DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY
2300 E STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO
BUMEDINST 6240.10A
BUMED-24
19 Jul 1999

BUMED INSTRUCTION 6240.10A

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

Subj: STANDARDS FOR POTABLE WATER

Ref: (a) 40 CFR Parts 141-144 and 146
(b) OPNAVINST 5090.1B (NOTAL)
(c) NAVMED P-5010, Manual of Naval Preventive Medicine, Chapters 5, 6, and 9
(d) Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD) of October 1992 (NOTAL)
(e) QSTAG 245, Edition 2, American-British-Canadian-Australian Armies Quadripartite Standardization Program, Quality Standards for Potable Water (NOTAL)
(f) STANAG 2136, NATO Standardization Agreement, Minimum Requirements of Water Potability (NOTAL)
(g) ABC NAVSTAG 23C, American-British-Canadian-Australian Naval Quadripartite Standardization Program, Quality Standards for Potable Water (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To provide public health guidance for ensuring the highest quality standards for Navy and Marine Corps drinking water. This instruction is a complete revision and must be read in its entirety.

2. Cancellation. BUMEDINST 6240.10.

3. Policy and Agreement

a. Policy. Based on reference (a), the requirements and responsibilities for protection of the quality of drinking water provided by the Navy and Marine Corps in the United States, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are identified in references (b) and (c). Reference (c) provides specific guidance for forces afloat and ground units operating in the field. Overseas Navy and Marine Corps activities shall manage their drinking water under Final Governing Standards (FGSs) as developed by executive agents for each country with significant Department of Defense installations. Where FGSs have not been issued, overseas shore activities will comply with reference (d).

b. International Agreements

(1) Reference (e) is an agreement between the Armies of the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, and the Canadian Forces to adopt minimum requirements for potability of drinking water to be issued to troops in combat zones and emergency situations. The criteria and requirements are for short and long term field water consumption.

(2) Reference (f) establishes the minimum standards used by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Forces when operating on land, in assessing the potability of water issued to NATO troops for drinking purposes under strict emergency conditions, i.e., when there is no safe supply of water available and water has to be obtained, either direct or through other allied units on a mutual aid basis, from sources which are unknown or imperfectly known.

(3) Reference (g) standardizes quality requirements for drinking and culinary water as used ashore, and as delivered to ships from watering points ashore or from a water boat, at establishments under the cognizance of the United States Navy, the Royal Navy, the Canadian Forces, and Royal Australian Navy. This agreement does not include canned water intended for emergency use or supplies intended for short term (1 to 7 days) use under emergency conditions when no other sources are available. In the latter case, reference (f) applies.

4. Responsibilities. Reference (b) provides guidance for the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, major claimants, and commanding officers.

5. Technical Assistance. Assistance with potable water problems may be requested from the following:

a. Navy environmental and preventive medicine units.

b. Preventive medicine departments of naval hospitals and clinics.

c. Naval facilities engineering command field divisions.

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