

Benchmarks

Standards & Regulations

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS – Drinking Water

Interestingly, there is no international standard for drinking water, be it bottled or other. However the World Health Organization's (WHO) "Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality" provides guidance at a macro level or international level. This guideline represents a scientific assessment as well as assessment of those social, economic and environmental factors that must be taken into account in developing standards.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) is an inter-governmental body co-funded by the WHO and the Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) that is working on the development of internationally recognized standards for all different kinds of food and drinks, including mineral water. The Codex describes the products and its labeling, compositional and quality factors, limits for certain chemicals, hygiene and packaging as well as good manufacturing practices. While CAC standards are not strictly mandatory, they are recognized with the World Trade Organization (WTO) as representing the international consensus for consumer protection and any deviation from Codex recommendations may require a scientifically based justification.

[See Codex Standard](#)