The need to purify natural waters of unknown or variable microbiological quality is a common occurrence among military and non-military government agencies, campers, hikers, and in some developing countries without ready access to a treated water supply. NSF Protocol P248 sets forth testing criteria for small water purifiers (SWPs) to determine their effectiveness in providing microbiological purification from any fresh water source.

Commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) purifiers entered the market to meet the need to hydrate Servicemembers when military-provided bulk water supplies were not available. Lack of performance evaluation for these products, however, was an unacceptable risk to the Department of Defense. For military field use, performance must be evaluated for purifiers to allow informed product selection, and to protect the health of the servicemembers that use them.

Developed in coordination with the U.S. Army Public Health Command (USAPHC) and based on the EPA Guide Standard (1987), the goal of this protocol is to provide deployed military personnel the capability to produce sustainable quantities of microbiologically safe drinking water in any environment.

Why Comply to NSF Protocol P248?

A GRA P248 Letter of Compliance stating that the device meets the military requirements of NSF Protocol P248 Appendix B, Government Review Agency Compliance, will be issued to a manufacturer after a satisfactory GRA review of test results. The letter is required to market or claim conformance. The goal is to provide Servicemembers with effective treatment options whether provided by the U.S. Military or marketing as COTS items; and is valuable to military purchasing decisions.
Certification vs. Compliance

In addition to performance requirements, certification to NSF Protocol P248 requires evaluation of material safety, design, construction and structural integrity. Certified products may use the NSF mark – a well-respected mark in the water industry – on their product literature and packaging.

Contact us for more information, contact your NSF certification project manager or email military@nsf.org.