



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Start-up Procedures and Certification for: Seasonal Public Water Systems

TCEQ • 12100 Park 35 Circle, Bldg. F, Austin, Texas 78753 • <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/>

Summary of the Revised Total Coliform Rule

A revision to the 1989 Total Coliform Rule, the Revised Total Coliform Rule establishes a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for *E. coli* and uses *E. coli* and total coliforms to initiate a “find and fix” approach to address fecal contamination that could enter into the distribution system. It requires public water systems (PWSs) to perform assessments to identify sanitary defects and subsequently take corrective action.

All PWSs must comply with the RTCR requirements starting April 1, 2016. The RTCR contains provisions specific to **seasonal** public water systems. This document summarizes the major changes and requirements for TCEQ’s seasonal public water systems as a result of the RTCR. If you have specific questions about how the RTCR will impact your water system, please contact the Public Drinking Water (PDW) Section.



WHAT ARE SEASONAL SYSTEMS?

A Seasonal System is defined as a non-community water system that is not operated as a PWS on a year-round basis and starts up and shuts down at the beginning and end of each operating season.

Examples of seasonal public water systems include, but are not limited to: campgrounds, youth camps, state parks, some restaurants, inns, and motels.

STATE APPROVED START-UP PROCEDURES AND CERTIFICATION

The month **prior** to the beginning of each operating season, before serving water to the public, every seasonal public water system must:

- ▶ Conduct the state-approved start-up procedures;
- ▶ Complete all necessary repairs to system;
- ▶ Collect “special” microbial sample(s);
- ▶ Certify completion of the state-approved start-up procedures;
- ▶ Submit the certification of state-approved start-up procedures to TCEQ; and
- ▶ Retain a copy of the completed state-approved start-up procedures and certification form on-site at the water system for inspection purposes.

TCEQ’s state-approved start-up procedures for seasonal groundwater or surface water systems can be found online at <http://www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/RTCR> “Start-up Procedures for Seasonal Public Water Systems”.

- ▶ To certify completion of the state-approved start-up procedures, public water systems must complete the start-up procedures and sign the start-up procedures certification included in this document, then submit this entire document to the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Section prior to serving water to the public for the season.
- ▶ All seasonal public water systems must complete the start-up procedures and certification on an annual basis for each seasonal operating period.
- ▶ For questions concerning state-approved start-up procedures, please contact the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Section, Revised Total Coliform Rule Program at (512) 239-4691 or at: TCRDATA@tceq.texas.gov.

START-UP PROCEDURES

Seasonal Public Water Systems must inspect their system and certify that the following actions have been completed the month prior to the beginning of each seasonal operating period, before serving water to the public.

ACTION	REVIEWED OR NOT APPLICABLE (NA)	
	Yes	OR NA
Source(s)		
▶ Well head sealed and intact to prevent entry of contaminants or foreign objects.		
▶ Surface water intakes and conveyance system functioning properly.		
▶ Security equipment and measures in place.		
▶ Assessed any changes to water source(s).		
▶ Complete any necessary repairs.		
Water Storage and/or Pressure Tank(s)		
▶ Tank openings, surface coatings, mechanical parts secured and intact.		
▶ Vents and overflows screened and intact.		
▶ Complete any necessary repairs.		
Start-up Production and Treatment Equipment		
▶ Well(s), surface water equipment, treatment, disinfection, and pressurization equipment and processes operational.		
▶ System is meeting and maintaining required disinfection treatment procedures and parameters for groundwater and/or surface water sources.		
▶ Complete any necessary repairs.		
Flush Distribution System		
▶ Flush any stagnant water from storage/pressure tanks, and distribution system lines (if applicable).		
▶ Restore disinfection process and maintain minimum disinfectant residual and pressure in water/pressure tanks and throughout entire distribution system.		
▶ All flush valves and distribution system equipment are operational.		
▶ Identify any line leak and/or malfunctioning equipment.		
▶ Complete any necessary repairs. Disinfection procedures follow applicable State rule requirements and/or American Water Works Association Standards.		
Monitor Treatment, Disinfection, and Pressure Process		
▶ Measure and maintain minimum disinfectant residual in treatment process and throughout distribution system.		
▶ Complete any necessary repairs.		
Microbial Monitoring		
▶ Once the above steps have been completed and the system is fully operational, measure the chlorine residual and collect one "special" microbial sample at one of the designated "routine" sample sites as identified in the system's Sample Siting Plan.		
▶ The sample should be labeled as "special" on the laboratory sample submission form. (Microbial Monitoring Form (MMF 10525))		
▶ In accordance with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.119(a)(1), the microbial sample must be submitted to and analyzed by a laboratory accredited by the executive director in accordance with Chapter 25 of this title (relating to Environmental Testing Laboratory Accreditation and Certification).		
▶ If the "special" sample is coliform-positive, then continue to collect one "special" sample until a sample is coliform-negative.		
▶ Prior to collecting an additional "special" sample following a coliform-positive sample, check for and correct any potential contamination sources or issues and conduct any necessary distribution system flushing activities.		
▶ Once a "special" sample is coliform-negative, then submit the result(s) and this document with the attached Start-up Procedures Certification form to the TCEQ at the address referenced on the Start-up Procedures Certification page.		

START-UP PROCEDURES CERTIFICATION

Public Water System Name (print name): _____

Public Water System Identification Number (seven digit): _____

Once the Start-up Procedures have been completed, the owner or operator of the public water system must sign the below certification form and submit this entire document to the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Section prior to serving water to the public for the seasonal operating period.

Additional Comments (i.e., required repairs, other actions):

Certification of Completion:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fines and imprisonment for knowing violations.”

Certified by (print name): _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: _____

The signed certification form for state-approved start-up procedures shall be submitted to the TCEQ Public Drinking Water Section by facsimile at: (512) 239-3666, email at: TCRDATA@tceq.texas.gov, or by mail at:

**Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Attention: Drinking Water Quality Team
RTCR Seasonal System Start-up Certification
Public Drinking Water Section
P.O. Box 13087 (MC-155)
Austin, Texas 78711-3087**

THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT (PAGES 1 -3), PLUS THE “SPECIAL” MICROBIAL SAMPLE RESULT(S), MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE TCEQ FOR SEASONAL START-UP PROCEDURES COMPLIANCE.