



*NSF International Standard /
American National Standard*

NSF/ANSI 53 - 2014

Drinking Water Treatment Units -
Health Effects



NSF International, an independent, not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, is dedicated to being the leading global provider of public health and safety-based risk management solutions while serving the interests of all stakeholders.

This Standard is subject to revision.
Contact NSF to confirm this revision is current.

Users of this Standard may request clarifications and interpretations, or propose revisions by contacting:

Chair, Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units
c/o NSF International
789 North Dixboro Road, P. O. Box 130140
Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0140, USA
Phone: (734) 769-8010 Telex: 753215 NSF INTL
FAX: (734) 769-0109
E-mail: info@nsf.org
Web: <http://www.nsf.org>

NSF/ANSI 53 – 2014

NSF International Standard/
American National Standard
for Drinking Water Treatment Units —

**Drinking water treatment units –
Health effects**

Standard Developer
NSF International

NSF International Board of Directors

Designated as an ANSI Standard
August 18, 2014

American National Standards Institute

Prepared by
The NSF Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units

Recommended for adoption by
The NSF Council of Public Health Consultants

Adopted by
The NSF Board of Directors
December 1981

Revised June 1982	Revised July 2004
Revised June 1988	Addendum 1.0 – 2002e, August 2004
Revised May 1990	Revised February 2005
Revised November 1992	Revised January 2006
Revised September 1993	Addendum 1.0 –2006, March 2006
Revised March 1994	Revised February 2007
Revised March 1996	Revised July 2007
Revised September 1996	Addendum 1.0 – 2007, March 2008
Revised September 1997	Revised August 2009
Revised November 1998	Revised August 2010
Revised March 1999	Revised April 2011
Revised September 1999	Revised April 2012
Revised May 2000	Revised December 2012
Revised November 2000	Revised December 2013
Revised January 2001	Revised August 2014
Revised January 2002	Addendum 1.0 - 2013, August 2014
Addendum 2.0 – 2002, October 2002	Revised January 2015
Editorial Revision – November 2003	
Addendum 1.0 – 2002, June 2002	

Published by

NSF International
P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA

For ordering copies or for making inquiries with regard to this Standard, please reference the designation “NSF/ANSI 53 – 2014.”

Copyright 2015 NSF International

Previous editions © 2013, 2012, 2011, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1994, 1993, 1992, 1990, 1988, 1982, 1981

Unless otherwise specified, no part of this publication may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and microfilm, without permission in writing from NSF International.

Printed in the United States of America.

Disclaimers¹

NSF, in performing its functions in accordance with its objectives, does not assume or undertake to discharge any responsibility of the manufacturer or any other party. The opinions and findings of NSF represent its professional judgment. NSF shall not be responsible to anyone for the use of or reliance upon this Standard by anyone. NSF shall not incur any obligation or liability for damages, including consequential damages, arising out of or in connection with the use, interpretation of, or reliance upon this Standard.

NSF Standards provide basic criteria to promote sanitation and protection of the public health. Provisions for mechanical and electrical safety have not been included in this Standard because governmental agencies or other national standards-setting organizations provide safety requirements.

Participation in NSF Standards development activities by regulatory agency representatives (federal, local, state) shall not constitute their agency's endorsement of NSF or any of its Standards.

Preference is given to the use of performance criteria measurable by examination or testing in NSF Standards development when such performance criteria may reasonably be used in lieu of design, materials, or construction criteria.

The illustrations, if provided, are intended to assist in understanding their adjacent standard requirements. However, the illustrations may not include **all** requirements for a specific product or unit, nor do they show the only method of fabricating such arrangements. Such partial drawings shall not be used to justify improper or incomplete design and construction.

Unless otherwise referenced, the annexes are not considered an integral part of NSF Standards. The annexes are provided as general guidelines to the manufacturer, regulatory agency, user, or certifying organization.

¹ The information contained in this Disclaimer is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Disclaimer may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

This page is intentionally left blank.

