ANSI/AWWA C651-05
(Revision of ANSI/AWWA C651-99)

American Water Works Association

The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

AWWA Standard

Disinfecting Water Mains

American National Standards Institute

Effective date: June 1, 2005.
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Science and Technology

Committee Personnel

The AWWA Standards Committee on Disinfection of Facilities, which reviewed and approved this standard, had the following personnel at the time of approval:

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Foreword

This Foreword is for information only and is not a part of ANSI/AWWA C651.

I. Introduction.

I.A. *Background.* This standard describes methods of disinfecting newly constructed potable-water mains; mains that have been removed from service for planned repairs or for maintenance that exposes them to contamination; mains that have undergone emergency repairs because of physical failure; and mains that, under normal operation, continue to show the presence of coliform organisms. The disinfecting agents discussed in this standard are chlorine solutions that may be derived from liquid chlorine (Cl_2), calcium hypochlorite ($Ca(OCl)_2$), or sodium hypochlorite (NaOCl). Combinations of free chlorine residual and contact time are provided.

I.B. *History.* This standard was first approved on Sept. 30, 1947, by the AWWA Board of Directors and published as 7D.2-1948, A Procedure for Disinfecting Water Mains. Revisions were approved by the AWWA Board of Directors on Sept. 14, 1948; Mar. 6, 1953; May 27, 1954; June 2, 1968; June 7, 1981; and June 20, 1999. All were done under the designation ANSI/AWWA C601, Standard for Disinfecting Water Mains. In 1986, the designation of the standard was changed to ANSI/AWWA C651, and the subsequent editions were approved by the AWWA Board of Directors on June 18, 1992, and June 20, 1999. This edition was approved on Jan. 16, 2005.

I.C. *Acceptance.* In May 1985, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) entered into a cooperative agreement with a consortium led by NSF International (NSF) to develop voluntary third-party consensus standards and a certification program for all direct and indirect drinking water additives. Other members of the original consortium included the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AwwaRF) and the Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers (COSHEM). The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) joined later.

In the United States, authority to regulate products for use in, or contact with, drinking water rests with individual states.* Local agencies may choose to impose requirements more stringent than those required by the state. To evaluate the health

*Persons outside of the US should contact the appropriate authority having jurisdiction.

effects of products and drinking water additives from such products, state and local agencies may use various references, including

1. An advisory program formerly administered by USEPA, Office of Drinking Water, discontinued on April 7, 1990.

2. Specific policies of the state or local agency.

3. Two standards developed under the direction of NSF, NSF*/ANSI† 60, Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals—Health Effects, and NSF/ANSI 61, Drinking Water System Components—Health Effects.

4. Other references, including AWWA standards, *Food Chemicals Codex, Water Chemicals Codex*,‡ and other standards considered appropriate by the state or local agency.

Various certification organizations may be involved in certifying products in accordance with NSF/ANSI 60. Individual states or local agencies have authority to accept or accredit certification organizations within their jurisdiction. Accreditation of certification organizations may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Annex A, "Toxicology Review and Evaluation Procedures," to NSF/ANSI 60 does not stipulate a maximum allowable level (MAL) of a contaminant for substances not regulated by a USEPA final maximum contaminant level (MCL). The MALs of an unspecified list of "unregulated contaminants" are based on toxicity testing guidelines (noncarcinogens) and risk characterization methodology (carcinogens). Use of Annex A procedures may not always be identical, depending on the certifier.

ANSI/AWWA C651 does not address additives requirements. Thus, users of this standard should consult the appropriate state or local agency having jurisdiction in order to

1. Determine additives requirements including applicable standards.

2. Determine the status of certifications by all parties offering to certify products for contact with, or treatment of, drinking water.

3. Determine current information on product certification.

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* NSF International, 789 N. Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

† American National Standards Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10036.

‡ Both publications available from National Academy of Sciences, 500 Fifth St., N.W.,Washington, DC 20001.

II. Special Issues.

II.A. *Information on Application of This Standard.* Generally, it is easier to disinfect a new main rather than one that has had emergency repairs. The unsanitary conditions created when an existing main bursts or is cut into are likely to be difficult to control. The need to quickly restore water service to the community requires more rapid disinfection procedures than those prescribed for newly constructed mains.

Crews responsible for the repair of mains should be aware of the potential health hazards and should be trained to carefully observe prescribed construction practices and disinfection procedures.

Disinfection requires skills not necessarily mastered by competent construction crews. Some utilities prefer to disinfect water mains using specially trained treatment crews. However, because the effectiveness of disinfection depends, in large measure, on maintaining clean pipes and avoiding major contamination during construction, there are some advantages to having the construction crew retain the responsibility for disinfection. Furthermore, certain functions, such as placing tablets, must be performed by the construction crew. In either case, it is strongly recommended that pipe crews be aware of the need to maintain clean pipes and avoid contamination.

While bacteriological testing in accordance with Sec. 5.1 is used to verify the absence of coliform organisms and is generally accepted as verification that disinfection of the pipeline has been accomplished, following sanitary practices for handling and installation of pipe, valves, fittings, and accessories, coupled with adequate flushing of the line before disinfection, is necessary to ensure that the disinfected pipeline will be ready for connection to the water system. Failure to pass the bacteriological test requires that the flushing or disinfection process be repeated. It must be remembered that the final water quality test is not the primary means for certifying the sanitary condition of a main. The sanitary handling of materials, the practices during construction, and the continual inspection of the work are the primary means for ensuring the sanitary condition of the water main.

