



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Stakeholder Meeting on Draft Updates to
the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter
391-3-5, Relating to National Primary
Drinking Water Regulations for
PFOA and PFOS

December 10, 2025

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NATIONAL PFAS REGULATIONS

EPA finalized the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for 6 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) on April 10, 2024 at 89 FR 32532

Chemical	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)	Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)
PFOA	0	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index of 1	Hazard Index of 1

*Compliance is determined by running annual averages at the sampling point



NATIONAL PFAS REGULATIONS – NEXT STEPS

- On May 14, 2025, EPA announced:
 - It intends to keep the current NPDWR for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) while extending their compliance deadlines
 - It plans to rescind the regulations and reconsider the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the hazard index mixture of these three plus PFBS
- EPA will issue an updated draft NPDWR to reflect these changes



PURPOSE OF THE DRAFT RULE UPDATES

- EPD has prepared draft proposed rule updates to incorporate the NPDWR for PFOA and PFOS into the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5
- States have 2 years from the promulgation of federal drinking water regulations to adopt the standards into their state programs and rules (e.g., April 2026)
- EPA has encouraged the states to seek extensions to the 2-year deadline and EPD will file an extension request for additional time
- EPD will adjust the draft rule updates based on any changes in EPA's updated draft NPDWR



EPA'S APRIL 2024 FINAL RULEMAKING

40 CFR Part 141 – National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

141.21, Definitions

141.6, Effective Dates

141.28, Certified Laboratories

141.50, Maximum contaminant level goals for organic contaminants

141.60, Effective Dates

141.61, Maximum contaminant levels for organic contaminants

141.151, Purpose and applicability of this subpart

Appendix A – NPDWR Violations and Other Situations Requiring Public Notice

Appendix B – Standard Health Effects Language for Public Notification

Appendix C – List of Acronyms Used in Public Notification Regulation



EPA'S APRIL 2024 FINAL RULEMAKING

40 CFR Part 141 – National Primary Drinking Water Regulations

Subpart Z – Control of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

141.900, General requirements

141.901, Analytical requirements

141.902, Monitoring requirements

141.903, Compliance requirements

141.904, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements

141.905, Violations



DRAFT RULE UPDATES

- EPD has prepared draft proposed rule updates to incorporate the NPDWR for PFOA and PFOS into the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5.
- The draft rule updates include proposed updates to:
 - Rule 391-3-5-.02 (“Definitions”),
 - Rule 391-3-5-.18 (“Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels for Drinking Water”),
 - Rule 391-3-5-.22 (“Organic Chemical Sampling and Analytical Requirements”),
 - Rule 391-3-5-.32 (“Public Notification”), and
 - New proposed rule 391-3-5-.56 (“Requirements for PFOA and PFOS”)



RULE 391-3-5-.02 DEFINITIONS

Add definitions from 40 CFR Part 141.2 updates

...

(93) “PFOA” means Chemical Abstract Service registration number 45285-51-6, chemical formula C₈F₁₅O₂-, perfluorooctanoate, along with its conjugate acid and any salts, derivatives, isomers, or combinations thereof.

(94) “PFOS” means Chemical Abstract Service registration number 45298-90-6, chemical formula C₈F₁₇S₀₃-, perfluorooctanesulfonate, along with its conjugate acid and any salts, derivatives, isomers, or combinations thereof.

...

[all subsequent definitions would be renumbered as well]



RULE 391-3-5-.18 PRIMARY MCLS

Add MCLs for PFOA and PFOS from 40 CFR Part 141.61 updates

391-3-5-.18 Primary Maximum Contaminant Levels for Drinking Water

...

(2) Primary MCLs for Organics. . . .

(a) Synthetic Organic Chemicals, Pesticides and Polychlorinated biphenyls

Contaminant	Maximum Contaminant Level (mg/L)
...	...
<u>PFOA¹</u>	<u>0.0000040</u>
<u>PFOS¹</u>	<u>0.0000040</u>

NOTE:

¹ The deadlines for compliance with the maximum contaminant levels for PFOA and PFOS are specified in 40 CFR, Part 141, Subpart Z and in Rule 391-3-5-.56.



RULE 391-3-5-.22 DRAFT UPDATES

Add reference to new Rule 391-3-5-.56 re: monitoring requirements, and add an applicable provision of 40 CFR 141.24(h) to paragraph (3)

Rule 391-3-5-.22 Organic Chemical Sampling and Analytical Requirements

...

