

HISTORIES OF GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE FOURTH EDITION

12. Chemical fact sheets

12.1 Chemical contaminants in drinking-water

Molybdenum

History of guideline development

The 1958 and 1963 WHO *International Standards for Drinking-water* did not refer to molybdenum. The 1971 International Standards stated that molybdenum should be controlled in drinking-water, but that insufficient information was available to enable a tentative limit to be established. In the first edition of the *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality*, published in 1984, it was concluded that no action was required for molybdenum. The 1993 Guidelines proposed a health-based guideline value of 0.07 mg/l for molybdenum based on a 2-year study of humans exposed through their drinking-water. This value was within the range of values derived on the basis of results of toxicological studies in animal species and was consistent with the essential daily requirement. This guideline value was brought forward to the third edition of the Guidelines, published in 2004. In the fourth edition of the Guidelines, published in 2011, it was concluded that as molybdenum occurs at very low concentrations in drinking-water, it was not considered necessary to set a formal guideline value.