



## WATER TESTING & REPORTING

At Nestlé Waters North America, we hold our products to high standards of quality and safety. That's why we're proud to lead the bottled water industry in transparency around the testing of, and reporting on, the quality of our products.

### *Frequent Testing for Quality and Safety*

- ✓ Every day, we test each bottling line 200 times to ensure our products meet or exceed FDA requirements, as well as our own internal quality standards.
- ✓ We conduct one test for every 40,000 gallons of water processed, while municipal water is tested once every 2.7 million gallons processed.
- ✓ Gallon for gallon, we test our water more than 60 times more frequently than most municipal water supplies.
- ✓ Our bottling plants undergo independent annual inspection.

### *Monitoring for Key Contaminants*

- ✓ FDA regulations for bottled water are at least as protective as those imposed by the EPA for municipal drinking water. In fact, federal regulations for bottled water are stronger than those for tap water for the following key contaminants:
  - **Coliform** – Bottled water must be free of coliform bacteria – a commonly used indicator of sanitary quality – at all times (as-of December 2009). By comparison, tap water sources can contain coliform.
  - **E. Coli** – Bottled water sources are not allowed to contain E. coli bacteria (as-of December 2009), but tap water sources are. If E. coli is detected in bottled water, it can be recalled; however, tap water cannot be recalled, and people have to boil it for safety.
  - **Lead** – We test our water sources annually for lead, and our lead standard is non-detectable – less than .5 parts per billion (PPB). By comparison, FDA regulations allow for 5 PPB of lead in bottled water, while 15 PPB is the standard for public water supplies.





### ***Reporting on Quality***

- ✓ Since 2005, we have made quality reports publicly available for all of our brands.
- ✓ We publish quality reports that are comparable to those published by public water utilities. These reports are based on independent testing results from certified third-party labs.
- ✓ Our quality reports and information about our water sources are easily accessible on our Web site or by calling a toll-free number, both of which are listed on our product labels.
- ✓ We remain committed to making quality reports and source information easy for the public to access, and encourage all bottled water companies to do the same so consumers can see for themselves that bottled water is a beverage choice of high and consistent quality.
- ✓ We support establishing clear, federal standards to require all water bottlers to disclose water sources and test results concerning water quality. California's state law would serve as a good model for federal legislation.

### ***Protecting the Water We Drink***

- ✓ Largely as a result of our frequent testing and reporting on quality, the FDA is aware of no major outbreaks of illness or serious safety concerns associated with bottled water over the past decade.
- ✓ According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are between 4 and 33 million cases of gastrointestinal illness each year associated with public drinking water systems.

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