

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 24541:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

First edition
2020-11

Service activities relating to drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems — Guidelines for the implementation of continuous monitoring systems for drinking water quality and operational parameters in drinking water distribution networks



Reference number
ISO/TS 24541:2020(E)

© ISO 2020



COPYRIGHT PROTECTED DOCUMENT

© ISO 2020

All rights reserved. Unless otherwise specified, or required in the context of its implementation, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized otherwise in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, or posting on the internet or an intranet, without prior written permission. Permission can be requested from either ISO at the address below or ISO's member body in the country of the requester.

ISO copyright office
CP 401 • Ch. de Blandonnet 8
CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva
Phone: +41 22 749 01 11
Email: copyright@iso.org
Website: www.iso.org

Published in Switzerland

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 24541:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Contents

	Page
Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Principles	6
5 Considerations for the justification of need for continuous monitoring	7
5.1 General.....	7
5.2 Cost-benefit.....	7
5.3 Risks of continuous monitoring.....	8
5.4 Local contexts.....	9
6 Choosing parameters to be monitored	9
7 Locating the continuous monitoring stations in the drinking water distribution network	12
7.1 General.....	12
7.1.1 Network layout.....	12
7.1.2 Development or implementation of an existing hydraulic or statistical model of the drinking water distribution network (preferred).....	12
7.1.3 The pragmatic approach.....	12
7.2 Locations for monitoring stations.....	13
7.2.1 General.....	13
7.2.2 The pragmatic approach.....	13
7.2.3 The hydraulic model approach.....	14
7.3 Network alert definition.....	14
7.4 Decision support tools.....	14
7.5 Periodic evaluation of the continuous monitoring system.....	14
8 Installation, maintenance, operation, calibration and data transmission of MDs	14
8.1 Installation considerations.....	14
8.1.1 General.....	14
8.1.2 Geographical location.....	15
8.1.3 Site installation location.....	15
8.2 Maintenance and operational considerations.....	15
8.3 Calibration considerations.....	16
8.4 Communication considerations.....	16
Annex A (informative) Examples of positives and negatives of continuous monitoring systems	17
Annex B (informative) Examples of commonly deployed drinking water quality parameter measuring devices	19
Annex C (informative) Evaluation of the performance of measuring devices	23
Bibliography	24

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 224, *Service activities relating to drinking water supply, wastewater and stormwater systems*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 24541:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

Introduction

Cases of drinking water contamination around the world have raised awareness of water utilities' exposure to risk. Contamination can arise from many causes, including societal mishaps, errors in operation, maintenance or management by the water utility, natural disasters, vandalism, sabotage, criminality and terrorist activity. The distributed nature of drinking water systems makes them especially vulnerable to contamination and can permit the rapid dispersion of a contaminant. The velocities and volumes of water in a drinking water distribution network can result in contamination affecting significant numbers of users in a short time (e.g. tens of minutes). Recognition of these risks has raised awareness of the need to consider the use of continuous monitoring systems to rapidly detect potential contamination events.

The occurrence of an event can rarely be predicted. However, the more frequently relevant data can be collected and examined, the greater is the chance of quickly detecting an event's occurrence. This supports consideration of the adoption of continuous monitoring systems to provide the data streams that can be used in event detection.

A contamination event can make a waterworks or a drinking water distribution network unusable for a time and require implementation of contingency plans. Such plans could involve, for example, accessing an alternative source water or providing an alternative water service other than via the drinking water distribution network.

To date, very few water utilities have installed continuous monitoring systems either in part or throughout their drinking water distribution network(s). This situation can result from a rational decision based on risk assessment and, in some cases, a cost-benefit analysis. However, it should be acknowledged that circumstances can change – gradually over time or rapidly in the face of events. Water utilities wishing to explore such an option can face uncertainties and gaps in their knowledge on how to proceed. In such circumstances water utilities typically face three main challenges:

- which types of measuring devices (MDs) to install in each continuous monitoring station;
- how many continuous monitoring stations to install per drinking water system;
- where to locate the continuous monitoring stations in the drinking water distribution network in order to achieve the best results.

The installation of continuous monitoring systems could reduce the risk to public health and mitigate the impact on users and other stakeholders during a contamination event. The value of continuous monitoring systems can be determined using appropriate risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis. Such an evaluation should take into account existing controls and establish the additional risk mitigation that might be achieved and likely costs.

Advances in MD technology have recently made the adoption and deployment of continuous monitoring more practicable. MDs are not limited to the measurement of drinking water quality alone. Continuous measurement of operational parameters such as water flow and water pressure can improve the water utility's capability to interpret results from the measurement of drinking water quality.

This document provides water utilities, their contractors, consultants and regulators with guidelines for the installation of continuous monitoring systems in drinking water systems, including guidance on their appropriate selection, maintenance and optimal calibration.

These guidelines can aid a water utility's processes for risk assessment and cost-benefit analysis. Taken together these can help a water utility's top management take informed, risk-based decisions on the worthwhileness of investment in a continuous monitoring system.

The guidance provided in this document is intended to be universally applicable, regardless of the structure and size of a water utility's drinking water system. An event detection process (EDP) that relies upon grab samples and intermittent data inputs could be implemented at lower cost. However, where a water utility's assets, finances, management system and technical capability make it practicable, the ability to provide continuous data streams offers advantages for event detection.

This is a preview of "ISO/TS 24541:2020". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

To gain experience, initial deployment could be limited to higher-risk areas within a wider drinking water system.