



Producing Bottled & Frozen Water

The following information summarises the current position in Western Australia and where possible internet links to the appropriate web sites and pages are included.

If you wish to collect water from a source for the purpose of bottling or ice manufacture read **SECTION 1**.

If you wish to transport water from a source to a bottling or ice manufacturing plant read **SECTION 2**.

If you intend to bottle drinking water or prepare ice read **SECTION 3**

SECTION 1 - WATER COLLECTION

1.1 Legislation

Prior approval from a local government authority is required to construct a bore, well or other underground source of water. (Regulation 11, Health Act (Underground Water Supply) Regulations 1959)

1.2 Source Selection

Take an active interest in your catchment. Knowledge of the risk activities undertaken in your catchment area will protect you from a water contamination event and potential closure.

Avoid abstracting drinking water from any catchment that is obviously subject to or at risk of contamination. Apart from obvious sources of contamination (eg septic tanks), look for activities that may involve the use or storage of residual chemicals (eg. petroleum and pesticides). As a producer of a product for public consumption you have a duty of care and you may be subject to class action in the event of negligence.

Any person who defiles or pollutes any water supply, or the catchment area thereof; or permits or suffers any water supply or the catchment area thereof to become defiled or polluted, commits an offence. A water supply is defined as any river, stream, watercourse, creek, swamp, water-hole, well, tank, lake or reservoir containing water intended or available for human consumption.
Penalty for defilement \$10,000 or 12 month imprisonment.

(Section 129 Health Act 1911)



SECTION 2 - WATER TRANSPORTATION

2.1 General Information

Transporting water from a source to a processing plant introduces an additional range of potential forms of contamination. Materials used within containers, fittings and hoses that may come into contact with water may cause contamination. The previous use and storage of the water containment vessel, hoses, fittings, and the qualification of the water transporter should also be considered.

Detailed information regarding the transportation of bulk quantities of water may be obtained by referring to the Department of Health's Code of Practice for the Bulk Cartage of Drinking Water. See Additional Information Section 4.0.

SECTION 3 - WATER PROCESSING

3.1 Legislation

Water once bottled or frozen is defined as a food in accordance with Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code (ANZFSC). The ANZFSC is adopted by reference in Western Australia by the Health (Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code Adoption) Regulations 2001. The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code is available to view and print at <http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/>.

3.2 Design and Construction of Water Bottling Premises

See Standard 3.2.3 and the explanation contained within the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

3.3 Bottled Water Quality

ANZFSC Standard 1.6.1 Microbiological Limits for Food refers to the minimum required microbiological testing for mineral and packaged water and packaged ice. However, the regulations amend the Schedule to require additional tests for coliforms/ml, *Escherichia coli*/100ml and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*/250ml.

In addition be aware of the requirements of ANZFSC Standard 2.6.2 (chemical composition) as these differ slightly to those found in the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.

3.4 Sampling Frequency

Reference to the number of samples that have to be taken is made within the Food Standards Code. The Food Standards Code requires 5 samples



to be taken in each lot on a continual basis during production. However, the Food Standards Code does not specify how often lots have to be sampled. Each producer must determine their risk profile and establish a suitable sampling protocol by referring to Australian Standard AS 1199.0-2003, "Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes".

The Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting as published by the Australian and New Zealand Environmental and Conservation Council 2000 may be useful to determine the appropriate risk and sampling response profile.

<http://ea.gov.au/water/quality/nwqms/monitoring.html>

You may also wish to refer to Chapter 7 of the 1996 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines for guidance regarding the determination of risk.

<http://www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/publications/pdf/eh19.pdf>

3.5 Ice Production

Ice is considered to be a food so the general food premises rules apply (Design and Construction Section 3.2). Water processing for ice production including the level of treatment/monitoring and product protection is dependant upon the intended use of the ice and any claims that are made at the point of sale of the product.

3.6 Claims

Any claim you may wish to make regarding any 'therapeutic good' or 'health benefit', associated with the consumption of your bottled water must be substantiated. Essentially, any product for which therapeutic claims are made must be entered in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) before the product can be supplied in Australia. The ARTG is a computer database of information about therapeutic goods for human use approved for supply in, or exported from Australia.

The Therapeutic Goods Act 1989, Regulations and Orders set out the requirements for inclusion of therapeutic goods in the ARTG, including advertising, labelling, product appearance and appeal guidelines. For more information please go to <http://www.health.gov.au/tga/>

Misleading claims made in this regard may be investigated by either the Ministry of Fair Trading or the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

3.7 Product Labelling

All bottled waters, other than those covered by the TGA must be labelled in accordance with the Food Standards Code.

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/foodstandardscode/>



4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information may be obtained by contacting the Department of Health on 9388 4999 or by visiting www.bottledwater.org.au the website of the Australasian Bottled Water Institute Inc. (ABWI).

Additional pamphlets and guidelines are available at healthinfo@health.wa.gov.au by typing the following **key words** into the subject line:

Vehicle	-	Guidelines for vehicle mounted water tanks (eg caravans, boats, 4WDs)
Bulk	-	Code of Practice for the Bulk Cartage of Water
Nitrate	-	Nitrate in Drinking Water - pamphlet
Emergency	-	Emergency Treatment of Drinking Water Supplies - pamphlet
Rainwater tanks	-	Is the Water in Your Rainwater Tank Safe to Drink - pamphlet

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