



## **Policy on Bulk Water Deliveries and Use**

(revised 1/30/2020)

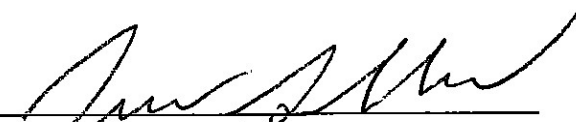
All Bulk Water transportation, transfer, and storage shall be conducted in accordance with Section 4.9.4 “Bulk Water” of the RI Department of Health (RIDOH) Regulations for Food Protection [216-RICR-50-10-4] (Regulations).

1. Bulk water shall mean water intended for potable uses which is transported by a tank truck, water buffalo, storage tank, or transfer line.
2. Bulk water use by public water systems is only allowed on a temporary or emergency basis and should it be required and approved by the Rhode Island Department of Health Center for Drinking Water Quality (RIDOH) on a long-term basis, additional testing may be required.
3. Public water systems must notify the RIDOH prior to accepting deliveries of bulk water and must submit an engineer's report within ten (10) days of notifying RIDOH, specifying actions to be taken to resolve the emergency situation which necessitated the use of bulk water.
4. Bulk water sources must be approved by RIDOH.
5. All truck tanks, transfer lines, and on-site storage tanks must be dedicated to potable water use only and sanitized prior to use.
6. All on-site storage tanks must be secured against unauthorized entry or tampering at hatches, valves, or piping connections.
7. Sampling of water from a Bulk Water System will be conducted and analyzed as directed by RIDOH. All bulk water deliveries must be sampled for coliform bacteria and residual chlorine, either from the Bulk Water System or from a sample tap between the fill line and the water system storage tank. After initial sampling shows the delivered water to be coliform free, subsequent sampling of each delivery may be waived by RIDOH provided that the Bulk Water System is used exclusively for delivery to that public water system, a minimum concentration of 0.5 ppm chlorine is maintained in the bulk water system at all times, and all other aspects of this policy are in compliance. At a minimum, sampling of water from a bulk water system delivering water to a public water system will be conducted monthly.
8. Coliform samples must be collected in sterile sample bottles containing sodium thiosulfate.

9. The water system will not use the water in the system for drinking or food preparation until sample results are reported to RIDOH, which show the water to be coliform-free with a residual chlorine reading of 0.5 to 4.0 mg/L.
10. RIDOH will determine the frequency and methodology of chlorine residual monitoring, if necessary.
11. Records of each delivery will be maintained by the hauler and on-site user. Specifically, a log or data sheet shall be maintained for each delivery, indicating the date, time and location of delivery, the number of gallons, the amount of chlorine (sodium hypochlorite) added and the original strength of the sanitizing solution, the measured residual, the name of the Bulk Hauling Company, the source of the water and the truck used.
12. Records will also be maintained by the on-site user for each bulk storage tank, noting whether it is a dedicated potable water tank, the sanitizing procedure utilized, any available sampling results showing it to be coliform-free at the time it was put into service or at the point of first filling on site, and/or any measurements of chlorine residual to confirm that an 0.5 ppm chlorine residual is being maintained, if deemed necessary.
13. These records must be available for inspection by RIDOH personnel.
14. The on-site user must also obtain approval from the local building inspector or plumbing authority prior to use. Elimination of any cross-connection with the public water supply may be required.

If bulk water is used without compliance with all the requirements of this policy, the public water system will implement a boil water advisory to remain in effect until rescinded by RIDOH.

For more information, call the Center for Drinking Water Quality at 401-222-6867 or the Center for Food Protection at 401-222-2750.

  
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June A. Swallow, PE, Chief  
Center for Drinking Water Quality

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Date 4/13/18