

Water Quality Standards

South Carolina Regulation 61-68,
Water Classifications and Standards



South Carolina Regulation 61-69

Classified Waters

- Contains the specific classification of listed waters
 - Not all waters are listed, but all are classified
- Contains site-specific water quality standards
 - Site-specific standards are only applicable to a specified waterbody

R.61-68.A. Purpose and Scope

- Three categories of water quality standards
 - Narrative and Numeric Criteria
 - Uses
 - Antidegradation Policy

R.61-68.B. Definitions

- Pollution Control Act
- Balanced indigenous aquatic community
- Biological Criteria
- Classified Uses
- Existing uses
- Fishing

R.61-68.B. Definitions

- Natural conditions
- No Discharge Zone
- Primary contact recreation
- Propagation
- Secondary contact recreation

R.61-68.C. Applicability of Standards

- Contains several important statements regarding how, when, and where water quality standards are applied such as:
 - Design flow conditions
 - Protection of ephemeral and intermittent streams as waters of the State
 - Protection and maintenance of downstream uses
 - Mixing zone provisions
 - Site-specific criteria provisions

R.61-68.D. Antidegradation Rules

- Protection of existing uses (Tier 1)
- Protection of high quality water (Tier 2)
 - Both Tier 1 and 2 are applied on a parameter-by-parameter approach
- Protection of exceptional waters (Tier 2½ and Tier 3)
 - Both Tier 2½ and 3 are applied on a designational approach

R.61-68.E. General Rules

- No waters of the State used for treatment purposes
- “Free froms”
- Use removal or downgrade provisions
- Variance provisions
- “Filling” provisions (§401 certification)

R.61-68.E. General Rules

- Nutrient criteria
- Temperature criteria
- Rules for applying in permitting activities
- Rules for evaluating ambient water quality
- Use of other scientifically-defensible information

R.61-68.F. Biocriteria

- General descriptions
- Use of reference conditions

R.61-68.G. Class Descriptions

- All classifications, designations, specific uses, and some specific criteria
- Freshwater (FW) Classification
- FW uses include the following: primary and secondary recreation, source of drinking water, freshwater aquatic life use, industrial, and agricultural

R.61-68.G. Class Descriptions

- Lake Murray is FW
 - Lake Murray is also a No Discharge Zone (NDZ) for marine sanitation devices
 - The tributaries to both Lake Murray and the lower Saluda River below the dam are also classed as FW

R.61-68.G. Class Descriptions

- FW also include specific criteria for items such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, and turbidity as well as the criteria listed in the appendix and narrative criteria listed in other sections of the regulation. There may also be site-specific criteria in R.61-69.

R.61-68.G. Class Descriptions

- Trout – Put, Grow, and Take (TPGT) Classification
- TPGT uses include all of the FW uses and also support growth of a stocked trout population
- Lower Saluda River is TPGT
- Lower Saluda has a site-specific DO water quality standard found in R.61-69
 - DO not less than daily average of 5 mg/l
 - A running thirty day average of 5.5 mg/l
 - With a low of 4.0 mg/l

R.61-68 Appendix

- Priority pollutants
- Nonpriority pollutants
- Organoleptic effects
- Additional Notes and modifications
- Ammonia