aquatic Life Criteria - Marine Water	
			Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic
Hexachlorocyclohexane (gamma-BHC; Lindane)	58899	Pesticides/PC Bs	2.0 (a)	0.08 (b)	0.16 (a)	-
Heptachlor	76448	Pesticides/PC Bs	0.52 (a)	0.0038 (b)	0.053 (a)	0.0036 (b)
Heptachlor Epoxide	1024573	Pesticides/PC Bs	-	-	-	-
Hexachlorobenzene	118741	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Hexachlorobutadiene	87683	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	77474	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Hexachloroethane	67721	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Indeno(1,2,3-cd) Pyrene	193395	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Isophorone	78591	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Methyl Bromide	74839	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Methyl Chloride	74873	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Methylene Chloride	75092	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Napthalene	91203	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Nitrobenzene	98953	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
N-Nitrosodimethylamine	62759	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
N-Nitrosodi-n-Propylamine	621647	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
N-Nitrosodiphenylamine	86306	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Pentachlorophenol (PCP)	87865	Acid compounds	(w,c)	(v,d)	13.0 (c)	7.9 (d)
Phenanthrene	85018	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Phenol	108952	Acid compounds	-	-	-	-
Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)		Pesticides/PC Bs	2.0 (b)	0.014 (b)	10.0 (b)	0.030 (b)
Pyrene	129000	Base/neutral compounds	-	-	-	-
Tetrachloroethylene	127184	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Toluene	108883	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Toxaphene	8001352	Pesticides/PC Bs	0.73 (c,z)	0.0002 (d)	0.21 (c,z)	0.0002 (d)
Trichloroethylene	79016	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Vinyl Chloride	75014	Volatile	-	-	-	-
Ammonia (hh)		Nonconventional	(f,c)	(g,d)	0.233 (h,c)	0.035 (h,d)
Chloride (dissolved) (k)		Nonconventional	860.0 (h,c)	230.0 (h,d)	-	-

Compound/Chemical	Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS)#	Category	Aquatic Life Criteria - Freshwater		Aquatic Life Criteria - Marine Water	
			Acute	Chronic	Acute	Chronic
Chlorine (total residual)		Nonconventional	19.0 (c)	11.0 (d)	13.0 (c)	7.5 (d)
Chlorpyrifos		Toxic pollutants and hazardous substances	0.083 (c)	0.041 (d)	0.011 (c)	0.0056 (d)
Parathion		Toxic pollutants and hazardous substances	0.065 (c)	0.013 (d)	-	-

Footnotes for aquatic life criteria in Table 240:

- An instantaneous concentration not to be exceeded at any time.
- A 24-hour average not to be exceeded.
- A 1-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more than once every three years on the average.
- A 4-day average concentration not to be exceeded more than once every three years on the average.
- Aldrin is metabolically converted to Dieldrin. Therefore, the sum of the Aldrin and Dieldrin concentrations are compared with the Dieldrin criteria.
- Shall not exceed the numerical value in total ammonia nitrogen (mg N/L) given by:

$$\text{For salmonids present: } \frac{0.275}{1 + 10^{7.204-pH}} + \frac{39.0}{1 + 10^{pH-7.204}}$$

$$\text{For salmonids absent: } \frac{0.411}{1 + 10^{7.204-pH}} + \frac{58.4}{1 + 10^{pH-7.204}}$$

- Shall not exceed the numerical concentration calculated as follows:

Unionized ammonia concentration for waters where salmonid habitat is an existing or designated use:

$$0.80 \div (FT)(FPH)(RATIO)$$

where: RATIO = 13.5; $7.7 \leq pH \leq 9$

$$RATIO = \frac{(20.25 \times 10^{(7.7-pH)})}{\leq 7.7} \div (1 + 10^{(7.4-pH)}); 6.5 \leq pH$$

$$FT = 1.4; 15 \leq T \leq 30$$

$$FT = 10^{[0.03(20-T)]}; 0 \leq T \leq 15$$

$$FPH = 1; 8 \leq pH \leq 9$$

$$FPH = (1 + 10^{(7.4-pH)}) \div 1.25; 6.5 \leq pH \leq 8.0$$

Total ammonia concentrations for waters where salmonid habitat is not an existing or

designated use and other fish early life stages are absent:

$$\text{Chronic Criterion} = \left(\frac{0.0577}{1 + 10^{7.688-pH}} + \frac{2.487}{1 + 10^{pH-7.688}} \right) \times (1.45 \times 10^{0.028(25-A)})$$

where: A = the greater of either T (temperature in degrees Celsius) or 7.

