



Basic Chemicals



Sodium Chlorite

Certification of Water Treatment Chemicals

NSF/ANSI Standard 60

Background

For many years state regulatory agencies have been concerned about health effects from water treatment chemicals. Most states did not have the expertise to review and evaluate the health effects of additives and relied upon third parties to do so. These third parties have included the federal EPA and FDA, as well as, the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF). Approvals or certifications by these parties were neither stringent nor widespread. Many products used in the treatment of drinking water never received formal evaluation.

In recent years, the public has demanded a more complete evaluation of water additives and their potential to cause acute and chronic health effects. It became clear that a more formal third party evaluation would be necessary to meet the growing public concerns regarding health effects. These concerns prompted Congress, EPA and states to expand their evaluation programs relating to potential health effects resulting from chemicals in drinking water.

In 1984, the EPA requested proposals from the private-sector to develop voluntary consensus standards for drinking water additives. The following year, the EPA awarded the contract for the development of the additives program to an NSF led drinking water industry consortium. Members of this consortium included the AWWA Research Foundation, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), and AWWA.

The first standard for direct additives, *ANSI/NSF Standard 60: Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals-Health Effects* was adopted by NSF in December 1987.

This standard sets health effects criteria for all chemical additives in water treatment. Later, *ANSI/NSF Standard 61: Drinking Water System Components - Health Effects* was developed to cover indirect additives. Both standards have been adopted by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). These standards and subsequent product certification have replaced the EPA Additives Advisory Program for drinking water additives and materials.

Product Certification

Many state and local regulatory agencies now require that products intended for use in drinking water be certified, by a third-party certifier, to be in compliance with ANSI/NSF Standard 60. The certification process requires testing and facility audits to verify compliance with the standard.

Since the certification process includes production facility audits, certification of products to ANSI/NSF Standard 60 is site specific. Certification of products repackaged or handled at other locations, or by distributors requires additional authorization from the certifying agency.

OxyChem has selected NSF International as its third party certifier. The OxyChem sodium chlorite products and plant locations certified by NSF appear in *NSF Listings, Drinking Water Additives-Health Effects*, published three times annually by NSF. These listings are also available on the NSF Electronic Listings database. A summary of these listings for OxyChem products appears in Table 1.

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TABLE 1
OxyChem NSF Certification Status
ANSI/NSF Standard 60

PLANT	PRODUCT	**MAX USE
Wichita	Chlorine	30 mg/L
	Sodium Hydroxide Liquid	200 mg/L
	HCl - Burner Production	40 mg/L
	HCl - Organic Production	40 mg/L
	Akta Klor 7.5	87 mg/L
	Akta Klor 25	22 mg/L
	Technical Sodium Chlorite Solution 18.75	35 mg/L
	Technical Sodium Chlorite Solution 31.25	22 mg/L
	31% Active Sodium Chlorite Solution	22 mg/L
	Technical Sodium Chlorite Solution 50	14 mg/L
Fairmont City, IL	Akta Klor 7.5	87 mg/L
	Akta Klor 25	22 mg/L
	Technical Sodium Chlorite Solution 18.75	35 mg/L
	Technical Sodium Chlorite Solution 31.25	22 mg/L
	31% Active Sodium Chlorite Solution	22 mg/L
	Technical Sodium Chlorite Solution 50	14 mg/L

** Max Use: The maximum use limit (MUL) is the maximum concentration of a direct additive that is acceptable under the NSF Drinking Water Standard 60.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More detailed information on sodium chlorite is available on request through the OxyChem Technical Service Department. Call or write to:

OxyChem
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 Post Office Box 12283
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