Types of Water Systems

PURPOSE
This guideline has been established to ensure that public and semi-public drinking water suppliers throughout the Province of Manitoba meet their regulatory requirements.

Legislation
The Drinking Water Safety Act (DWSA) provides the following definitions:

A water system is defined as an assembly of devices from source to curb stop used to supply potable water. The DWSA further defines public, private and semi-public water systems.

Public water systems are water systems that supply water to 15 or more service connections or have been designated as a public water system under clause 2(b) of the DWSA.

Private water systems are water systems that supply water to a single private residence or have been designated as a private water system under clause 2(a) of the DWSA.

Semi-public water systems are water systems that are not public water systems or private water systems. Essentially, semi-public water systems are systems with 2 to 14 service connections; and systems listed under section 18(2) of The Drinking Water Safety Regulation (MR 40/2007).

A water supplier is defined as the owner of a water system.

An owner of a water system is defined as the person who is responsible for the ongoing operation of a water system or is charge of operating a water system. There can be public water suppliers, private water suppliers or semi-public water suppliers.

Section 18(2)
The regulation provides a list of public facilities that, if on their own water supply, are required to disinfect unless the disinfection requirement has been waived by the director. The following facilities with their own water supply are considered semi-public water systems:

(a) a hospital as defined in The Health Services Insurance Act;

(b) a personal care home as defined in The Health Services Insurance Act;

(c) a residential care facility as defined in The Social Services Administration Act;

(d) a public school or a private school, as those terms are defined in The Education Administration Act;

(e) a child care facility as defined in The Child and Family Services Act;

(f) a day care centre or a day care home, as those terms are defined in The Community Child Care Standards Act;

(g) a children's camp, or a recreational or athletic camp;

(h) a restaurant, cafeteria, food court, or other food handling establishment that requires a licence, permit or other approval under The Public Health Act or its regulations;

(i) a business, institution or other facility that is designated by a drinking water officer after consulting with a medical officer of health.

If you are unsure whether your water system should be regulated under the DWSA please contact your regional drinking water officer.

Office of Drinking Water
Regional Drinking Water Officers are available for operational and monitoring advice and to provide technical assistance.

After hours, please call the Environmental Emergency Response line at 204-944-4888 and ask for the on-call drinking water officer.

For more information related to Manitoba’s drinking water and how it is regulated visit: www.manitoba.ca/drinkingwater