



# Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)



## 2023 Water Quality Report Marine Corps Installations Pacific Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan

### Introduction

This is an annual report about the quality of tap water delivered to Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji. The purpose of this report is to provide customers with information about the quality of the drinking water.

### About Consumer Confidence Reports

In 1996, the United States Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), requiring all community water systems in the U.S. to provide customers with an annual water quality report called a Consumer Confidence Report. Last year, over 50 different drinking water contaminants were evaluated for compliance. Only contaminants measured in concentrations above their respective analytical methods' detection limits are reported in this CCR.

### Safe Drinking Water

Regulations require all installations to test water supply systems for a variety of contaminants. In 2023, CATC Camp Fuji's drinking water met the Japan Environmental Governing Standards (JEGS) health-based water quality standards. Camp Fuji personnel are committed to providing safe drinking water. The installation's routine monitoring program ensures optimal water quality on CATC Camp Fuji, strictly following JEGS water quality standards and monitoring requirements.

### Contaminants in Drinking Water

All drinking water, including bottled water, may contain small amounts of contaminants. The presence of trace amounts of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, naturally occurring radioactive material, and can also pick up substances resulting from the presence of animal or human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. Inorganic contaminants, like salts and metals, may occur naturally or originate from urban storm-water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water

runoff, and residential uses. Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may come from gas stations, urban storm-water runoff, and septic systems. Radioactive contaminants can occur naturally or as the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates water provided by public water services, dictating the amount of acceptable contaminant levels in public water. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates bottled water content, which must provide the same level of protection for public health. The Government of Japan (GOJ) and U.S. Forces, Japan both regulate drinking water in Japan.

### CATC Camp Fuji's Water System

Camp Fuji's installation facilities maintenance division operates and maintains the base drinking water system. A Gotemba-City water tank supplies the water, its source is groundwater under the direct influence of surface water. The Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force, Camp Takigahara's water section maintains the water tank.

### Monitoring Drinking Water

In calendar year (CY) 2023, Fuji personnel collected samples from various locations in the installation water distribution system and residential taps. They sent the collected samples to an accredited laboratory for a full-spectrum water quality analysis. Lab workers analyzed the water using EPA and GOJ approved laboratory methods verifying that CY 2023 levels did not exceed JEGS maximum contaminant levels.

### Special Considerations

Camp Fuji's monitoring program minimizes potential health impacts that may occur from drinking unsafe water. However, some people may be more sensitive to contaminants than the general public. For example, the elderly, infants, immunocompromised individuals such as cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, organ transplant recipients, and people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), or other immune system disorders may be more sensitive to exposure to trace amounts of contaminants in drinking water. People with concerns about contaminants in drinking water, especially the groups of people previously mentioned, should seek medical advice from their healthcare providers.

# CY 2023 Water Quality Table for CATC Camp Fuji

CATC Camp Fuji							
Inorganics	Violation? Yes/No	Units	Highest Level Detected	MCL	AL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Barium	No	mg/L	0.017	2.0	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits  Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching septic tanks/sewage; erosion of natural deposits	
Sodium	No	mg/L	5	N/A <sup>1</sup>			
Nitrate (as N)	No	mg/L	0.58	10			
Total Nitrate/Nitrite (as N)	No	mg/L	0.58	10			
Bacteriological	Violation? Yes/No	Units	Highest Level Detected	MCL <sup>2</sup>	AL	Likely Source of Contamination	
Total Coliform Bacteria	No	N/A	0	>1 positive sample per month, or any repeat sample is positive	N/A	Naturally present in the environment	
Disinfectant and Disinfection Byproducts	Violation? Yes/No	Units	Highest RAA	Range	MRDL <sup>3</sup> /MCL <sup>4</sup>	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Free Chlorine	No	mg/L	0.7	0.32-1.05	4.0	N/A	Drinking water disinfectant for treatment
Total Trihalomethanes	No	µg/L	12	3-21	80	N/A	By-products of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids	No	µg/L	9	4-11	60		
Lead and Copper	Violation? Yes/No	Units	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	Sites Exceeding AL / No. of Sites	AL <sup>5</sup>	Likely Source of Contamination	
Lead	No	mg/L	0	0 / 10	0.015	Corrosion from household plumbing systems	
Copper	No	mg/L	0	0 / 10	1.3	Corrosion from household plumbing systems	
PFAS	Violation? Yes/No	Units	Highest Level Detected	HA	AL	Likely Source of Contamination	
PFOS	No	ng/L	ND	N/A	70	Runoff from industrial use (chrome plating, electronic manufacturing, and fire suppression) and ground water contamination	
PFOA	No	ng/L	ND	N/A	70		
PFOS + PFOA	No	ng/L	ND	N/A	70		
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)	Violation? Yes/No	Units	Highest Level Detected	MCL	AL	Likely Source of Contamination	

