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National Standard of the People's Republic of China

GB 3838-2002

Replaced GB 3838-1988, GHZB 1-1999

地表水环境质量标准

Environmental Quality Standards for Surface Water

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Foreword

This Standard is drawn up for the implementation of the *Environmental Protection Law of the Peoples' Republic of China* and the *Law of Prevention and Control of Water Contamination of the Peoples' Republic of China* for controlling water contamination, protecting water resources, ensuring human health and maintaining ecological equilibrium.

In this Standard, the standard items are divided to basic items and specific items. Basic items are suitable for surface water area including rivers, lakes, canals, channels and reservoirs with utilization function in the whole country. These are the basic water quality requirements so as to meet the stipulated utilization function and ecological environment quality. The specific items are suitable for control of the specific contaminants in the specific surface water areas. These items will be selected as the supplementary index for basic items by administrative departments in charge of environmental protection in peoples' government above county - level according to the demand of local environmental management.

There are 109 items in this Standard, among which, 24 are basic items of environment quality standard of surface water, 5 items for supplementary items of centralized potable water source and 80 items for the specific items of centralized potable water source..

Comparing with GHZB 1-1999, added total nitrogen item into basic items of environment quality standard of surface water, deleted three indexes such as basic requirements, nitrite and TKN, adjusted the sulfate, chloride, nitrate, Fe and Mn to supplementary items of centralized potable water source, revised the standard value of seven items such as PH, DO, ammonia nitrogen, total phosphorus, permanganate index, lead and fecal coliforms, added 40 items specific items of centralized potable water source; Deleted the standard value of specific item of lake and reservoir in this Standard.

This Standard is to be supervised and implemented coordinately by the department of environmental protection administration of governments above the county level and the related department

Both *Quality Standard for Seawater* and this Standard are water environmental quality standards. Corresponding category of *Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water* shall be carried out for river mouth water areas connecting with offshore areas and the relevant category of *Quality Standard for Seawater* shall be implemented for offshore functional areas.

Administration Departments at various levels in charge of environmental protection shall supervise and manage all kinds of water areas according to « Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water ». They shall manage the approved and delimited fishing protection areas and spawn ground water areas for fishes and shrimps based on « Quality Standard for Fishing » and also manage the city sewage and industrial waste water used directly for farmland irrigation according to «Water Quality Standard for Farmland Irrigation ».

GB 3838-83 Environmental Quality Standard for Ground Water is first issued and first revised in 1988 and second revised in 1999, this is the third revision. This Standard was implemented since June, 01, 2002 and GB 3838-88 Environmental Quality Standard for Ground Water and GB 12941-91 Water Quality Standard for Landscape and Entertainment abolished at the same time.

This Standard is proposed and governed by the Department of Science, Technology and Standards, General Bureau of China National Environmental Protection.

This Standard is authorized for revision by Chinese Research Academy of Environmental

Sciences.

This Standard is approved by the General Bureau of China National Environmental Protection since April 26, 2002

The General Bureau of China National Environmental Protection is authorized for interpretation of this Standard.

Environmental Quality Standard for Surface Water

1 Scope

- **1.1** This Standard specifies the water quality items, standard values, water quality evaluation and analysis method of water quality items as well as implementation and supervision of standard based on the environmental functions classification of surface water and protection target-related.
- **1.2** This Standard is application to surface water area with utilizable functions of national rivers, lakes, canals, channels and reservoirs in People's Republic of China. For the water area with specific functions, shall be in accordance with related specialty water quality standards

2 Normative References

Sanitary Standards for Drinking Water (Ministry of Health of China, 2001) and Analysis standard and specification listed in standard table 4 and 6 have the same effects as this Standard. The latest revision shall be used when the above mentioned standard and specification are revised

3 Classification for Water Area Functions

Surface water is divided into five classes according to its purpose for use and protection target.

Class 1: mainly for source of water and national nature protection areas;

Class II: mainly for class one protection areas for centralized potable water source, protection areas for rare fishes, spawn ground for fishes and shrimps, etc.

Class III: mainly for class two protection areas for centralized potable water source, protection areas for general fishes and swimming areas.

Class IV: mainly for general industrial water areas and entertainment water areas not directly touched by body.

Class V: mainly for farmland water areas and water areas for general landscape requirement.

Corresponding to above five functions in water areas of surface water, divided the standard value of basic items of environment quality standard of surface water into five classes, different function will be taken for corresponding standard value respectively. The standard value with high class water area function is stricter than the lower. If there are several classes of function in the same water areas, the highest class of function will be taken for classification. To implement water area functions and reaches classification of the function is same system.

4 Standard Values

- **4.1** The standard values for basic items of environmental quality standards of surface water will follow Table 1.
- **4.2** The standard values for supplementary items of centralized potable water source will follow Table 2.
- **4.3** The standard values for specific items of centralized potable water source will follow Table 3.



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