Certification Program Description

Water treatment devices (WTDs) that are sold for residential use in California must be certified by the Department of Public Health (Department) whenever a health benefit claim is made for the device. The certification requirements were established by Chapter 8.5, Part 1, Division 5 of the Health and Safety Code (commencing with Section 116825). Since October 1991, all WTDs that are sold on the basis of health claims have been required to be certified. The Water Treatment Device Certification Program is administered by the Technical Programs Branch of the Department's Drinking Water Program.

The certification program **regulates only those WTDs for which health benefit claims are made**. Specifically, WTDs must be certified by the Department if a claim is made that the WTD can reduce, filter or treat any chemical or compound that the State or federal government has determined presents a health concern in drinking water. While most of the testing (and claims) are built around primary drinking water standards, regulations also define a health claim as a claim for the reduction of all contaminants for which there is a monitoring requirement (public water systems are required to monitor for specific contaminants). Examples of health benefit claims include a device's ability to reduce or filter lead and other heavy metals, bacteria, cysts (giardia), nitrates, organic chemicals and pesticides.

California's certification program does **not cover aesthetic claims.** These include claims regarding the taste, odor, appearance, TDS, and hardness of drinking water.

The Certification Program is authorized to **certify only devices which are designed for treating residential drinking water.** Other types of WTDs are not regulated by the Department, such as shower filters and camping or backpacking water filters. However, if these devices use bactericidal or other chemicals for disinfection purposes, they may be regulated by the Department of Pesticide Regulation.

Most testing for certification is done according to specific protocols that are a part of NSF/ANSI International Standards: Standard 44 (Cation Exchange Water Softeners), Standard 53 (Drinking Water Treatment Units - Health Effects), Standard 58 (Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Systems), and Standard 62 (Drinking Water Distillation Systems). Other devices which use other technologies or combinations of technologies are tested according to protocols approved by the Department. The actual testing of devices is conducted by independent, third-party, Department-approved laboratories. The testing establishes that the devices provide sufficient reduction of contaminants to warrant certification. Testing also determines that the materials used to construct the device will not contribute harmful contaminants to the treated water. The results are evaluated by Department scientist and engineering staff.

Before a device can be certified, the manufacturer must comply with product labeling and consumer information requirements. A certified device is easy to identify because each device has a label which includes the certification number (Figure 1-1) and a product data sheet (Figure 1-2) which includes a copy of the certificate issued by the Department (Figure 1-3). The product data sheet must include the following information:

- Rated service life (where applicable)
- General use conditions
- Model or part numbers for replacement elements
- Maximum and minimum operating temperatures
- Maximum and minimum operating pressure
- Cost of replacement elements

Section 116840 of the California Health and Safety Code provides for enforcement against companies marketing or selling devices in California that do not comply with the certification requirements. Civil penalties up to $5,000 per violation per day can be levied by either State or local officials. A copy of Chapter 5, Article 3 is included in Section 10.

Directory Updates

This directory includes devices that were certified as of January 1, 2013 or as otherwise noted. The directory will be updated on our website annually or as deemed necessary by the department. New drinking water treatment devices are continually being tested and certified. In addition, existing certified devices are sometimes modified and certified for treatment of additional contaminants and or to make different performance claims. Some devices will lose certification for a variety of deficiencies. As such, the certification list is dynamic and subject to frequent change. You are encouraged to contact the department as identified below for current and updated information.

For more information about the program, please call (916) 449-5600

Example Label (Required Content)

The Golden State, Inc.

The Water Fix
Model - 282

For conditions of use, health claims certified by the
California Department of Public Health, and
replacement parts, see product data sheet.

California Department of Public Health Certification Number 95-5000

Figure 1-1

Example Product Data Sheet (Required Content)

The Water Fix
Model - 282

Product Data Sheet

Operating Conditions:

Service Flow Rate: 0.5 gpm (2.2 l/min)
Rated Service Life: 670 gallons or every 6 months
pH Range: 6.5 - 8.5
Feed Water Temperature Range: 35 - 100 °F (2 - 38 °C)
Feed Water Pressure Range: 20 - 125 psi (1.4 - 8.7 kg/sq cm)
Feed water must not exceed 400 ppm sulfate and 3 ppm iron.

Cost of Replacement Filters:

Filter 1 part number 1542: $12.59

Do not use where water is microbiologically unsafe or with water of unknown quality, except that systems claiming cyst reduction may be used on water containing cysts.

Please refer to the Owners Manual for additional information.

Figure 1-2

State of California
Department of Public Health

Water Treatment Device Certificate Number 95 - 5000

Date Issued: February 10, 1995

Trademark/Model Designation
The Water Fix Model 282

Replacement Elements
Filter 1542

Manufacturer: The Golden State, Inc.

