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Regulations concerning the quality of the [water intended for consumption](#):

- **The World Health Organization**

The World Health Organization (WHO), set up some guidelines for drinking-water quality which are the international reference point for standards setting and drinking-water safety. The latest guidelines drew up by the WHO are those agreed to in Geneva, 1993.

Click here for the [WHO's drinking-water standards](#).

You will notice that there is no guideline for some of the elements and substances which are taken into account. This is because there have not been sufficient studies about the effects of the substance on the organism, and therefore it is not possible to define a guideline limit. In other cases, the reason for a non-existing guideline is the impossibility of that substance to reach a dangerous concentration in water, due to its insolubility or its scarcity.

- **The European Union**

The European Union drew up the Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, adopted by the Council on 3 November 1998. This was drawn up by reviewing the parametric values of the old Drinking Water Directive of 1980, and strengthening them where necessary in accordance with the latest available scientific knowledge (WHO guidelines and Scientific Committee on Toxicology and Ecotoxicology). This new Directive provides a sound basis for both the consumers throughout the EU and the suppliers of drinking water.

Click here for the [EU's drinking water standards](#).

These were the main changes in the parametric values:

- Lead: The guideline was reduced from 50 µg/l to 10 µg/l, and a transition period of 15 years was defined to allow replacing of lead distribution pipes.
- Pesticides: The values for individual substances and for total pesticides were retained (0.1µg/l / 0.5µg/l), plus additional, more stringent values were introduced for certain pesticides (0.03µg/l).
- Copper: The value was reduced from 3 to 2 mg/l.
- Some new standards were introduced for new parameters like trihalomethanes, trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene, bromate, acrylamide etc.

Click here for [comparative table for WHO's and EU's water standards](#).

For information on [water filtration technologies](#) please feel free to contact Lenntech.

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