(3) Ongoing Organic Monitoring. Analysis of the contaminants listed in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a) for the purposes of determining compliance with the maximum contaminant level shall be conducted as follows. The analytical, monitoring, compliance and reporting and recordkeeping requirements for PFOA and PFOS are specified in Rule 391-3-5-.56. In accordance with 40 CFR, Part 141.21(h), no monitoring is required for aldicarb, aldicarb sulfoxide, or aldicarb sulfone.



RULE 391-3-5-.22 DRAFT UPDATES

Add clarifying language from PFAS NPDWR, 40 CFR 141.902, to subparagraphs (3)(a) and (b)

Rule 391-3-5-.22 Organic Chemical Sampling and Analytical Requirements

(3) Ongoing Organic Monitoring.

...

(a) [re: Groundwater systems] . . . Each sample must be taken at the same sampling point, unless conditions make another sampling point more representative of each source or treatment plant, and under normal operating conditions.

(b) Surface water systems shall take a minimum of one sample at points in the distribution system that are representative of each source or at each entry point to the distribution system after treatment (hereafter called a sampling point) and under normal operating conditions. . . .



RULE 391-3-5-.22 DRAFT UPDATES

Specify that waivers will not be granted for PFOA and PFOS monitoring requirements in sub-paragraph (3)(e)

Rule 391-3-5-.22 Organic Chemical Sampling and Analytical Requirements

...

(3) Ongoing Organic Monitoring.

...

(e) Each community and non-transient water system may apply to the Division for a waiver from the requirement of paragraph (3)(d), but may not apply for a waiver for PFOA and PFOS monitoring. A system must reapply for a waiver for each compliance period.



RULE 391-3-5-.22 DRAFT UPDATES

Incorporate the BAT for PFOA and PFOS from 40 CFR 141.61 into subparagraph (3)(s)

Rule 391-3-5-.22 Organic Chemical Sampling and Analytical Requirements

(3) Ongoing Organic Monitoring. . . .

. . . .

(s)

1. Under 40 CFR 141.61(d), the best technology, treatment technique, or other means available for achieving compliance with the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are Anion exchange, granular activated carbon (GAC), reverse osmosis, and nanofiltration.



RULE 391-3-5-.22 DRAFT UPDATES

Incorporate the BAT for PFOA and PFOS from 40 CFR 141.61 into sub-paragraph (3)(s)

Rule 391-3-5-.22 Organic Chemical Sampling and Analytical Requirements

(3) Ongoing Organic Monitoring. . . .

(s) . . .

2. Under 40 CFR 141.6(e), the affordable technology, treatment technique, or other means available to systems serving 10,000 persons or fewer for achieving compliance with the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are as follows:

<u>Small system compliance technology (SSCT)¹</u>	<u>Affordable for listed small system categories</u>
<u>Granular Activated Carbon</u>	<u>All size categories</u>
<u>Anion Exchange</u>	<u>All size categories</u>
<u>Reverse Osmosis, Nonfiltration²</u>	<u>3,301 – 10,000</u>
<u>NOTES:</u>	
<u>¹ Section 1412(b)(4)(E)(ii) of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act specifies that SSCTs must be affordable and technically feasible for small systems.</u>	
<u>² Technologies reject a large volume of water and may not be appropriate for areas where water quantity may be an issue.</u>	



RULE 391-3-5-.32 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Add references to New Rule 391-3-5-.56 to paragraph (1)

(1) **Public Notification Requirements.** 40 CFR, Part 141, Subpart Q §§ 141.201 through 141.210, including Appendices A, B and C to subpart Q of Part 141, is hereby incorporated by reference. Any amendments to any part of the appendices in 40 CFR, Subpart Q are hereby incorporated by reference. If a community or non-community water system . . . fails to comply with an applicable testing procedure established in Rules 391-3-5-.20, .21, .22, .23, .24, .25,.27, .52, .53, .54, ~~or~~.55, or .56; is granted a variance or an exemption from an applicable maximum contaminant level; fails to comply with the requirements of any schedule prescribed pursuant to a variance or exemption; or fails to comply with any treatment technique requirement specified by the Director; or fails to perform any monitoring or reporting required pursuant to Rules 391-3-5-.20, .21, .22, .23, .24, .25, .26, .27,.30, .52, .53, .54, ~~and~~.55, and .56; the supplier of water shall notify persons (including the mandatory health effects language) served by the system as required in 40 CFR, Part 141, Subpart Q. . . .



