WHAT IS THE STAGE 2 DBPR?

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR) on January 4, 2006. The Stage 2 DBPR builds on existing regulations by requiring water systems to meet disinfection byproduct (DBP) maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) at each monitoring site in the distribution system to better protect public health.

WHAT IS THE IDSE PROVISION OF THE STAGE 2 DBPR?

The Stage 2 DBPR includes a provision requiring all community water systems (CWS) and only nontransient noncommunity water systems (NTNCWS) serving more than 10,000 people to conduct an initial distribution system evaluation (IDSE). NTNCWS serving less than 10,000 are exempted from IDSE requirements, but will need to comply with the Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring requirements. The goal of the IDSE is to characterize the distribution system and identify monitoring sites where customers may be exposed to high levels of total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). There are four ways to comply with the IDSE requirements: Standard Monitoring, System Specific Study, 40/30 Certification (40/30), and Very Small System (VSS) Waiver. The 40/30 and the VSS Waiver allows a system to comply with the IDSE requirement without having to conduct additional distribution system monitoring. This factsheet provides information regarding 40/30 and VSS Waiver eligibility criteria and requirements.

Eligibility Criteria for 40/30 Certification & Very Small System Waiver

40/30 Certification

To be eligible for a 40/30, the system must meet all of the following requirements for eight consecutive quarters, as dictated by its Schedule*:

- Collected all required Stage 1 DBPR samples.
- No individual TTHM samples exceeded 0.040 mg/L and no individual HAA5 samples exceeded 0.030 mg/L.
- The system has not had any TTHM or HAA5 monitoring violations.

* Eligibility & Compliance Dates for 40/30 are found in Table 1.

Very Small System Waiver

To be eligible for a VSS Waiver, the system must meet all of the following requirements:

- System serves less than 500 people.
- System has collected eligible TTHM & HAA5 data.

VSS eligibility does not depend on TTHM and HAA5 sample results. Samples do not need to be below any particular level for the system to receive the VSS Waiver.

IF I MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, HOW DO I APPLY FOR A 40/30?

Submit Electronically:

- Go To: www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tools and access the IDSE Tool, Plan/Report Entry.
- Create a custom 40/30 Certification Letter.
- Attach additional information if required.*
- Submit by the Due Date presented in Table 1 (below).
- Keep the confirmation number and a copy of your 40/30 Certification Letter for your files.

Submit By Mail:

- Create a 40/30 Certification Letter. A 40/30 Certification template can be found in the IDSE Guidance Manual.
- Attach additional information, if required.*
- Mail submission to the IPMC:

US EPA-IPMC PO Box 98

Dayton, OH 45401-0098

*EPA or the state may require a system to submit the following additional information with the 40/30 submission:

- Stage 1 DBPR Compliance Monitoring Data
- Distribution System Schematic
- Proposed Stage 2 DBPR Compliance Monitoring locations

Systems are encouraged to check with EPA or the state to determine if they need to submit any additional information.

Table 1: 40/30 Criteria Compliance Dates

If you are a system serving:	Schedule:1	Date Eligibility:	40/30 Due Date:
At least 100,000 people or part of a combined distribution system serving at least 100,000 people	Schedule 1	Eight Consecutive Quarters Starting No Earlier than January 2004	October 1, 2006
50,000 to 99,999 people or part of a combined distribution system serving 50,000 to 99,999 people	Schedule 2	Eight Consecutive Quarters Starting No Earlier than January 2004	April 1, 2007
10,000 to 49,999 people or part of a combined distribution system serving 10,000 to 49,999 people	Schedule 3	Eight Consecutive Quarters Starting No Earlier than January 2005	October 1, 2007
Less than 10,000 or part of a combined distribution system serving less than 10,000	Schedule 4	Eight Consecutive Quarters Starting No Earlier than January 2005	April 1, 2008

¹ Your schedule is defined by the largest system in your combined distribution system.

WHAT IF I HAVE OPERATIONAL DATA BUT NO STAGE 1 DBPR COMPLIANCE DATA?

Systems that have not conducted compliance monitoring under the Stage 1 DBPR but have TTHM and HAA5 operational data should contact EPA or the state to determine if the data is sufficient to qualify for the 40/30 or VSS Waiver. The operational data must have been:

- Analyzed by an EPA-approved method
- Analyzed by a certified laboratory
- Collected in areas representative of the Maximum Residence Time
- Collected during the month of warmest water temperature

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RECEIVE AN APPROVED 40/30 OR VSS WAIVER?

An approved 40/30 or VSS Waiver satisfies the IDSE requirement of the Stage 2 DBPR without requiring additional monitoring. However, a system with an approved 40/30 or VSS Waiver will need to submit a Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring plan and will need to start Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring, as indicated by the rule, based on its Schedule.

IF I MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, HOW DO I APPLY FOR A VSS WAIVER?

Systems that meet the VSS Waiver eligibility criteria automatically qualify for the VSS Waiver, unless they are contacted by EPA or the state and informed that they must complete Standard Monitoring or System Specific Study.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF MY 40/30 OR VSS WAIVER HAS BEEN APPROVED?

40/30 Approval:

EPA and the state are not required to send a confirmation that a 40/30 certification has been accepted. If EPA or the state does not contact you within a year after the 40/30 submission deadline (see Table 1), you may assume the 40/30 certification has been accepted. Otherwise, EPA or the state will inform you that you must conduct Standard Monitoring or System Specific Study.

VSS Waiver Approval:

EPA and the state are not required to send a confirmation that a VSS Waiver has been approved. EPA or the state will contact those systems required to conduct Standard Monitoring or System Specific Study. For systems serving less than 500 people, standard monitoring consists of preparing a monitoring plan, collecting TTHM/HAA5 samples at two locations in the distribution system and completing an IDSE Report (see the IDSE Guidance Manual for more information at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2).

NEXT STEPS

If your system meets the 40/30 or VSS WAIVER criteria and EPA or the state does not notify you that you need to conduct Standard Monitoring or System Specific Study, your system has satisfied the IDSE requirements. However, your system will still need to prepare a compliance monitoring plan for Stage 2 DBPR. This plan must be completed before your system is required to begin Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring. Your system will need to continue monitoring under Stage 1 DBPR until Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring begins (see Table 2).

ruble 2. Stage 2 bbi it compliance monitoring			
If you are on IDSE Schedule: ¹	You must begin Stage 2 DBPR monitoring:		
Schedule 1	April 1, 2012		
Schedule 2	October 1, 2012		
Schedule 3	October 1, 2013		
Schedule 4	October 1, 2013 if no Cryptosporidium monitoring required under LT2ESWTR. OR October 1, 2014 if Cryptosporidium monitoring is required under LT2ESWTR.		

Table 2: Stage 2 DBPR Compliance Monitoring

¹ Schedule for systems in a combined distribution system is based on that of the largest system in the combined distribution system.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE MATERIALS

The following guidance materials address the IDSE requirements for the Stage 2 DBPR:

- Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guidance Manual for the Final Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (EPA 815-B-06-002) This manual is a comprehensive technical guidance document about all IDSE options, for all system sizes and types.
- Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guide for Systems Serving < 10,000 People For the Final Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (EPA 815-B-06-001) This manual focuses on information that systems serving less than 10,000 are most likely to use. It does not discuss the IDSE system specific study option.
- IDSE Tool Is a web-based tool that walks the user through the IDSE process. A Wizard determines IDSE requirements and selects the best IDSE option for your system. The tool creates Custom Forms your system (based on population served and system type) can submit electronically to EPA's Information Processing and Management Center for EPA/state review. (Available on-line at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tools.)

For additional guidance on the Stage 2 DBPR, you may refer to the following existing and future EPA materials:

- Stage 2 DBPR Quick Reference Guides (Schedules 1 4).
- Simultaneous Compliance Guidance Manuals for the Stage 2 Rules (draft version anticipated mid-2006).
- Stage 2 Disinfectant and Disinfection Byproducts Rule: Small Entity Compliance Guide One of the Simple Tools for Effective Performance (STEP) Guide Series (draft version anticipated late 2006).
- Consecutive System Guidance Manual for the Final Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (draft version anticipated late 2006).
- Operational Evaluation Guidance Manual for the Final Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (draft version anticipated late 2006).

Materials can be downloaded from www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2, as they become available.

For additional information, please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791, send an email to stage2mdbp@epa.gov, or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2.