Applied as a thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg N/L) not

to be exceeded more than once every three years on average. The highest four-day average

within the thirty-day period should not exceed 2.5 times the chronic criterion.

Total ammonia concentration for waters where salmonid habitat is not an existing or

designated use and other fish early life stages are present:

$$\text{Chronic Criterion} = \left(\frac{0.0577}{1 + 10^{7.688 - pH}} + \frac{2.487}{1 + 10^{pH - 7.688}} \right) \times B$$

where: B = the lower of either 2.85, or $1.45 \times 10^{0.028 \times (25 - T)}$. T = temperature in degrees Celsius.

Applied as a thirty-day average concentration of total ammonia nitrogen (in mg N/L) not to be exceeded more than once every three years on the average. The highest four-day average within the thirty-day period should not exceed 2.5 times the chronic criterion.

- h. Measured in milligrams per liter rather than micrograms per liter.
- i. $\leq (0.944)(e^{(1.128[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 3.828)})$ at hardness = 100. Conversion factor (CF) of 0.944 is hardness dependent. CF is calculated for other hardnesses as follows: $CF = 1.136672 - [(\ln \text{ hardness})(0.041838)]$.
- j. $\leq (0.909)(e^{(0.7852[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 3.490)})$ at hardness = 100. Conversion factor (CF) of 0.909 is hardness dependent. CF is calculated for other hardnesses as follows: $CF = 1.101672 - [(\ln \text{ hardness})(0.041838)]$.
- k. Criterion based on dissolved chloride in association with sodium. This criterion probably will not be adequately protective when the chloride is associated with potassium, calcium, or magnesium, rather than sodium.
- l. Salinity dependent effects. At low salinity the 1-hour average may not be sufficiently protective.
- m. $\leq (0.316)(e^{(0.8190[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 3.688)})$
- n. $\leq (0.860)(e^{(0.8190[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 1.561)})$
- o. $\leq (0.960)(e^{(0.9422[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 1.464)})$
- p. $\leq (0.960)(e^{(0.8545[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 1.465)})$
- q. $\leq (0.791)(e^{(1.273[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 1.460)})$ at hardness = 100. Conversion factor (CF) of 0.791 is hardness dependent. CF is calculated for other hardnesses as follows: $CF = 1.46203 - [(\ln \text{ hardness})(0.145712)]$.
- r. $\leq (0.791)(e^{(1.273[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 4.705)})$ at hardness = 100. Conversion factor (CF) of 0.791 is hardness dependent. CF is calculated for other hardnesses as follows: $CF = 1.46203 - [(\ln \text{ hardness})(0.145712)]$.
- s. If the four-day average chronic concentration is exceeded more than once in a three-year period, the edible portion of the consumed species should be analyzed. Said edible tissue concentrations shall not be allowed to exceed 1.0 mg/kg of methylmercury.
- t. $\leq (0.998)(e^{(0.8460[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 3.3612)})$
- u. $\leq (0.997)(e^{(0.8460[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 1.1645)})$
- v. $\leq e^{[1.005(\text{pH}) - 5.290]}$
- w. $\leq e^{[1.005(\text{pH}) - 4.830]}$
- x. The status of the fish community should be monitored whenever the concentration of selenium exceeds 5.0 ug/ l in salt water.
- y. $\leq (0.85)(e^{(1.72[\ln(\text{hardness})] - 6.52)})$
- z. Channel Catfish may be more acutely sensitive.
- aa. $\leq (0.978)(e^{(0.8473[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 0.8604)})$
- bb. $\leq (0.986)(e^{(0.8473[\ln(\text{hardness})] + 0.7614)})$
- cc. Nonlethal effects (growth, C-14 uptake, and chlorophyll production) to diatoms (*Thalassiosira aestivalis* and *Skeletonema costatum*) which are common to Washington's waters have been noted at levels below the established criteria. The importance of these effects to the diatom populations and the aquatic system is sufficiently in question to persuade the state to adopt the USEPA National Criteria value (36 µg/L) as the state threshold criteria, however, wherever practical the ambient concentrations should not be allowed to exceed a chronic marine concentration of 21 µg/L.

