

NATIONAL STANDARD  
of  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
GB 8978-1996

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**Integrated Water Discharge Standard**

污水综合排放标准

Date of Approval: Oct. 4, 1996

Date of Enforcement: Jan. 1, 1998

## Foreword

The standard is the revised edition of *Integrated Wastewater Discharge Standard* (GB8978-88).

The major contents for the revision are: put forward the standard of fixed date to substitute the classification of the existing enterprise and the new construction, extension and reconstruction (NCER) enterprise in previous standard. The time divided is determined according to the implementation date of this standard. The organizations built before December 31st, 1997 is required to implement the limit in the first time phase. The organizations built after the January 1st, 1998 is required to implement the limit in the second time phase.

As for the applying scope of the standard, the principle is clear that the integrated wastewater discharge standard can not overlap with the trade discharge standard. Wastewater discharged from the paper industry, ship, ship-building industry, off-shore oil exploitation industry, dyeing & finishing of textile industry, meat processing industry, synthetic ammonia industry, iron and steel industry, space propellant, ordnance industry, phosphate fertilizer industry, caustic alkali and polyvinyl chloride industries is required to implement the corresponding national trade standards. All the other organizations discharging wastewater are required to implement this standard. Except the above-mentioned 12 trades, the following 17 issued water pollutants discharge standards are included in this revision.

Compared with the previous standard, the standard limits in the first time phase are kept on the same level of the NCER enterprises of the previous standard. In order to control the characteristic pollutants and other poisonous and harmful pollutants in the water pollutants discharge standards on the 17 special trades that have been included in this revision, 10 items for control are added. As for the standard limits of the second time phase, 40 items for control are added. The maximum allowable discharge concentration of the items such as COD, BOD<sub>5</sub> is restricted properly.

The standard substitutes GB8978-88 and the following standards since the enforcement date of this standard.

- GBJ 48-83 *Discharge Standard for Sewage from Hospital (trial)*
- GB3545-83 *Discharge Standard for Water Pollutants from Beet Processing Industry*
- GB3546-83 *Discharge Standard for Water Pollutants from Sugar-cane Processing Industry*
- GB3547-83 *Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Synthetic Fatty Acid Industry*
- GB3548-83 *Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Synthetic Detergent Industry*
- GB3549-83 *Effluent Standard for Pollutants from Leather Industry*
- GB3550-83 *Discharge Standard for Water Pollutants from Petroleum Exploitation*

	<i>Industry</i>
GB3551-83	<i>Discharge Standard for Water Pollutants from Petroleum Refining Industry</i>
GB3553-83	<i>Discharge Standard for Water Pollutants from Cinefilm Processing</i>
GB4280-84	<i>Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Chromate Salt Industry</i>
GB4281-84	<i>Discharge Standard for Water Pollutants from Petrochemical Industry</i>
GB4282-84	<i>Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Sulfuric Acid Industry</i>
GB4283-84	<i>Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Phosphor Industry</i>
GB4912-85	<i>Effluent Standard for Pollutants from Light Metal Industry</i>
GB4913-85	<i>Effluent Standard for Pollutants from Heavy Non-ferrous Metal Industry</i>
GB4916-85	<i>Emission Standard for Pollutants from Asphalt Industry</i>
GB5469-85	<i>Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Scrubbing Goods Trains</i>

Appendixes A, B, C and D are all the appendixes of normative.

This standard was issued in 1973 for the first time. It was first revised in 1988.

This standard was proposed by the Department of Science, Technology & Standard, and National Environmental Protection Administration (NEPA).

NEPA is in charge of the explanation of this standard.

## NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**INTEGRATED WASTEWATER DISCHARGE STANDARD****GB8978-1996****Replace GB8978-88**

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This standard is hereby enacted to implement “Environmental Protection Law of the People’s Republic of China”, “Law of the People’s Republic of China on the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution”, “Law of Marine Environmental Protection of the People’s Republic of China”, for controlling the water pollution, keeping the water quality of surface water bodies (rivers, lakes, canals, channels, reservoirs and oceans) and the underground water bodies in good condition, safeguarding human health, preserving the ecological balance and promoting the development of national economy and construction in urban and rural areas.

**1. The Content of Theme and Applying Scope****1.1 The Content of Theme**

The standard stipulates, in accordance with the time phase for enterprise being built and destination of wastewater, the maximum allowable discharge concentration of 69 kinds of water pollutants and the maximum allowable discharge capacity for some trades.

**1.2 Applying Scope**

This standard is applicable for the discharge management of water pollutants from the existing enterprises, the environmental impact assessment and the design of environment protection facilities of construction projects, the acceptance of construction projects upon completion and the discharge management after they are put into production.

In accordance with the principle that the national integrated wastewater discharge standard can’t overlap with national trade discharge standard, the paper industry should implement “Discharge Standard of Water Pollutants from Paper industry” (GB3544-92); the ship should implement “Discharge Standard for Pollutants from Ship”(GB3552-83); the ship industry should implement “Emission Standard for Pollutants from Ship Building Industry” (GB4286-84); the off-shore petroleum exploitation industry should implement “Discharge Standard for Oil-bearing Wastewater from Off-shore Petroleum Exploitation Industry” (GB4944-85); the dyeing and finishing of textile industry should implement “Discharge Standard of water Pollutants from Dyeing and Finishing Textile Industry”(GB4287-92); the meat processing industry should implement “Discharge Standard of Water Pollutants

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