

WATER ICRA - FIELD SHEET

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THE DIRECT ANSWER

There is no separate water ICRA standard. The water assessment rides inside the ICRA permit and the ASHRAE 188 water management program: before a valve closes, map the lines, the downstream patients, the stagnation time, and the verification that returns the line to service. The airborne ICRA asks what the dust will do. The water ICRA asks what the stagnation will do.

THE FIVE QUESTIONS

1. Which water, which lines? Systems and segments, what feeds them, what they feed. Valve map over memory.
2. Who is downstream? Areas served; highest-risk occupants first (transplant, oncology, neonatal, burn).
3. How long will the water sit? Idle time per segment, including low-use outlets at the ends of runs.
4. What gets created, opened, or left behind? New piping disinfected and flushed before connection. Dead legs removed, never capped.
5. What proves it is safe again? Temperatures and residuals at named sentinel points, by a named person, with fail criteria - defined before work starts.

THE TIER LADDER (controls grow with stagnation time and downstream risk)

Tier 1 - Nothing opened, nothing shut down: notify the water management team, log, close.

Tier 2 - Line opened or brief shutdown, low-risk areas: weekly flushing, spot-checks, disinfection of new materials.

Tier 3 - Patient care areas affected or new piping: five questions in writing on the ICRA permit, flushing schedule, verification before return, recorded sampling decision.

Tier 4 - High-risk downstream, long stagnation, system work: written recommissioning plan approved first, staged return, sampling where risk is elevated, event filed in the program's own records.

CONTROL ANCHORS (CDC)

Store hot water above 140 F. Circulate at or above 120 F. Keep cold water below the 77-113 F growth band. Flush idle segments at least weekly during construction. Keep disinfectant residual detectable.

RETURN TO SERVICE

Flush until temperatures and residual meet control limits at sentinel points. Confirm disinfection. Record the sampling decision. Close with three signatures: facilities, infection prevention, water management team.

Planning aid only - not a substitute for ASHRAE 188, the ASHE ICRA 2.0 tool, your water management program, or your infection preventionist.