

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GUIDANCE FROM HOTLINE COMPENDIUM

WSG H34
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SUBJECT: Health Advisory for Zinc

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The chemical zinc has a draft health advisory listed in the CSD April 1991 Health Advisory Summary Table and is regulated as a secondary contaminant (found in 40 CFR 143.3). Chemicals regulated as secondary contaminants are regulated as such because of aesthetic reasons (taste, smell, color) rather than health based reasons. Why then, does a chemical regulated as a secondary contaminant, have a draft health advisory?

Response:

A number of chemicals have health advisories even though they may never be regulated for health based reasons. Zinc was listed on the original list of 83 contaminants to be regulated in the 1986 SDWA amendments. The no-observed-adverse-effect level for zinc is so high that this chemical will probably not be regulated. It was replaced on the original list of 83 for this reason.