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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
Washington 25, D. C.

BUMED 6240.3A  
BUMED-7223-mep  
24 December 1959

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6240.3A

From: Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
To: All Ships and Stations

Subj: Standards for potable water

1. Purpose. To establish standards for water for drinking and culinary purposes throughout the Naval Establishment.

2. Cancellation. BUMED Instruction 6240.3 (NOTAL) is canceled.

3. Background. The Department of Defense has established the policy of compliance by the Military Departments with United States Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards, as may be modified by the medical services of the Departments.

4. Quality Standards. Bacteriological quality and physical and chemical characteristics shall be those standards shown in "Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards, 1946." These standards may be found in NAVMED P-5010-5, Water Supply Ashore. This NAVMED publication is available through the Navy Supply System.

5. Definition of Terms. The following terms are defined for clarification in interpretation of standards:

a. Artificial treatment includes the various processes commonly used in water treatment, both separately and in combination, such as storage, aeration, sedimentation, coagulation, rapid or slow sand filtration, chlorination, and other accepted forms of disinfection. Rapid sand filtration treatment is commonly understood to include those auxiliary measures, notably coagulation and sedimentation, which are essential to its proper operation.

b. Adequate protection by artificial treatment implies that the method and degree of elaboration of treatment are appropriate to the source of supply; that the works are of adequate capacity to support maximum demands, are well located, designed, and constructed, are carefully and skillfully operated and supervised by properly trained and qualified personnel, and are adequately protected against floods and other sources of pollution. The evidence that the protection thus afforded is adequate must be furnished by frequent bacteriological examinations and other appropriate analyses showing that the purified water is of good and reasonably uniform quality, a recognized

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principle being that irregularity in quality is an indication of potential danger. A minimum specification of good quality would be conformance to the bacteriological and chemical requirements of "Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards, 1946."

c. Sanitary defect means any faulty structural condition, whether of location, design, or construction of collection, treatment, or distribution works which may regularly or occasionally prevent satisfactory purification of the water supply or cause it to be contaminated from extraneous sources. Among the extraneous sources of contamination of water supply are dual supplies, bypasses, cross-connections, inter-connections, and backflow connections.

d. Health hazard means any faulty operating condition including any device or water treatment practice, which, when introduced into the water supply system, creates or may create a danger to the well-being of the consumer.

e. Water supply system includes the works and auxiliaries for collection, treatment, and distribution of the water from the source of supply to the free-flowing outlet of the ultimate consumer.

f. The coliform group of bacteria is defined, for the purpose of these Standards, as including all organisms considered in the coliaerogenes group as set forth in the Standard Methods for the Examination of Water, Sewage, and Industrial Wastes, current edition, prepared, approved, and published jointly by the American Public Health Association and the American Water Works Association, New York City.

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Deputy and Assistant Chief

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