FSMA



Agricultural Water – Proposed Microbial Standards

Is the water sourced from a public water system/supply and do you have required documentation? [112.45 (a)(1) or 112.45 (a)(2)]

OR

Is the water treated following the requirements in section 112.43 of the proposed produce safety rule? [112.45 (a)(3)]

NO

Is the water intended to or likely to contact the harvestable portion of produce (other than sprouts) or food contact surfaces during growing?
[112.44(c)]

NO

If the water source does not meet the standard above, can it still be used during growing, in contact with covered produce (other than sprouts)?

NO

Is the water used to make treated agricultural teas? [112.44(a)(3)]

Is the water used as sprout irrigation water? [112.44(a)(1)]

Does the water, including ice made from that water, come into contact with produce during or after the harvest?

[112.44(a)(4)]

Is the water used to wash hands during or after harvest? [112.44(a)(5)]

Yes: No Testing Required [112.45(a)]

Yes: Microbial standard for such use: The geometric mean is not to exceed 126 colony forming units (CFU) of generic *E. coli* per 100 mL and the estimate of the statistical threshold value (STV) of samples must not exceed 410 CFU of generic *E. coli* in 100 mL of water. (The STV approximates the 90th percentile of the water quality distribution and is intended to be a value that should not be exceeded by more than 10 percent of the samples taken.) [112.44(c)]

Yes: The water may still be used for this purpose if you:

- Meet the microbial standard using a calculated die-off or removal rate:
 - Apply an appropriate time interval (in days) between last irrigation and harvest using a microbial die-off rate of 0.5 log per day, and/or;
 - Apply a time interval (in days) between harvest and end of storage using an appropriate microbial die-off rate, provided there is adequate supporting scientific data, and/or;
 - Apply appropriate microbial removal rates, provided there is adequate supporting scientific data, during activities such as commercial washing, or;
- Discontinue use of that source of agricultural water until the water system is re-inspected; potentially hazardous conditions are identified; necessary changes are made; and the water is retested and shown to meet the standard, or;
- Treat the water in accordance with the requirements of 112.43, or;
- Establish and use alternatives to the microbial standard and/or the 0.5 log/day microbial die-off rate, provided there is adequate supporting scientific data as described in 112.12.

You may also use the water for other purposes for which the microbial standard does not apply (e.g., water uses that do not meet the definition of agricultural water).

If **Yes** to any question: Microbial standard for such uses: Water must have no detectable generic *E. coli* in 100mL. [112.44(a)]

If **No** to all questions: No microbial standard established in proposed rule. However, if water meets the definition of "agricultural water," it must still be safe and of adequate sanitary quality for its intended use. [112.41]