

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Drinking Water Regulations Quick Reference Guide



MassDEP

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Environmental Protection

Overview of the Rule

Title	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) compliance requirements for Public Water Systems (PWS) under the Massachusetts PFAS6 regulations - 310 CMR 22.07G
Purpose	Increase public health protection through the reduction of chemicals that have been linked to a variety of health risks, particularly for sensitive subgroups including pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants.
General Description	The amended Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations establish a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.000020 milligrams per liter (mg/l) or 20 ng/l (also called parts per trillion or ppt) for the sum of six PFAS compounds (PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA and PFDA), known as PFAS6. The regulations detail the sampling requirements and corrective actions that PWS must take when the MCL is exceeded, as well as the provisions for public education and notice of exceedances so that communities can be educated and proactive in protecting their drinking water quality.
Utilities Covered	The PFAS6 MCL applies to Community PWS and Non-transient, Non-community PWS. Transient Non-community PWS must collect a PFAS sample under the regulations and would be subject to a site-specific health assessment for elevated levels.

- This document provides a summary of MassDEP drinking water requirements; to ensure full compliance, please consult the regulations at 310 CMR 22.07G.

Public Health Benefits

Implementation of the PFAS regulations will result in:

- Monitoring for and identifying any elevated PFAS levels in public drinking water.
- Corrective actions that reduce drinking water exposures to PFAS6 to below the levels that may cause a variety of health effects to sensitive subgroups, including developmental effects in fetuses and infants, effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and may elevate the risk of certain cancers..

Federal Drinking Water Standards

In April 2024, the U.S. EPA established a federal drinking water standard for six PFAS that applies to all Community and Non-Transient Non-Community public water suppliers.

EPA's standards are:

- PFOA – 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt)
- PFOS – 4.0 ppt
- PFNA – 10 ppt
- PFHxS – 10 ppt
- HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals) – 10 ppt
- PFHxS, HFPO-DA, PFNA, and PFBS – Hazard Index (HI) = 1 (unitless)

On May 13, 2025, EPA announced changes to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) and the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFAS. EPA announced it will keep the MCLs of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS that were established in April 2024; however, EPA intends to rescind the regulations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three compounds plus PFBS. EPA plans to issue a proposed rule in Fall 2025 and finalize



this rule in the Spring of 2026. See the announcement: [EPA Announces It Will Keep Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA, PFOS | US EPA](#)

EPA's announcement included a 2-year extension of the 2029 deadline for compliance with the PFOS and PFOA MCLs until 2031. This will allow PWS more time to address PFAS and if necessary, obtain funding to construct treatment facilities or connect to alternative sources of water.

Within two years of the establishment of an NPDWR (by April 2026), states must establish standards that are no less stringent than the federal standards. EPA is encouraging states to apply for a 2-year extension to that deadline. Massachusetts will be submitting an extension request.

Information on the federal drinking water standards is available here: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

What are the Major Provisions of the Massachusetts PFAS6 Regulations?

Sampling Locations

- PWS must sample at every entry point to the distribution system.
- PWS that draw water from more than one source, where the sources are combined before distribution, must collect samples that are representative of all such combined sources after treatment during periods of normal operating conditions.
- Consecutive PWS are exempt from conducting compliance monitoring for PFAS for the purchased portion of water when the PWS from which the water is obtained has conducted the required monitoring.

Initial Monitoring (First Year)

- Four consecutive quarterly samples must be collected.
- Each sample shall be collected in the first month of every quarter during initial monitoring.
- The PWS may ask MassDEP to substitute previously conducted quarterly sampling.
- If no PFAS is detected in the first two quarters of monitoring, the PWS may request to have MassDEP waive the third and fourth quarters of monitoring.

Routine Monitoring

- If initial monitoring does not identify any PFAS a PWS may monitor during one year of each subsequent three-year Compliance Period.
- PWS serving more than 3,300 individuals must collect two quarterly samples in that year.
- PWS serving fewer than or equal to 3,300 individuals must collect one sample in that year.

Monitoring Waivers

- After January 1, 2023, a PWS on routine monitoring may request a monitoring waiver from MassDEP.
- Waivers cover a single three-year Compliance Period and must be renewed each Compliance Period.
- Sampling under an approved waiver shall occur at least once during the first Compliance Period of each successive nine-year Compliance Cycle.



Confirmatory Sampling Requirements

- Initial Monitoring: The first detection of PFAS during initial monitoring, not just the detection of PFAS6, triggers confirmation sampling.
- Initial Monitoring: After first detection, subsequent PFAS6 detection greater than 10 ppt triggers confirmation sampling.
- Routine Monitoring: Confirmatory sampling is required when PFAS6 is detected greater than 10 ppt during routine monitoring unless MassDEP determines that the location is Reliably and Consistently below the MCL.
- The confirmatory sample must be collected as soon as possible after receipt of result requiring confirmation and no later than two weeks from receipt of such result (unless granted a MassDEP extension).
- A detection is defined as any PFAS contaminant level greater than the lab's minimum reporting level (MRL). All certified labs must achieve an MRL of 2 ppt or lower for the six PFAS covered by the MCL.

