

Compliance Guidance

Article 141.11 Permit Holders for Adding Chemicals to Water

Drinking water in New York City's (NYC) buildings is supplied directly from our high-quality water supply distribution system. At times, a building may want to supplement the water for anti-corrosion, anti-scaling or disinfection purposes by adding chemical or other substances. Only an entity with a permit from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Health Department) may add chemicals to water and the permit holder must meet all of the requirements of [NYC Health Code \(NYCHC\) Article 141.11](#). Follow this guide to be sure you comply.

Reporting

Permit holders must report to the Health Department and are encouraged to use electronic forms for submission. Forms can be requested and submitted by emailing PHE@health.nyc.gov.

Device or System Operation Status Change

A permit holder must submit an *Operation Status Change Form* (Form PHE-ACW-01) that lists all devices or systems that it operates in NYC within 24 hours for each new activity that occurs including:

- Installation and commencement of treatment of a device or system
- Termination of treatment of a device or system

Annual Compliance Report - **NEW**

For each device or system that was providing treatment at any time during the year, a permit holder must complete an *Annual Compliance Report* (Form PHE-ACW-02) by February 15th of each year for the preceding calendar year. The report is a record of water sampling and analysis and includes all samples taken from point-of-use taps from each building water system operated by the permit holder along with any drinking water quality exceedances from point of use samples and resamples with corresponding corrective actions, if applicable.

See NYCHC §141.11(l) and §141.11(g)

Sample Collection Quick Guide

Take and analyze samples in accordance with NYCHC §141.11(g):

- **Frequency:** Sample monthly to verify that drinking water standards are met in the building's water supply system during the addition of chemicals or any other substances. A sample is required if the system operates for any part of the month.
- **Locations:** Samples must be taken from point-of-use taps used by building occupants from the building water system that is being treated. Examples of point-of-use taps include a kitchen faucet, a bathroom sink faucet, or a drinking water fountain. Taps may not have any point-of-use water treatment devices installed at the time of sampling. Permit holders must sample from the same taps each month, when possible, especially following exceedances.
- **Water Supply Source:** If chemicals or other substances are added to the hot water supply, hot water must be sampled. If additions are to cold water supply, then cold water must be sampled.

- **Quantity:** The number of samples is dependent on factors including the building's plumbing distribution, riser configuration, and the number of occupants served. The Health Department recommends that the permit holder follow general guidance below.

Table 1 – Recommended number of monthly samples at point-of-use taps

Building Occupants /Persons Served	Minimum # of Point-of-Use Taps to Sample
3,301 to 10,000	20
501 to 3,300	10
101 to 500	5
≤100	5

- **Sample Collection Methods:** Onsite testing and laboratory sample collection of treated water for regulatory compliance must be performed in accordance with the latest edition of the *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* ("Standard Methods"), published jointly by the American Public Health Association, American Water Works Association and Water Environment Federation.
- **Analytical Laboratory: Samples** must be analyzed by a laboratory with a New York State Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) Certification.

Treatment Monitoring and Corrective Action

Chemical dosage (e.g., target range) must be specified for any chemicals or other substances that are added to the drinking water supply in accordance with NYCHC §141.11(f) and §141.11(h). The permit holder must ensure chemical dosage is in the proper target range during operation. Maximum chemical dose measured at a point-of-use tap must be in compliance with the levels in New York State (NYS) Sanitary Code Subpart 5-1 (Table 2). Any sample from a point-of-use tap that exceeds the levels requires the permit holder to conduct immediate root cause analysis and corrective action within 24 hours. Root causes must be addressed and corrective actions continued until resampling and testing shows drinking water quality standards are achieved. Resampling must come from the same location as the sample that had the exceedance. Any resampling that results in an exceedance must be reported to the Health Department within 24 hours.

Table 2 – Water quality levels from NYS Sanitary Code Subpart 5-1

Parameter	Maximum Levels milligrams per liter (mg/L)
Copper	1.3
Silver	0.1
Chlorine	4.0 as residual free chlorine (Cl ₂)
Chloramines	4.0 as residual free chlorine (Cl ₂)
Chlorine Dioxide	0.8 as residual chlorine dioxide (ClO ₂)

Record Keeping

All personnel who work or maintain the chemical addition device must keep records showing the dates and times of service and the amount of each chemical applied to the drinking water supply being treated. Such records must be maintained at the building in their water management records for at least five years and made available to the Health Department upon request within five business days. See NYCHC §141.11(i).