

Busch, Stephen (DEQ)

From: Busch, Stephen (DEQ)
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 2015 9:39 AM
To: 'Wurfel, Brad (DEQ) (WurfelB@michigan.gov)'
Subject: Tap Filters

Brad,

Regarding point of use and point of entry water filters:

ANSI NSF Standard 42 Covers bacteriostasis, taste and odor (associated only with chlorine removal), and other aesthetic conditions

http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19895/NSF_42-11%20-%20watermarked.pdf

ANSI NSF Standard 53 Covers health effects removal

http://standards.nsf.org/apps/group_public/download.php/19896/NSF_53-11a%20-%20watermarked.pdf

It is important to note that the filters are not required to meet all aspects of the standard, only the portions they want to make claims for. So product information for each filter must be reviewed to determine its applicability.

Most of these point of use filters are basic activated carbon filters that simply remove taste and odor specifically associated with chlorine, not other things like iron, manganese, hydrogen sulfide, etc. that can also impact taste and odor as well as color.

It is important to recognize that taste and odor is generally an individual preference and such standards have for the most part not been developed because groups of individuals may still consider taste and odor issues to exist even after levels for such a standard have been met.

Other considerations are that the test water for such filters attempting to meet the standard uses hardness levels of 170 mg/L or less. Flint's water at times may be above this level, which could then impact filter performance and longevity.

Most of these filters are designed to be replaced after 100 gallons or less of use, a period of about 3 months for most households. In addition the tests allow for initial pressure drops of up to 15 psi. This may limit use in households that already rely on minimum pressure within their household plumbing.

Regarding the health effects standards, as the Flint water system already meets such requirements, with the exception of the current TTHM locational running annual average, there is little point to the use of these filters for such a purpose.

If you need additional information or have other questions please let me know.

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