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.900, "General requirements.", as paragraph (1)

...

Rule 391-3-5-.56 Requirements for PFOA and PFOS

(1) Purpose. The purpose of this Rule is to provide the requirements for compliance with the primary drinking water regulations for PFOA and PFOS. Each community water system (CWS) and non-transient, non-community water system (NTNCWS) must meet the requirements of this Rule to comply with the maximum contaminant levels for PFOA and PFOS identified in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a).

...



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.901, “Analytical requirements.”, as paragraph (2)

(2) Analytical requirements. Systems must use only the following analytical methods to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this Rule. Analyses must only be conducted by laboratories that have been certified by EPA or the Division.

[(a) EPA Method 533;

(b) Method 537.1, Version 2.0;

(c) Solid Phase Extraction (SPE) LC-MS/MS Methodology]

(d) To receive certification to conduct analyses for the regulated PFAS, a laboratory must:

1. Analyze Performance Evaluation (PE) samples that are acceptable to the Division at least once during each consecutive 12-month period by each method for which the laboratory desires certification.

2. Achieve quantitative results on the PE sample analyses that are within the following acceptance limits (percent of true value) for PFOA and PFOS: 70-130.



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, "Monitoring requirements.", as paragraph (3)

(3) Monitoring requirements.

(a) Systems must take all samples during normal operating conditions at all entry points to the distribution system, using the procedures specified in Rule 391-3-5-.22(3)(a)-(c). Systems must use only data collected under the provisions of this sub-paragraph to qualify for reduced compliance monitoring.

(b) All new systems that begin operation after April 26, 2027, or systems that use a new source of water after April 26, 2027, must demonstrate compliance with the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS identified in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a) at start up. Compliance monitoring frequencies must be conducted in accordance with the requirements in this sub-paragraph.

(c) The trigger levels for PFOA and PFOS are 2.0 parts per trillion (or ng/l), which is equivalent to 0.0000020 mg/l. Each water system must ensure that all results provided by a laboratory are reported to the Division and used for determining the required sampling frequencies. This includes values below the practical quantitation levels of 4.0 parts per trillion (or ng/l) for PFOA and PFOS; zero must not be used in place of reported values.



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, “Monitoring requirements.”, as paragraph (3)

...

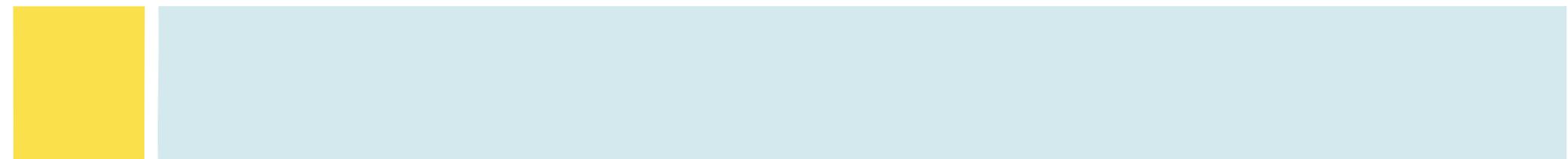
(d) Initial monitoring for PFOA and PFOS must be completed by April 26, 2027.

1. Groundwater CWS and NTNCWS serving greater than 10,000 persons and all surface water CWS and NTNCWS must take four consecutive samples 2 to 4 months apart within a 12-month period (quarterly samples) for both PFOA and PFOS at each entry point to the distribution system.

2. Groundwater CWS and NTNCWS serving 10,000 or fewer persons must take two samples for both PFOA and PFOS five to seven months apart within a 12-month period at each entry point to the distribution system.

3. All groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI) CWS and NTNCWS, or those systems blending surface water and groundwater, must follow the surface water CWS and NTNCWS monitoring schedule. Systems that change the source water type at an entry point to the distribution system during the initial monitoring period must also follow the surface water CWS and NTNCWS monitoring schedule.

...





RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, “Monitoring requirements.”, as paragraph (3)

...

