

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GUIDANCE FROM HOTLINE COMPENDIUM

WSG H14

Date Issued: September 1988

SUBJECT: Purpose and Applicability of Maximum Contaminant Level
Goals (MCLGs)

SOURCE: Betsy Devlin

Why are Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs), which are non-enforceable, codified in Title 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart F?

Response:

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1986, requires EPA to set MCLGs simultaneously with the promulgation of the MCLs. Therefore, MCLGs appear in the CFR because they are a required portion of the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) regulations. They represent an aspirational health goal at which no known or anticipated adverse health effects would occur, allowing an adequate margin of safety. Thus, MCLGs are an important source of information to many of those regulated by SDWA.

NOTE: This response slightly differs from the version published within the September 1988 Monthly Report. The Office of Drinking Water edited the original response.