No exceedance <sup>6,7</sup>

**Notes:**

1. No MCL established for Sodium. Monitoring is required so that concentration levels can be made available upon request.
2. This is the total coliform-related operational evaluation level (OEL). The MCL for *E. coli* is exceeded when routine and repeat samples for total coliform are positive or when a system fails to take repeat samples following positive samples.
3. The MRDL for Free Chlorine is based on a running annual average of monthly averages.
4. The MCLs for Total Trihalomethanes and Haloacetic Acids are based on locational running annual averages of quarterly samples.
5. The AL for Lead and Copper is based on a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value – i.e., no exceedance in the AL in more than 10% of all sampled taps.
6. 21 Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) were monitored in 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Q in CY2023. Next sampling will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Q in CY2024.
7. 1Q samples were collected for resamples of CY2022.

**Definitions:**

**AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements a water system must follow.

**CY (Calendar Year):** Period of time from January through December. Data reported in the consumer confidence report were for samples collected in the reported calendar year unless otherwise stated.

**HA (Health Advisory):** Health Advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. The EPA establishes HA levels to provide technical information based on the best available data to public water systems. These levels are non-enforceable and non-regulatory.

**MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level):** The highest level of a contaminant allowed in drinking water.

**MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

**µg/L (Microgram per liter):** Unit of concentration often used to express the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water.

**mg/L (Milligram per liter):** Unit of concentration often used to express the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water.

**ND (Non-detect):** Concentration of contaminant below the detection limit or reporting limit of analytical method.

**ng/L (Nanogram per liter):** Unit of concentration often used to express the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water.

**N/A (Not Applicable):** Not applicable for this contaminant.

**ppt (parts per trillion):** Unit of concentration often used to express the concentration of a contaminant in drinking water.

**RAA (Running Annual Average):** Average of all the samples collected calculated within a 12-month period.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How do I know if my water is not safe to drink?**

Water suppliers must notify you if your water does not meet standards or if there is a waterborne disease emergency. A notice will describe any precautions you need to take, such as boiling your water.

## **Is it okay to drink from a garden hose?**

Water flowing through a hose is safe, but manufacturers treat garden hoses with special chemicals and may contain bacteria and other substances.

## **Can I improve my drinking water's quality?**

Running cold water through the tap for 30-seconds prior to use helps flush out small amounts of metals that may leach into water that has been sitting in metal pipes for long periods of time. Water used for consumption should always come from cold-water taps. Hot water has the potential to leach metals into tap water.

## **Will a home water filter make water safer or healthier?**

Most filters improve the taste, smell, and appearance of water, but they do not necessarily make the water safer or healthier. If you use filters, keep in mind, they require regular maintenance and replacement or the filter itself can impact water quality.