- dd. These ambient criteria in the table are for the dissolved fraction. The cyanide criteria are based on the weak acid dissociable method. The metals criteria may not be used to calculate total recoverable effluent limits unless the seasonal partitioning of the dissolved to total metals in the ambient water are known. When this information is absent, these metals criteria shall be applied as total recoverable values, determined by back-calculation, using the conversion factors incorporated in the criterion equations. Metals criteria may be adjusted on a site-specific basis when data are made available to the department clearly demonstrating the effective use of the water effects ratio approach established by USEPA, as generally guided by the procedures in USEPA Water Quality Standards Handbook, December 1983, as supplemented or replaced by USEPA or ecology. The adjusted site specific criteria are not in effect until they have been incorporated into this chapter and approved by EPA. Information which is used to develop effluent limits based on applying metals partitioning studies or the water effects ratio approach shall be identified in the permit fact sheet developed pursuant to WAC 173-220-060 or 173-226-110, as appropriate, and shall be made available for the public comment period required pursuant to WAC 173-220-050 or 173-226-130(3), as appropriate. Ecology has developed supplemental guidance for conducting water effect ratio studies.
- ee. The criteria for cyanide is based on the weak acid dissociable method in the 19th Ed. Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 4500-CN I, and as revised (see footnote dd, above).
- ff. These criteria are based on the total-recoverable fraction of the metal.
- gg. Where methods to measure trivalent chromium are unavailable, these criteria are to be represented by total-recoverable chromium.
- hh. The listed fresh water criteria are based on un-ionized or total ammonia concentrations, while those for marine water are based on un-ionized ammonia concentrations. Tables for the conversion of total ammonia to un-ionized ammonia for freshwater can be found in the USEPA's Quality Criteria for Water, 1986. Criteria concentrations based on total ammonia for marine water can be found in USEPA Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Ammonia (Saltwater)-1989, EPA440/5-88-004, April 1989.
- ii. The conversion factor used to calculate the dissolved metal concentration was 0.982.
- jj. The conversion factor used to calculate the dissolved metal concentration was 0.962.
- kk. The conversion factor used to calculate the dissolved metal concentration was 0.85.
- ll. Marine conversion factors (CF) which were used for calculating dissolved metals concentrations are given below. Conversion factors are applicable to both acute and chronic criteria for all metals except mercury. The CF for mercury was applied to the acute criterion only and is not applicable to the chronic criterion. Conversion factors are already incorporated into the criteria in the table. Dissolved criterion = criterion x CF

Metal	CF
Arsenic	1.000
Cadmium	0.994
Chromium (VI)	0.993
Copper	0.83
Lead	0.951
Mercury	0.85
Nickel	0.990
Selenium	0.998
Silver	0.85
Zinc	0.946

- mm. The cyanide criteria are: 2.8µg/l chronic and 9.1µg/l acute and are applicable only to waters which are east of a line from Point Roberts to Lawrence Point, to Green Point to Deception Pass; and south from Deception Pass and of a line from Partridge Point to Point Wilson. The chronic criterion applicable to the remainder of the marine waters is 1 µg/L.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 90.48.035 and 40 C.F.R. 131.20. WSR 20-02-091 (Order 19-02), § 173-201A-240, filed 12/30/19, effective 1/30/20. Statutory Authority: RCW 90.48.035, 90.48.605 and section 303(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act), C.F.R. 40, C.F.R. 131. WSR 16-16-095 (Order

12-03), § 173-201A-240, filed 8/1/16, effective 9/1/16.
Statutory Authority: RCW 90.48.035. WSR 11-09-090 (Order 10-10),
§ 173-201A-240, filed 4/20/11, effective 5/21/11; WSR 06-23-117
(Order 06-04), § 173-201A-240, filed 11/20/06, effective
12/21/06. Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.48 and 90.54 RCW. WSR
03-14-129 (Order 02-14), amended and recodified as § 173-201A-
240, filed 7/1/03, effective 8/1/03. Statutory Authority:
Chapter 90.48 RCW and 40 C.F.R. 131. WSR 97-23-064 (Order 94-
19), § 173-201A-040, filed 11/18/97, effective 12/19/97.
Statutory Authority: Chapter 90.48 RCW. WSR 92-24-037 (Order 92-
29), § 173-201A-040, filed 11/25/92, effective 12/26/92.]

Reviser's note: The brackets and enclosed material in the text of the above section
occurred in the copy filed by the agency.