

Summary Sheet
Washington National Toxics Rule (NTR) Criteria versus
Oregon Human Health Criteria

This summary sheet provides further explanation to assist the reader in understanding and using the Table “Washington National Toxics Rule (NTR) Criteria versus Oregon Human Health Criteria.” This table was developed to provide an ability to compare chemical criteria that Washington currently applies as a result of being included in the National Toxics Rule with a future, more stringent criteria that could be adopted through a rule-making (Oregon’s recent rule for human health criteria that was adopted by EPA in 2010 is used for comparison purposes).

The table also includes relevant information for each chemical parameter on the right-hand side of the table, such as the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, EPA method detection number, detection level, and quantification level. (definitions on the back of this sheet)

The table is organized and color-coded into four major groupings of chemicals. The chemical listings are in order by color as follows:

1st Order	Chemical criteria that will be more protective (if something similar to Oregon criteria are adopted) and the chemical has been detected in Priority Pollutant Scan Data in Washington NPDES permits —therefore could result in new permit limits. <i>(Note: PCBs using EPA method 1668C-not yet approved by EPA- are in this group.)</i>
2nd Order	Chemical criteria that will be more protective (if something similar to Oregon criteria are adopted) but has not been detected in effluent samples taken from Priority Pollutant Scan Data in Washington NPDES permits. <i>(Note: PCBs using EPA method 608-approved by EPA- are in this group).</i>
3rd Order	New chemical criteria that was not in the National Toxics Rule but are being recommended by EPA for adoption by States. Oregon adopted all chemicals in this group. <i>(Note: methylmercury tissue criteria is in this group)</i>
4th Order	Chemical criteria that are equal to or less protective than the current NTR criteria (compared with Oregon). In most cases this includes chemicals for which a criteria has not been calculated. <i>(Note: Arsenic is in this group because Oregon’s criterion is less stringent than the NTR criteria. Freshwater mercury is included in this group because it has been replaced by methylmercury tissue criteria).</i>

NTR Chemical number – Specific number assigned to each of the chemicals under the national toxics rule. (There is a different numbering system for priority pollutants)

CAS numbers – unique numerical identifiers assigned by the Chemical Abstracts Service to every chemical described in the open scientific literature.

EPA method numbers – EPA test methods that are approved procedures for measuring the presence and concentration of physical and chemical pollutants; evaluating properties, such as toxic properties, of chemical substances; or measuring the effects of substances under various conditions.

40 CFR 136 methods – A set of EPA methods that have been set in regulation for use in monitoring under the NPDES program.

Detection Level (DL) - or detection limit means the minimum concentration of an analyte (substance) that can be measured and reported with a 99% confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero as determined by the procedure given in 40 CFR part 136, Appendix B.

Note: Reported values above the detection limit is evidence that analyte is present in the sample, while those below the detection limit are determined to be non-detects (ND).

Quantification Level (QL) - also known as Minimum Level of Quantitation (ML) – The lowest level at which the entire analytical system can give a recognizable signal and acceptable quantification of the amount of a chemical.

Note: Reported values below the QL are considered estimates while those above the QL are considered actual concentrations.