



April 2, 2012

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2012.04

Subject: Revised Health-Based Screening Levels available

This Water-Quality Information Note (WaQI Note) announces the availability of 48 revised Health-Based Screening Level (HBSL) values. HBSL values are posted on the HBSL website:

<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/HBSL>

Brief Description: A comprehensive update of the USGS HBSL database has been completed, effective February 28, 2012. HBSLs are non-enforceable benchmark concentrations of contaminants in water that were developed by the USGS in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others.

As part of the update, the most current, peer-reviewed, publicly available human-health toxicity information from the USEPA was identified. The HBSL update resulted in revisions to HBSL values for 48 contaminants.

- New HBSL values are available for 17 contaminants that previously did not have HBSLs.
- HBSL values changed for 18 contaminants.
- HBSL values were removed for 6 contaminants.
- HBSL values were added for 7 isomers (such as *cis*- and *trans*- compounds). Previously, users were referred to the HBSL value for the mixed isomers.

The 48 contaminants with revisions to HBSL values are listed on the **History of HBSL Revisions** table on the [Search for HBSL values](#) web page.

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WaQI Notes are archived on the Office of Water Quality web site,
<http://water.usgs.gov/usqs/owq/WaQI/index.html>

Signed,

The Office of Water Quality
April 2, 2012

Distribution: All WRD Employees