

REDUCTION OF PFOA/PFOS IN DRINKING WATER



NSF protocol verifies a water treatment unit's ability to reduce these contaminants to below health advisory levels set by the U.S. EPA.

In recent years, peer-reviewed studies and news reports have raised consumer awareness and concern around perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in public drinking water supplies. Consumer awareness has heightened due to the fact these chemicals have been used to manufacture various household products. Some of these products include carpets, clothing, cookware, fabrics for furniture and paper packaging that are resistant to water, grease or stains.

Reports regarding PFOA and PFOS showed that exposure over certain levels may cause adverse health effects to fetuses or to breastfed infants, in addition to the potential of cancer, liver damage, immune disorders, thyroid disorders and other adverse health effects.

In response to this concern, and at the request of regulatory agencies and manufacturers, NSF International developed a protocol, NSF P473: *Drinking Water Treatment Units – PFOA and PFOS* to test and certify drinking water treatment units that are designed to reduce these contaminants. This protocol verifies that a drinking water treatment unit is able to reduce PFOA and PFOS to below 70 parts per trillion, the health advisory level set by the U.S. EPA.

PRODUCT TYPES

The current scope of the protocol includes point-of-use carbon-based and reverse osmosis treatment systems.

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

To earn certification to P473, water treatment systems must undergo testing to confirm that they meet the strict material safety and structural requirements of NSF/ANSI 53, an American National Standard for drinking water treatment units. Reverse osmosis systems must also meet all of the requirements of NSF/ANSI 58. In accordance with these standards, NSF International verifies that:

- > The contaminant reduction claims for PFOA and PFOS shown on the label are true.
- > The system does not add anything harmful to the water.
- > The system is structurally sound.
- > The product labeling, advertising and literature are not misleading.

To make a PFOA/PFOS reduction claim, a water treatment unit must be able to reduce these chemicals to below the EPA healthy advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion.

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