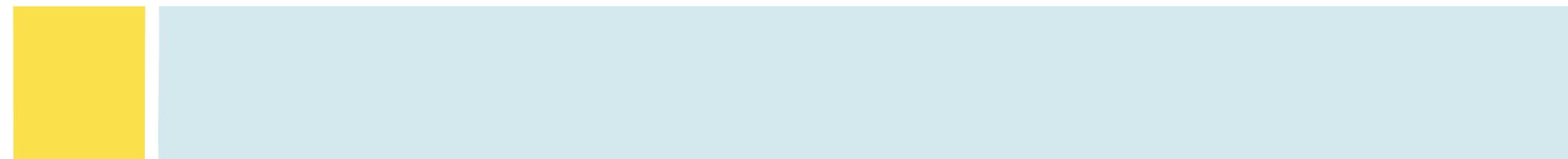
(d) Initial monitoring. . .

4. For purposes of initial monitoring, the Division may accept data that was collected starting on or after January 1, 2019 that otherwise meet the timing requirements specified in subparagraphs (3)(d)1. or 2. If systems have multiple years of data, the most recent data must be used to meet the initial monitoring requirements. In determining the most recent data to report, a system must include all results provided by a laboratory whether above or below the practical quantitation levels. These results must be used for the purposes of determining the frequency with which a system must monitor at that sampling point at the start of the compliance monitoring period.

5. For the purposes of satisfying initial monitoring requirements, acceptable data may be reported to a concentration no greater than the MCLs.

6. The Division may delete the results of obvious sampling errors. In such instances, the system must collect another sample to avoid a monitoring violation.

...





RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, “Monitoring requirements.”, as paragraph (3)

...

(e) Routine compliance monitoring. Each community water system (CWS) and non-transient, non-community water system (NTNCWS) must meet the following compliance monitoring requirements beginning on April 26, 2027. Systems with multiple entry points may establish different compliance monitoring schedules for each entry point depending on their monitoring results and through coordination with the Division.

1. If all monitoring collected during the initial monitoring period were below the trigger levels specified in sub-paragraph (3)(c), the system may conduct triennial monitoring. Otherwise, the system must conduct quarterly monitoring.

2. Triennial Monitoring. Systems conducting triennial monitoring must collect samples at each entry point to the distribution system once within the three-year period, in the same quarter that yielded the highest analytical result during the most recent round of quarterly or semi-annual monitoring. If any sample collected during triennial monitoring detects PFOA or PFOS at a level equal to or exceeding the trigger levels specified in sub-paragraph (3)(c), the system must shift to quarterly monitoring for both PFOA and PFOS and the triggering sample result will be used as the first quarterly sample.

...



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, “Monitoring requirements.”, as paragraph (3)

...

(e) Routine compliance monitoring. . .

3. Quarterly Monitoring. Systems conducting quarterly monitoring must collect samples at each entry point to the distribution system in four consecutive quarters over a 12-month period. If the Division determines that the PFOA and PFOS concentrations at a sampling point are reliably and consistently below the MCLs identified in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a), after considering a minimum of 4 consecutive quarterly samples collected during the compliance monitoring period, then the system may be allowed to shift to annual monitoring at the sampling point.

...



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, “Monitoring requirements.”, as paragraph (3)

...

(e) Routine compliance monitoring. . .

4. Annual Monitoring. A system conducting annual monitoring must collect annual samples at the sample point for at least the first three years after the Division makes its determination under sub-paragraph (e)3. The annual sample must be collected in the same quarter that yielded the highest analytical result during the most recent year of quarterly monitoring.

(i) If, after three consecutive years, annual samples all contain results that are below the trigger levels specified in sub-paragraph (3)(c), the Division may allow the system to begin triennial monitoring at the sampling point.

(ii) If a system monitoring annually has a sample result that equals or exceeds the MCL for PFOA or PFOS, they must begin quarterly sampling for both PFOA and PFOS in the next quarter at the sampling point.

...





RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.902, “Monitoring requirements.”, as paragraph (3)

...

(e) Routine compliance monitoring. . .

5. When a system reduces its sampling frequency to annual or triennial sampling, the next compliance sample must be collected in the monitoring period that begins the calendar year following the Division’s approval of a reduction in monitoring frequency.

6. If the Division requires a confirmation sample for any sampling result, the system must average the result with the first sampling result and the average must be used for the determination of the compliance with the MCLs identified in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a).

7. The Division may delete the results of obvious sampling errors. In such instances, the system must collect another sample to avoid a monitoring violation under paragraph (6).

8. The Division may increase the required monitoring frequency, where necessary, to detect variations within the system (e.g., fluctuations in concentration due to seasonal use, changes in water source). In such cases, the Division will notify the system of the reason for the increase in monitoring frequency.

...





RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.903, "Compliance requirements.", as paragraph (4)

(4) Compliance requirements. Compliance with the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS identified in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a) will be determined based on the analytical results obtained at each sampling point and are based on a running annual average. The compliance deadline is specified in 40 CFR, Part 141, Subpart Z.

1. If a system fails to collect the required number of samples specified in paragraph (3) of this rule, this is a monitoring violation under paragraph (6) of this Rule and compliance calculations will be based on the total number of samples collected.

2. A system that is monitoring on a quarterly basis will not be considered in violation of the MCL until it has completed one year of quarterly sampling at the sampling point. However, whenever a sample result in any quarter (or quarterly average, based on a confirmation sample that may be required by the Division) causes the running annual average to exceed the MCL at a sampling point (e.g., the results from a single sample are more than 4 times the MCL), the system is out of compliance with the MCL immediately.



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.903, "Compliance requirements.", as paragraph (4)

(4) Compliance requirements. . . .

3. Systems must calculate compliance with the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS as follows:

(i) For systems monitoring quarterly, divide the sum of the measured quarterly concentrations for each analyte by the number of quarters samples were collected for that analyte during the consecutive quarters included in the calculation. If more than one compliance sample for that analyte is available in a quarter because a confirmation sample was required by the Division, systems must average all the results in a quarter then average the quarterly averages. Rounding does not occur until the end of the calculation. If the running annual average exceeds the MCL, the system is not in compliance with the MCL requirements.

(ii) For systems monitoring annually, if the concentration measured is equal to or exceeds the MCL, the system is required to initiate quarterly monitoring for both PFOA and PFOS beginning in the next quarter at the sampling point, with the triggering sample result used as the first quarter of monitoring for the running annual average calculation.



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.903, "Compliance requirements.", as paragraph (4)

(4) Compliance requirements. . . .

3. Systems must calculate compliance with the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS as follows:

. . . .

(iii) For systems monitoring triennially, if the concentration measured is equal to or exceeds the trigger level, the system is required to initiate quarterly monitoring for both PFOA and PFOS beginning in the next quarter at the sampling point, with the triggering sample result used as the first quarter of monitoring for the running annual average calculation.

4. For the purpose of calculating MCL compliance, if a sample result is less than the practical quantitation level (PQL) of 4.0 parts per trillion (or ng/l), zero is used for that analyte solely to calculate the running annual average.



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.904, “Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.”, as paragraph (5)

(5) Reporting and recordkeeping requirements. Systems required to sample must report to the Division according to the timeframes and provisions of Rule 391-3-5-.30 and retain records according to the provisions of Rule 391-3-5-.15.

(a) Systems must report the following information from their initial monitoring to the Division: all sample results, including the locations, number of samples taken at each location, dates, and concentrations reported, as well as whether a trigger level, defined in sub-paragraph (3)(c), was met or exceeded in any samples.

...



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.904, “Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.”, as paragraph (5)

(5) Reporting and recordkeeping requirements. . . .

(b) Systems must report the information collected during their compliance monitoring to the Division as follows:

1. All sample results, including the locations, number of samples taken at each location, dates, and concentrations during the previous monitoring period.
2. For systems monitoring on a quarterly basis, the running annual average at each sampling point of all compliance samples.
3. Whether a trigger level, defined in sub-paragraph (3)(c), was met or exceeded in any samples.
4. Whether the MCL for PFOA or PFOS identified in Rule 391-3-5-.18(2)(a) was met or exceeded in any samples.
5. Whether the MCL for PFOA or PFOS was violated.



RULE 391-3-5-.56 REQUIREMENTS FOR PFOA AND PFOS

Incorporate 40 CFR 141.905, "Violations.", as paragraph (6)

(6) Violations.

1. Violations of the MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are based on a running annual average, as outlined in paragraph (4) of this Rule.
2. Compliance with the MCLs must be determined based on the analytical results obtained at each sampling point. If one sampling point is in violation of an MCL, the system is in violation of the MCL.
3. Each failure to monitor in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (3) of this Rule is a monitoring violation.
4. Failure to notify the Division following an MCL violation and failure to submit monitoring data in accordance with paragraph (5) and Rule 391-3-5-.30 are reporting violations.



COMMENT

How to submit your comments

- Written comments should be received by close of business on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2025.
- Written comments may be emailed to EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov.
- Please include the words “PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Rule Updates” in the subject line.



Questions/Comments?

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