Increased Monitoring if PFAS is detected

Monthly monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the average of a PFAS6 result and its associated confirmatory sample is greater than 10 ppt, the sampling location must be sampled monthly.• Monthly sampling continues until the source is shown to be Reliably and Consistently Below the MCL.
Quarterly monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A PWS that has installed PFAS treatment and is thereby Reliably and Consistently Below the MCL will be put on quarterly monitoring.
Annual monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the initial monitoring is complete and PFAS is detected but PFAS6 is confirmed less than 10 ppt, the location must be sampled annually.• A PWS that is determined by MassDEP to be Reliably and Consistently Below the MCL without having to install PFAS treatment may be put on annual monitoring.

Public Education

- Any PWS where there has been a PFAS6 detection, and the average of such detection and an associated confirmatory sample exceeds the PFAS6 MCL, shall provide public education materials regarding the exceedance, as described by MassDEP. These should be provided as soon as possible, but within 30 days.
- Until the PWS obtains a monitoring result at or below the PFAS6 MCL at such locations, public education should be updated quarterly.

Compliance and Violations

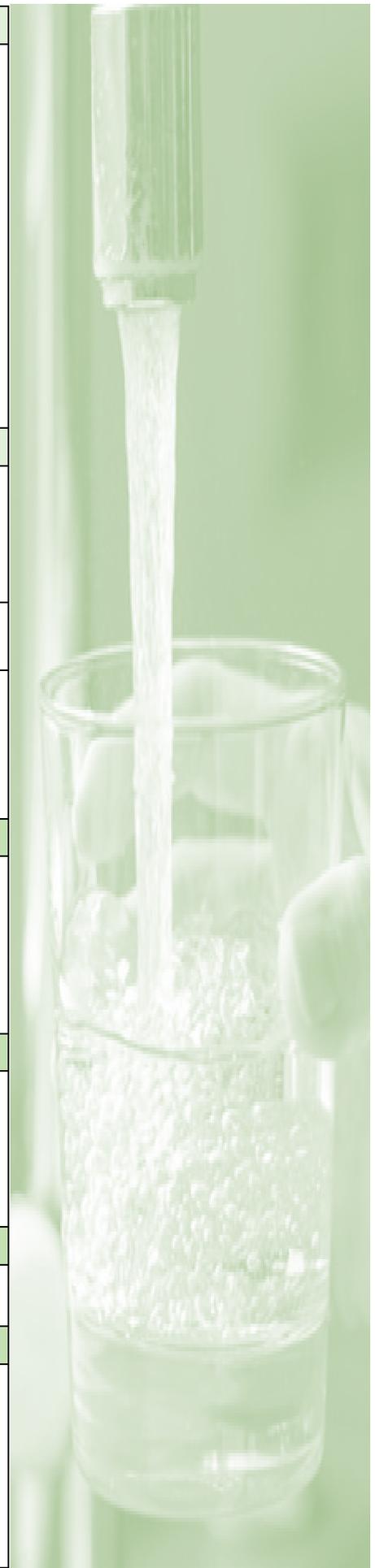
- MCL compliance is calculated using the average of the monthly samples over a quarter.
- If any one sampling point location is in violation, then the PWS shall be considered in violation.
- If any sample result would cause the quarterly average to exceed the PFAS6 MCL, the PWS is immediately in violation and begins compliance actions.

Public Notice

- A violation of the MCL requires a Tier 2 Public Notice.
- Monitoring & testing procedure violations require Tier 3 Public Notice.

Seasonal System Provisions

If a PWS reactivates an existing source or opens a seasonal system after the applicable commencement date of this regulation, it shall commence initial monitoring of such locations within the first month of delivering water to the public.



Technical and Financial Assistance

- Technical assistance is available from MassDEP and our technical assistance providers. Please contact your MassDEP Regional Office Drinking Water Program or Program.director-dwp@mass.gov: Subject PFAS Technical Assistance.
- MassDEP State Revolving Fund Loan Program finances PFAS construction projects. PWS may be eligible to receive an additional subsidy in the form of some principal forgiveness on the loan. The additional subsidy is contingent on the availability of funds. For more information visit the [MassDEP Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program](#).
- Small or disadvantaged communities may be eligible to receive grants and technical assistance to address PFAS in drinking water through the [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program](#) and the [Engineering and Design Planning Program](#).

For more information

For additional information on the PFAS6: Visit the MassDEP website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>; email the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov; or call the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770.