TN Department of Environment & Conservation

FACTSHEET: Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)

Requirements for Seasonal Systems

Who Does this Factsheet Apply to?

SEASONAL SYSTEMS – A seasonal system is defined as a non-community water system that is not operated as a public water system (PWS) on a year-round basis and starts-up and shuts-down at the beginning and end of each operating season. Examples include campgrounds, fairgrounds, seasonal food service facilities, and ski areas.

RTCR
What to Do?

Step 1
Conduct start-up procedures

Step 2
Complete certification forms

Step 3
Maintain good water quality

Step 4
Complete shutdown procedures

Additional RTCR Factsheets:

- Requirements for Small Systems on Monthly Monitoring
- Requirements for Small Systems on Quarterly/ Annual Monitoring
- Repeat Monitoring Requirements for Small Systems
- Level 1 & Level 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions

ATTENTION!

STARTING APRIL 1, 2016, all seasonal systems must complete the state required startup procedures , obtain negative bacteriological sample results and submit the state certification form confirming completion of these start-up procedures. before serving water to the public.

Step 1: Conduct Start-Up Procedures

NEW!

You must conduct your state start-up procedures before delivering drinking water to your customers. Start-up procedures help reduce the presence of harmful bacteria in water. The checklist is available on our website at http://tn.gov/environment/topic/wr-wq-dw-drinking-water.

Flush all pipes until the water is clear

Flushing the pipe lines in all areas of your water system helps remove buildup and dirty water that has gathered during the off season. Flushing the pipes helps the disinfectant work more effectively to kill bacteria and inactivate viruses.

Clean all water storage tanks

Drain and clean the tanks before delivering water to your customers. Harmful sediments may build up over time inside and along the walls of the water tanks. It is recommended that the tank be inspected and cleaned regularly. Contact the state for information about proper procedures for inspecting a tank.

Disinfect

Kill harmful bacteria and inactivate viruses by adding a disinfectant or by making sure the adequate disinfectant residual is present in all areas of your water pipes. Your system should be flushed thoroughly. Be sure to keep the highly chlorinated water away from surface water bodies such as lakes, streams, and ponds, as well as septic systems. Remember, you may not deliver water to your customers until proper disinfecting and flushing of your system is completed. Check our website or call the TDEC Regional Environmental Field Office to get more information about how to disinfect your water system.

Inspect and Repair

Consider having a qualified water system professional inspect and repair your water system before you deliver water to your customers. Some parts of your water system may have broken down or become worn out during the off season. This can create a situation where bacteria can enter the drinking water.

Collect Samples

Collect water samples and have them tested for the presence of bacteria and chlorine residuals at a state certified lab, after flushing, cleaning, disinfecting, and repairing your water system. Also, sample and test to determine if the adequate amount of disinfectant residual is present to help provide safer drinking water. You should find out your sample results before delivering water to your customers.

Step 2: Complete Certification Forms Each year before delivering water to your customers

Contact your TDEC Environmental Field Office if you need help understanding or following the Start-Up Procedures.

- **Perform** the items in the start-up procedures checklist.
  The checklist is available on our website at [http://tn.gov/environment/topic/wr-wq-dw-drinking-water].
- **Collect** total coliform samples and achieve negative test results .
- **Complete** the Start-Up Procedures Certification Form.
  The form is available on our website at [http://tn.gov/environment/topic/wr-wq-dw-drinking-water].
- **Submit** Start-Up Procedures Certification Form to the TDEC Regional Field Office.

When you sign and submit this form, you are certifying that you have completed all of the start-up procedures, including:

- Flushed all pipes.
- Cleaned all water storage tanks (if applicable).
- Disinfected entire water system.
- Inspected water system.
- Repaired water system (if applicable).
- Collected samples to test for bacteria and disinfectant residual.

Step 3: Maintain good water quality and a good reputation with your customers

If your water system does not complete all of the start-up procedures, you must notify your customers that your water system had a drinking water violation for failure to complete start-up procedures and tell them of any possible health risks.

Contact TDEC for information on the proper public notification procedures (including language you must use), and timing.

Step 4: Complete Shutdown Procedures

Similar to start-up procedures, completing shutdown procedures at the end of your business season will help you minimize repairs to the water system when your water system opens up again next season. In general, you should:

- Inspect your entire system and look for problems and damage that need attention or repairs.
- Turn off the power to your water supply pump and all treatment systems.
- If there is potential for your pressure tank or storage tank to freeze, drain it. If there is no potential for your tanks to freeze, you may choose to leave them full.
- Drain all of the water from your internal plumbing.
- Protect your distribution system by not leaving taps open in the off season.