The water treatment device(s) listed on this certificate have met the testing requirements pursuant to Section 116830 of the Health and Safety Code for the following health related contaminants:

Microbiological Contaminants and Turbidity
Cysts

Inorganic/Radiological Contaminants
Lead
Cooper

Organic Contaminants
None

Rated Service Capacity: 670 gals

Rated Service Flow: 0.5 gpm

Conditions of Certification:

Do not use where water is microbiologically unsafe or with water of unknown quality, except that systems certified for cyst reduction may be used on disinfected waters that may contain filterable cysts.

How To Use The Directory

All California-certified water treatment devices (WTDs) (as of January 1, 2013) are listed in this directory. Since there are over 400 certified devices as of the publishing date, we have organized information about them in several different ways in order to make the directory easy to use. The most detailed information on each device is given in the numerical listing of certification numbers. All other listings give the certification number for each device so that the device can be found under the numerical listing for full information.

The devices are listed five ways and all listings are completely searchable by using the "Find" button or by simply pressing "Control F" on the keyboard and typing in the key term for the search .

First, they are listed by manufacturer. (Section 3) This will assist you if you know the manufacturer's name and want to find more information on a specific model. Certification numbers are listed here so you can access more detailed information on any of the WTDs.

Second, they are listed by model name. (Section 4) Find the device here if you only know the name of it. From here, go to the numerical listing to see complete information for the device.

Third, the WTDs are listed by their certification number. (Section 5) Virtually all the information given on an official certificate is also given here. You will find all the contaminants each device is certified to reduce, the tested capacity of each device, conditions of use, etc.

Fourth, the devices are listed by performance claims. (Section 6) If you are looking for a WTD to remove a particular contaminant from your drinking water, such as lead, you can go to the "Lead" list to see all the devices certified for lead reduction. These lists give you the certification numbers for the devices so that you can look up more detailed information* on a particular device.

Finally, the WTDs are listed by the type of system. (Section 7) If you are looking for a specific type of system, this list gives the WTD in system type order. For example if you are looking for a reverse osmosis system this list would supply them by system type, model name, and certificate number. From here you would go toe the numerical listing to see complete information for the device.

* Replacement element information on the certificate will indicate the type of components including R/O (reverse osmosis) modules, also described as CTA or TFC membranes.

Anatomy of a Certificate

Each certificate contains the following:

State Seal: All water treatment device (WTD) certificates issued by the Department have a watermark of the Great Seal of the State of California. The presence of this seal ensures that the certificate is official and the device was tested and shown to adequately reduce the contaminants listed on the certificate.

Certificate Number: This identifies each certificate and is keyed to the State's certification database.

Date Issued: Certification of a device's performance is valid for five years from the issue date, if renewal requirements are met. Devices must meet retesting and recertification requirements after five years.

Trademark/Model Designation: This lists the exact device that is certified. If more than one device is listed on a certificate, they are identical units with only minor cosmetic differences (such as color, or under-counter or countertop variations).

Replacement Elements: These are the treatment elements with which the device was tested to determine contaminant reduction performance. If other replacement elements are used, there is no assurance that treatment will be provided. It is no longer the certified device.

Manufacturer: This is the entity responsible for the performance of the device. It may be the actual manufacturer; it may also be a company that labels or assembles the device.

Contaminants:

Contaminants are listed under three categories: microbiological, inorganic/radiological, and organic.

Microbiological contaminants include viruses, protozoan cysts (such as giardia), bacteria, and turbidity. Inorganic/radiological contaminants include heavy metals (such as lead), asbestos, nitrates and radium.

Organic contaminants include herbicides, pesticides, industrial solvents, and other organic chemicals. This category also includes trihalomethanes and MTBE.

Contaminants are listed individually in each category. If there are no contaminants certified in a particular category, "none" will be listed on the certificate.

Rated service flow

This gives the rate at which the device can deliver treated water, usually in gallons per minute.

Rated service capacity:

This gives the amount of treated water that the device can be expected to deliver under normal use conditions before filters need to be replaced. Capacity is usually given in total gallons.

Water quality requirement:

This specifies the type of input or source water that is required for adequate system performance. There are generally three types of requirements that will appear (shown in bold at bottom of certificate).

Most devices require influent water that is microbiologically safe, which means that the water has been treated to drinking water standards by a municipal water system (see the glossary for a detailed definition of "microbiologically safe").

In addition, some devices are certified to remove protozoan cysts, in which case the certificate will specify that the device can be used on water containing cysts.

A few devices are certified to remove a wide range of microbiological contaminants (bacteria, cysts, virus, turbidity) and will carry a warning stating "Do not use for the treatment of water that is visually contaminated (cloudy) or has an obvious contamination source, such as contamination by raw sewage".

Special requirements: Some devices have special conditions surrounding their certification. These include 1) requirements for nitrate test kits when the device is certified for nitrate reduction, and 2) flow meters and/or warning lights when the device was tested using these items. These conditions and requirements, when applicable, appear in bold at the bottom of the certificate.