



# SUMMARY OF REVISED CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR) RULE

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On May 24, 2024, the USEPA published the Revised Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule in the Federal Register. The revised rule will be effective June 24, 2024, and compliance will start with the first CCR distribution in 2027 and data submittal on May 24, 2027. A CCR, sometimes called an “Annual Drinking Water Quality Report” summarizes information about the local drinking water system, including the source of water, a summary of monitoring results of detected contaminants, a description of any violations, and explanations of additional health information. Water systems must either deliver a physical copy of the CCR or deliver a notification that the CCR is available to all bill paying customers, by mail or by electronic delivery. In addition, water systems must make a “good faith” effort to reach non-bill paying consumers. A summary of the revised rule follows.

## ***Purpose of the Revised Rule (Overview):***

- **Ensure that annual drinking water quality reports –**
  - are easier to read and understand by the general public,
  - support access to translations in appropriate languages,
  - enhance information about lead in drinking water,
  - are increasingly delivered via electronic methods,
  - are delivered 2x/year for systems serving over 10,000 customers.
- **Introduce a new reporting requirement that will provide the USEPA with better information to make decisions on oversight, enforcement, regulatory revisions, and training and technical assistance – namely, to require states to submit compliance monitoring data received from Public Water Systems to the USEPA annually.**

## ***Increasing Frequency of Delivery and Updating Delivery Methods:***

- Water systems serving 10,000 people or more would need to provide a CCR twice each year. (Systems serving under 10,000 people remain at once each year)
  - Report #1: As in the current rule, water systems would deliver the first report by July 1st; summarizing information about the quality of drinking water for January through December of the previous year.
  - Report #2: The revised rule would require water systems to provide the second report by December 31st. It would be completely identical to the first report unless the water system has violations of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs), or detects of lead concentrations above a specific level, in which case it would include an update with this new information for data collected between January 1 and June 30 of the current calendar year.
- Water systems serving over 50,000 consumers are required to post its current year’s report to a publicly accessible site on the internet. The threshold was previously 100,000 consumers.
- CCRs provided on publicly available websites must be online at the time notification of CCR availability is made, and would remain accessible for at least three years.
- Water systems may use electronic CCR delivery methods if paper copies are made available to consumers upon request. This codifies a previous recommendation.
- Expanded options to provide a “good faith” delivery of CCR to consumers that do not receive water bills will be allowed; for example, advertising the availability of reports on social media and sending alert text messages to interested consumers.
- The timeline by which the water system is required to provide certification to the IEPA after distribution to its customers has been reduced to no later than 10 days, previously three months.



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## *Improving Readability, Clarity, and Understandability:*

- A summary at the beginning of the report would highlight important information, such as the presence of water quality violations or an action level exceedance.
- If the water system serves communities with a large proportion of consumers with limited English proficiency (as determined by the IEPA), CCRs would need to include contact information in the appropriate language(s) for consumers to request a translated copy of the report or translation assistance. This is expanded from the existing rule, which states the above but for non-English speaking residents. The IEPA will be required to provide technical assistance to water systems in meeting their obligations to provide translated reports or translation assistance. The USEPA will also supply templates that include translations of technical terms used in the reports and all mandatory statements.
- Large systems (serving 100,000 or more) would need to develop plans on how they intend to provide meaningful access and translation assistance to community members, submitted with its CCR certification to the IEPA.
- Information about detections would be presented in a consumer-friendly format tailored to their local needs.
- Reports would include new definitions for certain terms (e.g., pesticide, herbicide, and corrosion control efforts).

## *Improving Accuracy of Information and Risk Communication:*

- Reports would need to include additional information on efforts their water system is taking to prevent lead from entering your drinking water.
- If a water system detected lead concentrations above the action level, the report would need to explain what actions the water system has taken or will take to address the action level exceedance and their timeframe for taking those actions.
- Reports would include updated language, including specific statements on nitrate and arsenic.

## *Collecting Compliance Monitoring Data (CMD) from Primacy Agencies:*

States, territories, and tribes that have primacy for the Public Water System Supervision program (“primacy agencies”) are currently required by regulation to regularly collect monitoring data from water systems that helps them determine if water systems comply with NPDWRs. These data are known as compliance monitoring data (CMD).

Currently, these primacy agencies, such as the IEPA, must report only limited data to the USEPA, including general water system inventory (e.g., type of water treatment and size of the water system), water system violations, and other actions. To improve USEPA's ability to oversee the states' implementation of the SDWA and provide the public with more complete and accurate information on compliance, the IEPA must annually report all CMD it collects from water systems to the USEPA.

The USEPA's rule summary and supplementary materials can be found on the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.gov/ccr/consumer-confidence-report-rule-revisions>

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