Contents

1	General.....	1
1.1	Purpose	1
1.2	Scope	1
1.3	Alternate materials, designs, and construction.....	1
1.4	Minimum requirements.....	1
1.5	Chemical and mechanical reduction performance claims.....	2
1.6	Standard review.....	2
2	Normative references.....	2
3	Definitions.....	3
4	Materials.....	3
4.1	Materials in contact with drinking water	3
4.2	Materials evaluation	4
4.3	Gas chromatography/mass spectroscopy (GC/MS) analysis.....	5
5	Structural performance.....	14
5.1	Structural integrity.....	14
5.2	Acceptance.....	14
5.3	Working pressure.....	15
5.4	Structural integrity test methods	16
6	Minimum performance requirements.....	20
6.1	Performance indication of chemical reduction capacity.....	20
6.2	Elements.....	21
6.3	Flow control	21
6.4	Waste connections.....	22
6.5	Product water dispensing outlets.....	22
6.6	Hazards	22
6.7	Systems used in bottled water plants.....	22
6.8	Operation temperature	22
6.9	POE rated pressure drop	22
6.10	Minimum service flow.....	23
6.11	Rated service flow	23
6.12	Active agents and additives.....	23
7	Elective performance claims – test methods	24
7.1	General requirements	24
7.2	Chemical reduction claims.....	26
7.3	Mechanical filtration reduction claims	42
7.4	Metals reduction testing	56
8	Instruction and information	78
8.1	Installation, operation, and maintenance instructions.....	78
8.2	Data plate	80
8.3	Replacement components.....	82
8.4	Performance data sheet.....	83
Annex A	.....	A1
Annex B	.....	B1
Annex C	.....	C1

Annex D	.....	D1
Annex E	.....	E1
Annex F	.....	F1
Annex G	.....	G1
Annex H	.....	H1

Foreword²

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of drinking water treatment systems that are designed to reduce specific health-related contaminants in public or private water supplies. NSF/ANSI 53 specifies minimum product literature requirements that manufacturers must provide to authorized representatives and owners.

This edition of the Standard contains the following revisions:

Issue 51

This revision added a test protocol for evaluating the removal of perchlorate for devices that fall under the scope in NSF/ANSI 53.

Issue 92

This revision removed the definitions from this Standard and added language under section 2 to address undated normative references.

This Standard was developed by the NSF Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units using the consensus process described by the American National Standards Institute.

Suggestions for improvement of this Standard are welcome. This Standard is maintained on a Continuous Maintenance schedule and can be opened for comment at any time. Comments should be sent to Chair, Joint Committee on Drinking Water Treatment Units at standards@nsf.org, or c/o NSF International, Standards Department, P.O. Box 130140, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113-0140, USA.

² The information contained in this Foreword is not part of this American National Standard (ANS) and has not been processed in accordance with ANSI's requirements for an ANS. Therefore, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the Standard.

This page is intentionally left blank.

NSF/ANSI Standard for Drinking Water Treatment Units —

Drinking water treatment units — Health effects

1 General

1.1 Purpose

It is the purpose of this Standard to establish minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of point-of-use and point-of-entry drinking water treatment systems that are designed to reduce specific health-related contaminants in public or private water supplies. Such systems include point-of-entry drinking water treatment systems used to treat all or part of the water at the inlet to a residential facility or a bottled water production facility, and includes the material and components used in these systems. This Standard also specifies the minimum product literature and labeling information that a manufacturer shall supply to authorized representatives and system owners, as well as the minimum service-related obligations that the manufacturer shall extend to system owners.

1.2 Scope

The point-of-use and point-of-entry systems addressed by this Standard are designed to be used for the reduction of specific substances that may be present in drinking water (public or private). These substances are considered established or potential health hazards. They may be microbiological, chemical, or particulate (including filterable cysts) in nature. It is recognized that a system may be effective in controlling one or more of these contaminants, but systems are not required to control all. Activated carbon filter systems covered by this Standard are not intended to be used with water that is microbiologically unsafe or of unknown quality without adequate disinfection before or after the system.

1.3 Alternate materials, designs, and construction

While specific materials, designs, and construction may be stipulated in this Standard, systems that incorporate alternate materials, designs, and construction may be acceptable when it is verified that such systems meet the applicable requirements stated herein.

1.4 Minimum requirements

A system as defined in this standard shall meet the applicable requirements of 4, 5, 6, and 8, plus at least one performance claim as described in 7.

A component as defined in this standard shall meet the requirements of 4 and 8. If the component is pressure-bearing, it shall also meet the applicable requirements of 5.

A commercial modular system as defined in this standard shall meet the applicable requirements of 4, 5, 6, and 8, plus at least one performance claim as described in 7. Manifolds of commercial modular systems shall meet the requirements of 4, 5 (if pressure bearing), and 8, and shall be evaluated as stand-alone components. Manifolds shall have a minimum internal diameter such that the water velocity in the manifold will not exceed 3 m (10 ft) per second (which can be calculated based upon the system flow rate