Three methods of disinfecting newly constructed water mains are described in this standard: the tablet method, the continuous-feed method, and the slug method. The utility should decide which of these methods is most suitable for a given situation. Factors to consider when choosing a method should include the length and diameter of the main, type of joints present, availability of materials, equipment required for disinfection, training of the personnel who will perform the disinfection, and safety concerns. For example, the continuous-feed or slug methods should be

used with gas chlorination only when properly designed and constructed equipment is available; makeshift equipment is not acceptable when liquid-chlorine cylinders are used.

Thorough consideration should be given to the impact of highly chlorinated water flushed into the waste environment. If there is any question that damage may be caused by chlorinated-waste discharge (to fish life, plant life, physical installations, or other downstream water uses of any type), then an adequate amount of reducing agent should be applied to water being disposed of in order to thoroughly neutralize the chlorine residual remaining in the water.

The tablet method cannot be used unless the main can be kept clean and dry. It cannot be used in large-diameter mains if it is necessary for a worker to enter the main to grout joints or perform inspection, because the tablets may release toxic fumes after exposure to moist air. When using the tablet method, the chlorine concentration is not uniform throughout the main, because the hypochlorite solution is dense and tends to concentrate at the bottom of the pipe. The use of the tablet method precludes preliminary flushing. The tablet method is convenient to use in mains having diameters up to 24 in., and it requires no special equipment.

The continuous-feed method is suitable for general application. Preliminary flushing removes light particulates from the main but not from the pipe-joint spaces. The chlorine concentration is uniform throughout the main.

The slug method is suitable for use in large-diameter mains where the volume of water makes the continuous-feed method impractical and difficult to achieve for short attachments. The slug method results in appreciable savings of chemicals used to disinfect long, large-diameter mains. Also, this method reduces the volume of heavily chlorinated water to be flushed to waste.

The purpose of all three chlorination methods is to disinfect water lines, resulting in an absence of coliforms as confirmed by laboratory analysis. As noted above, the three methods attempt to provide flexibility in responding to specific situations. The tablet and continuous-feed methods both have initial chlorine concentrations of 25 mg/L and a minimum contact time of 24 hr. Because the tablet method cannot be flushed and cleaned prior to disinfection, the required free chlorine residual must be detectable after 24 hr. Because the continuous-feed method can be used to flush particles and *prechlorinate* with calcium hypochlorite granules, a higher free chlorine residual of 10 mg/L is required after 24 hr. To meet the needs of situations requiring reduced contact times, the slug feed method allows only a 3-hr contact time, but

requires a 100-mg/L initial chlorine dosage. While the contact time of each method may not be identical, the end result, absence of coliforms, is the same for all three methods.

III. Use of This Standard. It is the responsibility of the user of an AWWA Standard to determine that the products described in that standard are suitable for use in the particular application being considered.

III.A. *Purchaser Options and Alternatives.* This standard is written as though the disinfection work will be performed by the purchaser's personnel. Where the work is to be done for a separate contract or as part of a contract for installing mains,* appropriate provisions should be included in the purchase documents to ensure that the constructor is specifically instructed as to their responsibilities. The following items should be provided by the purchaser:

1. Standard used—that is, ANSI/AWWA C651, Standard for Disinfection of Water Mains.
2. Approval requirements before use.
3. Those procedures included in the standard, which are designated as optional, that are to be included in the purchase documents.
4. Form of chlorine to be used (Sec. 4.1.1, 4.1.2, and 4.1.3).
5. Method of chlorination (Sec. 4.4.2, 4.4.3, and 4.4.4).
6. Flushing locations, rates of flushing, and locations of drainage facilities (Sec. 4.4.3.2, 4.5.1, and 4.5.2).
7. Responsibility for tapping existing mains and connections to new mains (Sec. 4.4.3.3[1], 4.4.3.3[2], and 4.6).
8. The number and frequency of samples for bacteriological tests (Sec. 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.4, and 5.2).
9. Method of taking samples (Sec. 5.1.3).
10. Whether compliance with NSF/ANSI 61, Drinking Water System Components—Health Effects is required, in addition to the Safe Drinking Water Act.
11. Details of other federal, state, local, and provisional requirements.

III.B. *Modification to Standard.* Any modification to the provisions, definitions, or terminology in this standard must be provided by the purchaser.

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*Refer to other AWWA standards and manuals for design criteria and installation procedures for various pipe materials.

IV. Major Revisions. Major revisions made to the standard in this edition include the following:

1. Under Sec. 5.1.4 sample results, Heterotrophic Plate Counts greater than 500 colony forming units require additional flushing.
2. Table 1 has been corrected.
3. Ascorbic Acid was added in Appendix C as a neutralizing agent.

V. Comments. If you have any comments or questions about this standard, please call the AWWA Volunteer and Technical Support Group at (303) 794-7711, FAX (303) 795-7603, or write to the group at 6666 West Quincy Avenue, Denver, CO 80235-3098, or e-mail at standards@awwa.org.

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AWWA Standard

Disinfecting Water Mains

SECTION 1: GENERAL

Sec. 1.1 Scope

This standard describes essential procedures for the disinfection of new and repaired potable water mains. New water mains shall be disinfected before they are placed in service. Water mains taken out of service for inspection, repair, or other activities that might lead to contamination of water shall be disinfected before they are returned to service.

Sec. 1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to define the minimum requirements for the disinfection of water mains, including the preparation of water mains, application of chlorine, and sampling and testing for the presence of coliform bacteria.

Sec. 1.3 Application

This standard can be referenced in the purchase documents for the disinfection of water mains and can be used as a guide for the preparation of water mains, application of chlorine, and sampling and testing for the presence of coliform bacteria. The stipulations of this standard apply when this document has been referenced and only to the disinfection of water mains.