

11 Tankered Drinking-water Compliance Criteria

11.1 Registration of water carriers

All water carriers who provide drinking-water to customers must be registered on the Ministry of Health's Register of Community Drinking-water Supplies and Suppliers (eg, Ministry of Health 2008b).

11.2 Sources and classes of water

Tankered drinking-water is water delivered by tanker and not through a water network reticulation. It is preferably sourced from water provided by a registered drinking-water supplier whose supply complies with the DWSNZ. It may be delivered by road or rail to the consumer's storage facility on a commercial or voluntary basis.

Every carrier of drinking-water in New Zealand must ensure any water sold or supplied for potable purposes – drinking, food preparation or personal hygiene – meets the requirements of this section and the water quality is protected from contamination at all times during its loading, transit and delivery.

When water is to be taken from a reticulated water supplier, the supplier's requirements in respect of backflow prevention, metering, access points and the use of the supplier's equipment must be complied with at all times.

Tankered water carriers may also carry water from a source that is not from a registered water supply and does not comply with the DWSNZ, but is in accordance with the requirements of Class 2 water, when such a class of water is specified by the customer. Whenever practicable, only the highest quality of water should be used.

Water delivered by tanker is categorised into two classes. These classes represent the expected risk/quality of water being delivered to the consumer and define the actions the tanker operator must take during the supply operation.

Class 1 drinking-water is divided into two subclasses.

- *Class 1(a)* is water taken from a reticulated supply that complies with the DWSNZ and is listed in the Register of Community Drinking-water Supplies and Suppliers in New Zealand.
- *Class 1(b)* is water taken from an independent participating supply that meets the compliance criteria for such systems (section 10).

Class 2 water is water that does not meet the *Class 1(a)* or *Class 1(b)* drinking-water criteria, but is intended for drinking purposes after appropriate treatment. The treatment that will be carried out must render the water potable. *Class 2* water may be taken only from water sources approved by a DWA.

11.3 Operation

Every tanker must maintain and carry a logbook that contains the details of each load transported and each cleaning schedule. Such a log book must be kept for at least 10 years.

The operator of any vehicle used to transport water must ensure the following.

- All tanks and the systems used for loading or unloading water have not been used for transporting any noxious, toxic or hazardous matter, non-food liquids, or human or animal wastes.
- All tanks and the systems used for loading or unloading water are protected from contamination during loading, transportation and delivery.
- All tanks and the systems used for loading or unloading water are kept clean and clear of any possible contaminants before sourcing the water to be delivered, with all openings and connections sealed to protect them from possible contamination. If unused for the transport of drinking-water for a period of 30 days, the tank and fittings must be disinfected by filling with potable water containing at least 5 mg/L chlorine or other approved disinfectant for not less than 30 minutes before discharging to waste.

Following the transport of non-potable water, or any other consumable liquid such as milk or beer, the tanker must be subjected to an appropriate cleaning and disinfection process.

Tanked drinking-water carriers are required to complete a public health risk management plan (PHRMP) in relation to the method of transporting water intended for drinking. The PHRMP must identify potential risk and put programmes in place to mitigate such risks. The PHRMP must be reviewed and revised regularly.

11.4 Monitoring

Samples from the delivery tank must be collected for *E. coli* testing at a Ministry of Health recognised laboratory.

- Every third month, if the water being carried is Class 1(a) and contains at least 0.2 mg/L FAC or equivalent at the filling point.
- Monthly, if the water being carried is Class 1(a) but contains less than 0.2 mg/L FAC or equivalent at the filling point.
- As specified by the DWA, if the water carried is Class 1(b) or Class 2.

Procedures for sampling are discussed in the Guidelines, section 6.4.

Whenever non-potable water has been transported by tank, the tank must be washed, cleaned and refilled with potable water and a sample collected after the refilling or during the next delivery for *E. coli* testing.

All samples must be collected during the unloading or discharge process.

All positive *E. coli* tests must be reported immediately to the DWA who may require no further water to be transported from that source or in that tanker until the reason for the positive test has been identified and dealt with to the DWA's satisfaction.

11.5 Delivery

When drinking-water is delivered, a written statement must be supplied to the consumer stating the:

- delivery date and volume of water delivered
- source and class of water delivered and, where applicable, the grading of the treatment plant and distribution system, including the meaning of such grading, from where the water was taken.

If the water is supplied to non-residential premises, the statement must be displayed in a prominent location that allows all potential consumers to read it.

If the water is Class 2 water, the statement must also contain information from the DWA, who may require the statement to include a 'Boil Water' notice.

11.6 Documentation and records

All documentation and logbook records must be in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Safe Carriage and Delivery of Drinking-water* (Ministry of Health 2008).

A log must be kept of the:

- nature of any cargo tankered
- details of filling and discharge points
- cleaning carried out before drinking-water is tankered if not used for more than 30 days, and after any cargo other than drinking-water has been tankered.