

Operational Guideline for Manitoba Water Suppliers

Types of Water Systems

PURPOSE

This guideline has been established to ensure that public and semi-public drinking water suppliers throughout the Province of Manitoba meet their regulatory requirements.

Legislation

[The Drinking Water Safety Act \(DWSA\)](#) provides the following definitions:

A water system is defined as an assembly of devices from source to curb stop used to supply potable water. The DWSA further defines public, private and semi-public water systems.

Public water systems are water systems that supply water to 15 or more service connections or have been designated as a public water system under clause 2(b) of the DWSA.

Private water systems are water systems that supply water to a single private residence or have been designated as a private water system under clause 2(a) of the DWSA.

Semi-public water systems are water systems that are not public water systems or private water systems. Essentially, semi-public water systems are systems with 2 to 14 service connections; and systems listed under section 18(2) of [The Drinking Water Safety Regulation \(MR 40/2007\)](#).

A water supplier is defined as the owner of a water system.

An owner of a water system is defined as the person who is responsible for the ongoing operation of a water system or is in charge of operating a water system. There can be public water suppliers, private water suppliers or semi-public water suppliers.

Section 18(2)

The Drinking Water Safety Regulation provides a list of public facilities that, if on their own water supply, are required to disinfect unless the [disinfection requirement](#) has been waived by the director.

The following facilities with their own water supply are considered semi-public water systems:

- (a) a hospital as defined in [The Health Services Insurance Act](#);
- (b) a personal care home as defined in The Health Services Insurance Act;
- (c) a residential care facility as defined in [The Social Services Administration Act](#);
- (d) a public school or a private school, as those terms are defined in [The Education Administration Act](#);
- (e) a child care facility as defined in [The Child and Family Services Act](#);
- (f) a day care centre or a day care home, as those terms are defined in [The Community Child Care Standards Act](#);
- (g) a children's camp, or a recreational or athletic camp;
- (h) a restaurant, cafeteria, food court, or other food handling establishment that requires a licence, permit or other approval under [The Public Health Act](#) or its regulations;
- (i) a business, institution or other facility that is designated by a drinking water officer after consulting with a medical officer of health.

If you are unsure whether your water system should be regulated under the DWSA please contact your regional drinking water officer.

Office of Drinking Water

[Regional Drinking Water Officers](#) are available for operational and monitoring advice and to provide technical assistance.

After hours, please call the Environmental Emergency Response line at 204-944-4888 and ask for the on-call drinking water officer

For more information related to Manitoba's drinking water and how it is regulated visit: www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater