

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MALAYSIA

PARAMETER	UNIT	CLASS				
		I	IIA/IIB	III [#]	IV	V
Al	mg/l	↑ N A T U R A L L E V E L S O R A B S E N T ↓	-	(0.06)	0.5	↑ L E V E L S A B O V E IV ↓
As	mg/l		0.05	0.4 (0.05)	0.1	
Ba	mg/l		1	-	-	
Cd	mg/l		0.01	0.01* (0.001)	0.01	
Cr (VI)	mg/l		0.05	1.4 (0.05)	0.1	
Cr (III)	mg/l		-	2.5	-	
Cu	mg/l		0.02	-	0.2	
Hardness	mg/l		250	-	-	
Ca	mg/l		-	-	-	
Mg	mg/l		-	-	-	
Na	mg/l		-	-	3 SAR	
K	mg/l		-	-	-	
Fe	mg/l		1	1	1 (Leaf) 5 (Others)	
Pb	mg/l		0.05	0.02* (0.01)	5	
Mn	mg/l		0.1	0.1	0.2	
Hg	mg/l		0.001	0.004 (0.0001)	0.002	
Ni	mg/l	↓	0.05	0.9*	0.2	↓
Se	mg/l		0.01	0.25 (0.04)	0.02	
Ag	mg/l		0.05	0.0002	-	
Sn	mg/l		-	0.004	-	
U	mg/l		-	-	-	
Zn	mg/l		5	0.4*	2	
B	mg/l		1	(3.4)	0.8	
Cl	mg/l		200	-	80	
Cl ₂	mg/l		-	(0.02)	-	
CN	mg/l		0.02	0.06 (0.02)	-	
F	mg/l		1.5	10	1	
NO ₂	mg/l		0.4	0.4 (0.03)	-	
NO ₃	mg/l		7	-	5	
P	mg/l		0.2	0.1	-	
Silica	mg/l		50	-	-	
SO ₄	mg/l		250	-	-	
S	mg/l		0.05	(0.001)	-	
CO ₂	mg/l		-	-	-	
Gross-α	Bq/l		0.1	-	-	
Gross-β	Bq/l		1	-	-	
Ra-226	Bq/l		< 0.1	-	-	
Sr-90	Bq/l		< 1	-	-	
CCE	μg/l		500	-	-	
MBAS/BAS	μg/l		500	5000 (200)	-	
O & G (Mineral)	μg/l		40; N	N	-	
O & G (Emulsified Edible)	μg/l		7000; N	N	-	
PCB	μg/l		0.1	6 (0.05)	-	
Phenol	μg/l		10	-	-	
Aldrin/Dieldrin	μg/l		0.02	0.2 (0.01)	-	
BHC	μg/l		2	9 (0.1)	-	
Chlordane	μg/l		0.08	2 (0.02)	-	
t-DDT	μg/l		0.1	(1)	-	
Endosulfan	μg/l		10	-	-	
Heptachlor/Epoxide	μg/l		0.05	0.9 (0.06)	-	
Lindane	μg/l		2	3 (0.4)	-	
2,4-D	μg/l		70	450	-	
2,4,5-T	μg/l		10	160	-	
2,4,5-TP	μg/l		4	850	-	
Paraquat	μg/l		10	1800	-	

Notes :

* = At hardness 50 mg/l CaCO₃

= Maximum (unbracketed) and 24-hour average (bracketed) concentrations

N = Free from visible film sheen, discolouration and deposits

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MALAYSIA (cont.)

PARAMETER	UNIT	CLASS					
		I	IIA	IIB	III	IV	V
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	mg/l	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.9	2.7	> 2.7
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	mg/l	1	3	3	6	12	> 12
Chemical Oxygen Demand	mg/l	10	25	25	50	100	> 100
Dissolved Oxygen	mg/l	7	5 - 7	5 - 7	3 - 5	< 3	< 1
pH	-	6.5 - 8.5	6 - 9	6 - 9	5 - 9	5 - 9	-
Colour	TCU	15	150	150	-	-	-
Electrical Conductivity*	μ S/cm	1000	1000	-	-	6000	-
Floatables	-	N	N	N	-	-	-
Odour	-	N	N	N	-	-	-
Salinity	ppt	0.5	1	-	-	2	-
Taste	-	N	N	N	-	-	-
Total Dissolved Solid	mg/l	500	1000	-	-	4000	-
Total Suspended Solid	mg/l	25	50	50	150	300	300
Temperature	°C	-	Normal + 2 °C	-	Normal + 2 °C	-	-
Turbidity	NTU	5	50	50	-	-	-
Faecal Coliform**	count/100 ml	10	100	400	5000 (20000) ^a	5000 (20000) ^a	-
Total Coliform	count/100 ml	100	5000	5000	50000	50000	> 50000

Notes :

N : No visible floatable materials or debris, no objectional odour or no objectional taste

* : Related parameters, only one recommended for use

** : Geometric mean

a : Maximum not to be exceeded

WATER CLASSES AND USES

CLASS	USES
Class I	Conservation of natural environment. Water Supply I – Practically no treatment necessary. Fishery I – Very sensitive aquatic species.
Class IIA	Water Supply II – Conventional treatment required. Fishery II – Sensitive aquatic species.
Class IIB	Recreational use with body contact.
Class III	Water Supply III – Extensive treatment required. Fishery III – Common, of economic value and tolerant species; livestock drinking.
Class IV	Irrigation
Class V	None of the above.