

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

WATER TESTING

(no.)

INTERIM STANDARD NH731

DEFINITION

The testing for physical, biological and chemical characteristics of water.

- Water supply construction practices used such as dug, drilling, casing, spring development. Consider a computerized total farm planning program for ease of data input, analysis and retrieval.

PURPOSE

To determine the quality of a water supply for human and animal consumption and other farm uses.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for water testing shall be in keeping with this standard to achieve the desired results.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This standard applies to water supplies which are used or have potential to be used on farms or agri-business operations.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Records on water testing information will include:

CRITERIA

- Identify specific use of water or concerns.
- Determine required tests and applicable standards
- Collect samples in accordance with approved guidelines.
- Sample analysis by a NH state certified laboratory.
- Obtain interpretation of recommendations for remedial actions, as necessary.

- Date water sample taken,
- Water test analysis date,
- Laboratory used,
- Contaminants tested for, and
- Number of tests performed.
- Schedule of additional testing at required frequency according to applicable standard.
- Records should be maintained to evaluate trends and the effects of remedial action.
- Date of last stormwater event.

CONSIDERATIONS

The following items should be considered in planning water supply testing:

- Location and depth of supply, type of geology and history of site in relationship to sources of potential contamination such as surface water, septic system, chemical storage facilities, roads, and animal waste storage or treatment facility.

REFERENCES

Private Water Systems Handbook. Handbook 14, Mid West Plan Service WPS, Ames, IA. 4th Edition, 1979.

Private Drinking Water Supplies – Quality, Testing and Options for Problem Waters. NRAES-47. Northeast Region Agricultural Engineering Series, Ithaca, NH. 1991.

New York State Interim Standard 731.