## **The water tastes / smells / looks odd. What's wrong with it?**

Even when water meets standards, you may still not like its taste, smell, or appearance. The taste, smell, and appearance of water are known as aesthetic characteristics and do not pose adverse health risks. Cloudy water is a common aesthetic complaint. It is temporary and typically caused by air bubbles. Another aesthetic criticism is about that water may taste like chlorine. Allowing water to stand exposed to air for a moment may improve the taste.

## **Why does the water sometimes look rusty?**

Rusty or reddish tinted water may occur because of a sudden change in water pressure due to fire hydrant flushing, water main breaks, or other interruptions changing normal water flow. Iron may cause discoloration but is not a health risk. Normal water flow usually clears the main lines within two-hours. If you live on or near the end of a long distribution line, it may take longer for lines to run clear. You can check your water by flushing a toilet bowl three-times every 15 to 20 minutes. Galvanized iron pipes or fittings within a home or building may also cause discolored water. Running the water will clear the piping system. If hot water is rusty, the water heater may need to be flushed.

## **Who do I contact if my water smells, tastes, or appears odd?**

A change in your water's taste, color, or smell is not

necessarily a health concern. However, sometimes a change can be a sign of problems. If you notice a change in your water, contact the base environmental section.

## **What is a Boil Water Notice?**

CATC Camp Fuji garrison may issue a Boil Water Notice any time there's a drop in water pressure from a water main break or system maintenance and immediately begin testing requirements. Boil Water Notices, in these cases, are precautionary and do not necessarily mean that contamination has been detected or is suspected. During routine testing, if total coliform bacteria is detected, garrison staff will issue a Boil Water Notice, as a precaution while corrective actions are taken. In this case, staff test the water repeatedly until corrective measures conclude and garrison leaders certify that it's safe for consumption.

## **Does the water system have a lead problem?**

Elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Japan Environmental Governing Standards state that 90% of samples must be below the action level, and the base water system met that criterion in calendar year (CY) 2023. Camp Fuji's water system continues to be sampled for lead, and the next samples will be collected in the 3rd quarter of CY 2024.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. When water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap between 30-seconds to 2-minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking.

## **What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. For decades, manufacturers have used PFAS in various industrial and consumer products around the globe, including the U.S. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, food packaging, and cookware. Some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires also contain PFAS. Due to widespread use of PFAS and environmental persistence, most Americans are likely to have already been exposed to certain PFAS.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has more information about PFAS on their website:

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

## **Has CATC Camp Fuji tested its water for PFAS in 2023?**

Yes. In November 2023, samples were collected from Building #190's, water tank. The report indicated that drinking water testing results were below the Method Reporting Limit (MRL) for all 18 PFAS compounds covered by the sampling method,

including PFOA and PFOS. PFAS were not detected in CATC Camp Fuji’s water system. In accordance with DoD policy, the water system will be resampled every two-years for continued protection of the members who live and work aboard the camp.

**Is there a regulation for PFAS in drinking water?**

On April 10, 2024, the U.S. EPA established MCLs for a subset of PFAS chemicals.

Compound	Final MCLG	Final MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

EPA requires implementation of sampling in accordance with the new MCLs within three years of the publication date and implementation of any required treatment within five years. These limits did not apply for the 2023 calendar year because they had not been published. However, the DoD proactively disseminated policies to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all service owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every two years. The DoD policy states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than the 2016 EPA health advisory level of 70 ppt, water systems must take immediate action to reduce exposure to PFOS or PFAS. For levels less than 70 ppt but above the 4 ppt level (draft at the time of policy publication), DoD is committed to planning for implementation of the levels once EPA’s published MCLs take effect.

**Is there a Japanese translation of the CCR?**

The CCR is in English. Contact the Environmental Section at 224-8402 for a Japanese version.

CCR の全てが英文の文書です。日本語訳希望者は環境課までご連絡下さい。基地内： 224-8402 基地外から： 0550-89-6102, Ext: 224-8402.

**Where can I find additional information?**

The CATC Camp Fuji, Environmental section webpage: <https://www.fuji.marines.mil/Environmental/>