DRINKING WATER SPECIFICATION: IS: 10500, 1992
(Reaffirmed 1993)

TOLERANCE LIMITS

S.No	Parameter	IS: 10500 Requirement (Desirable limit)	Undesirable effect outside the desirable limit	IS: 10500 Permissible limit in the absence of alternate source
Essential Characteristics				
1.	pH	6.5 – 8.5	Beyond this range the water will effect the mucous membrane and / or water supply system	No relaxation
2.	Colour (Hazen Units), Maximum	5	Above 5, consumer acceptance decreases	25
3.	Odour	Unobjectionable	--	--
4.	Taste	Agreeable	--	--
5.	Turbidity, NTU, Max	5	Above 5, consumer acceptance decreases	10
Following Results are expressed in mg/1 :				
6.	Total hardness as $CaCO_3$, Max	300	Encrustation in water supply structure and adverse effects on domestic use	600
7.	Iron as Fe, Max	0.30	Beyond this limit taste/appearance are affected, has adverse effect on domestic uses and water supply structures, and promotes iron bacteria.	1.0
8.	Chlorides as Cl, Max	250	Beyond this limit tast, corrosion and palatability are effected	1000
9.	Residual, Free Chlorine, Min	0.20	--	--
Desirable Characteristics				
10.	Dissolved solids, Max	500	Beyond this palatability decreases and may cause gastro intentional irritation	2000
11.	Calcium as Ca, Max	75	Encrustation in water supply structure and adverse effects on domestic use	200

12.	Magnesium as Mg, Max	30	--	100
13.	Copper as Cu, Max	0.05	Astringent taste, discoloration and corrosion of pipes, fitting and utensils will be caused beyond this	1.5
14.	Manganese as Mn, Max	0.1	Beyond this limit taste/appearance are affected, has adverse effect on domestic uses and water supply structures	0.3
15.	Sulphate as SO_4 Max	200	Beyond this causes gastro intentional irritation when magnesium or sodium are present	400
16.	Nitrates as NO_3	45	Beyond this methanemoglobinemia takes place	100
17.	Fluoride, Max	1.0	Fluoride may be kept as low as possible. High fluoride may cause fluorosis	1.5
18.	Phenolic compounds as C_6H_5OH, Max	0.001	Beyond this, it may cause objectionable taste and odour	0.002
19.	Mercury as Hg, Max	0.001	Beyond this, the water becomes toxic	No relaxation
20.	Cadmium as Cd, Max	0.01	Beyond this, the water becomes toxic	No relaxation
21.	Selenium as Se, Max	0.01	Beyond this, the water becomes toxic	No relaxation
22.	Arsenic as As, Max	0.05	Beyond this, the water becomes toxic	No relaxation
23.	Cyanide as CN, Max	0.05	Beyond this, the water becomes toxic	No relaxation
24.	Lead as Pb, Max	0.05	Beyond this, the water becomes toxic	No relaxation
25.	Zinc as Zn, Max	5	Beyond this limit it can cause astringent taste and an opalescence in water	15
26.	Anionic detergents as MBAS, Max	0.2	Beyond this limit it can cause a light froth in water	1.0
27.	Chromium as Cr^{6+}, Max	0.05	May be carcinogenic above this limit	No relaxation
28.	Ploynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons as PAH, Max	--	May be carcinogenic	--

29.	Mineral Oil, Max	0.01	Beyond this limit undesirable taste and odour after chlorination take place	0.03
30.	Pesticides, Max	Absent	Toxic	0.001
31.	Radioactive materials a) α emitters Bq/1, Max b) β emitters Pci/1, Max	-- --	-- --	0.1 1
32.	Alkalinity, Max	200	Beyond this limit taste becomes unpleasant	600
33.	Aluminum as Al, Max	0.03	Cumulative effect is reported to cause dementia	0.2
34.	Boron, Max	1	--	5