



*NSF International Standard / American National Standard*

## NSF/ANSI 53 - 2020

Drinking Water Treatment Units -  
Health Effects



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American National Standard  
for Drinking Water Treatment Units –  
**Drinking Water Treatment Units –  
Health Effects**

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## Foreword<sup>2</sup>

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of drinking water treatment systems that are designed to reduce specific health-related contaminants in public or private water supplies. NSF/ANSI 53 specifies minimum product literature requirements that manufacturers must provide to authorized representatives and owners.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revisions:

### Issue 121

This revision adds a statement to Section 7.5.7 for conditioning and conditioning volumes for microcystin reduction claims.

### Issue 122

This update clarifies the test pressure for nonpressurized water treatment devices under Section 4.

### Issue 123

This revision incorporates guidance on extraction testing for hot and cold water dispensers into Section 4.2.

### Issue 124

An exemption for cyclic pressure testing was added for components downstream of the system on/off valve that are not subject to pressure under the off mode, and that either contain no media subject to plugging or are not designed to contain media. These changes were made to Sections 5.4.2 and 5.4.4.

### Issue 126

This modification provides clarification on how systems shall be tested with and without adsorptive or absorptive media for replacement elements under exposure testing in Section 4.2.3.5.

The Interpretations Annex contains responses to interpretation requests. The responses will be published in each version of the Standard until such time that the interpretation response is no longer applicable.

This Standard was developed by the NSF Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units using the consensus process described by the American National Standards Institute.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. This Standard is maintained on a Continuous Maintenance schedule and can be opened for comment at any time. Comments should be sent to: Chair, Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units at [standards@nsf.org](mailto:standards@nsf.org), or c/o NSF International, Standards Department, PO Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

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## NSF/ANSI Standard for Drinking Water Treatment Units —

# Drinking Water Treatment Units — Health Effects

## 1 General

### 1.1 Purpose

It is the purpose of this Standard to establish minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of point-of-use and point-of-entry drinking water treatment systems that are designed to reduce specific health-related contaminants in public or private water supplies. Such systems include point-of-entry drinking water treatment systems used to treat all or part of the water at the inlet to a residential facility or a bottled water production facility, and includes the material and components used in these systems. This Standard also specifies the minimum product literature and labeling information that a manufacturer shall supply to authorized representatives and system owners, as well as the minimum service related obligations that the manufacturer shall extend to system owners.

### 1.2 Scope

The point-of-use and point-of-entry systems addressed by this Standard are designed to be used for the reduction of specific substances that may be present in drinking water (public or private) considered to be microbiologically safe and of known quality. Systems covered under this Standard are intended to reduce substances that are considered established or potential health hazards. They may be chemical or particulate (including filterable cysts) in nature. It is recognized that a system may be effective in controlling one or more of these contaminants, but systems are not required to control all. Systems with manufacturer claims that include components or functions covered under other NSF or NSF/ANSI Standards or Criteria shall conform to the applicable requirements therein. Systems covered by this Standard are not intended to be used with drinking water that is microbiologically unsafe or of unknown quality without adequate disinfection before or after the system.

NOTE — Systems that are compliant with NSF/ANSI 55 Class A or other standards that cover technologies to treat microbiologically unsafe water (e.g., US EPA Guide Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbiological Water Purifiers or NSF P231) are examples of demonstrating adequate disinfection before or after the system.

### 1.3 Alternate materials, designs, and construction

While specific materials, designs, and construction may be stipulated in this Standard, systems that incorporate alternate materials, designs, and construction may be acceptable when it is verified that such systems meet the applicable requirements stated herein.

### 1.4 Minimum requirements

A system as defined in this Standard shall meet the applicable requirements of Sections 4, 5, 6, and 8, plus at least one performance claim as described in Section 7.

A component as defined in this Standard shall meet the requirements of Sections 4 and 8. If the component is pressure bearing, it shall also meet the applicable requirements of Section 5.