



# MassDEP's PFAS6 Drinking Water Standard

If you have specific questions, please contact the MassDEP POC at: [david.chaffin@mass.gov](mailto:david.chaffin@mass.gov)

## What is MassDEP's PFAS6 Drinking Water Standard?

- Sets a total concentration of 20 ppt for the sum of six PFAS in drinking water: PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA, and PFDA. The six compounds are called "PFAS6".
- Protects against harmful effects to the general public and sensitive subgroups including pregnant women, nursing mothers, and infants.
- The standard is an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL); public water suppliers are required to test for PFAS6 and take steps to lower PFAS6 levels below 20 ppt for all consumers.

## How was the MassDEP's PFAS6 Drinking Water Standard Calculated?

- Calculated by the MassDEP Office of Research and Standards (ORS) following a review of current scientific information and assessments by other agencies.
- ORS calculated the standard by applying an additional uncertainty factor to the toxicity value used by EPA to calculate the federal Health Advisory (for a lifetime exposure) for PFOS and PFOA and extended the approach to the four other PFAS6 compounds based on close similarities of chemical structure and toxicity.

If total PFOA/PFOS results are less than 70 ppt but PFAS6 is greater than 20 ppt, the Navy will refer you to state and local agencies for assistance and guidance

MassDEP Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
DoD Department of Defense  
ppt parts per trillion

PFAS per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances  
PFOA perfluorooctanoic acid  
PFOS perfluorooctane sulfonate

PFNA perfluorononanoic acid  
PFHxS perfluorohexane sulfonic acid  
PFHpA perfluoroheptanoic acid