NSF Protocol P231
Microbiological Water Purifiers

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1 General

1.1 Purpose


1.2 Scope

Microbiological water purifiers use chemical, mechanical, and/or physical technologies to filter and treat waters of unknown microbiological quality, but are presumed to be potable. This protocol addresses systems having a flow rate of 5 gpm or less and contains minimum requirements for materials, design and construction, and performance of these systems. The systems are not intended to convert wastewater or raw sewage into drinking water.

System components covered under other NSF or NSF/ANSI standards or criteria shall also comply with the requirements contained in those other standards. This protocol shall in no way restrict new system designs, provided such designs meet the minimum specifications described herein.

2 Normative References

The following documents contain provisions that, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this protocol. At the time of publication, the indicated revisions were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards indicated below.

NSF/ANSI 53 – 2002, Drinking water treatment units – Health effects

NSF/ANSI 55 – 2002, Ultraviolet microbiological water treatment systems

NSF/ANSI 58 – 2002, Reverse osmosis drinking water treatment systems


USEPA Guide Standard and Protocol for Testing Microbiological Water Purifiers, Federal Register, 1987¹

¹ Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs, Criteria and Standards Division, Office of Drinking Water

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