

CDC Water Fluoridation Quality Award Criteria

Each year, many state drinking water programs and professional associations related to the drinking water industry have quality award programs. Many water utilities strive to qualify for these awards. Earning these awards represents a high level of operator care and accomplishment.

To support state water fluoridation programs and recognize water treatment facilities that are doing an outstanding job of providing a consistent level of fluoride in the water supply, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recognizes public water systems that achieve optimal fluoridation levels with an annual Water Fluoridation Quality Award.

For a water system to be eligible, its performance must be documented by the state in the Water Fluoridation Reporting System (WFRS). CDC issues the certificates annually to state oral health programs, who are responsible for distributing the award certificates to the recipient communities. These awards are important to community water systems because they provide CDC recognition for meeting high water quality standards that water systems can promote in their consumer communications.

For those systems that adjust fluoride levels, the Iowa Department of Public Health-Oral Health and Delivery Systems Bureau, reviews monthly operating reports that have been submitted. The reports are evaluated to identify those water systems that meet strict standards for accuracy in water fluoride treatment, daily monitoring and reporting. The information from these reports is entered into WFRS and used to identify systems that qualify for the Water Fluoridation Quality Award.

Award Criteria for the State of Iowa:

- ✓ Achieve an average monthly fluoride level between 0.60 mg/L and 1.20 mg/L for each of the 12 months.
 - The level of 0.7mg/L is the national daily target to reduce tooth decay. It is better to be slightly over than under because at these levels, you are at the perfect range for reducing tooth decay. When levels dip below 0.60mg/L, the effectiveness decreases dramatically.
- ✓ Complete fluoride testing and record results on **Monthly Operation Reports** for each day of each month.
 - Record at least 75% of daily fluoride samples between 0.60 mg/L and 1.20 mg/L for each of the 12 months.
 - Month has 31 days – at least 24 days must be within the stated range
 - Month has 30 days – at least 23 days must be within the stated range
 - Month has 28 days – at least 21 days must be within the stated range
- ✓ Submit a Monthly Operation Report to the Iowa Department of Public Health for each of the 12 months.
 - CC mor@idph.iowa.gov as you email the MOR to your local DNR office.
 - Mail the MOR to 321 E 12th ST, Des Moines, IA 50319 – **Attn: Sarah Petersen**
 - Fax the MOR to 515-242-6384