



**American Water Works
Association**

The Authoritative Resource on Safe WaterSM

ANSI/AWWA B502-05
(Revision of ANSI/AWWA B502-01)

AWWA Standard

Sodium Polyphosphate, Glassy (Sodium Hexametaphosphate)



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6666 West Quincy Avenue
Denver, CO 80235-3098
T 800.926.7337
www.awwa.org

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Committee Personnel

The AWWA Standards Committee on Scale and Corrosion-Control Chemicals, which reviewed and approved this standard, had the following personnel at the time of approval:

Robert A. Ryder, *Chair*

General Interest Members

H.T. Belcher Jr., Corrtac Systems Corporation, Currituck, N.C.	(AWWA)
W.J. Conlon, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Tampa, Fla.	(AWWA)
L.L. Harms, Black & Veatch Engineers, Kansas City, Mo.	(AWWA)
R.A. Ryder, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, San Francisco, Calif.	(AWWA)
N.G. Pizzi,* Environmental Engineering & Technology, Twinsburg, Ohio	(AWWA)
S.J. Posavec,* Standards Group Liaison, AWWA, Denver, Colo.	(AWWA)

Producer Members

K.M. Ripp, Rockford, Ill.	(AWWA)
P.A. Vella, Carus Chemical Company, La Salle, Ill.	(AWWA)

User Members

W.F. Maier, Lansing Board of Water & Light, Lansing, Mich.	(AWWA)
J.J. Muldowney, Philadelphia Water Department, Philadelphia, Pa.	(AWWA)
R.M. Powell, Pinellas County Utilities, Largo, Fla.	(AWWA)
J.C. Thurrott, City of Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach, Fla.	(AWWA)
T.M. Tucker, Knoxville Utilities Board, Knoxville, Tenn.	(AWWA)
M.M. Vogel, Corning, N.Y.	(AWWA)

*Liaison, nonvoting

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Contents

All AWWA standards follow the general format indicated subsequently. Some variations from this format may be found in a particular standard.

SEC.	PAGE	SEC.	PAGE
<i>Foreword</i>		1.3	Application 1
I	Introduction..... vii	2	References..... 2
I.A	Background..... vii	3	Definitions 2
I.B	History..... vii	4	Requirements
I.C	Acceptance vii	4.1	Physical Requirements 3
II	Special Issues..... viii	4.2	Chemical Requirements..... 4
II.A	Storage and Handling	4.3	Impurities 4
	Precautions..... viii	5	Verification
III	Use of This Standard ix	5.1	Sampling..... 5
III.A	Purchaser Options and	5.2	Test Procedures..... 6
	Alternatives ix	5.3	Notice of Nonconformance 8
III.B	Modification to Standard..... ix	6	Delivery
IV	Major Revisions ix	6.1	Marking..... 9
V	Comments ix	6.2	Packaging and Shipping..... 9
		6.3	Affidavit of Compliance or
			Certified Analysis..... 10
<i>Standard</i>			
1	General		
1.1	Scope 1		
1.2	Purpose 1		

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Foreword

This Foreword is for information only and is not a part of ANSI/AWWA B502.

I. Introduction.

I.A. *Background.* Sodium polyphosphate, glassy, is a manufactured product obtained by combining comparatively pure chemicals—soda ash (Na_2CO_3) or caustic soda (NaOH)—with phosphoric acid. Although the resulting product is consistent in quality and content, each manufacturer may produce it in several different physical forms (see Sec. 4). The density of crushed or granular material is approximately 80 lb/ft^3 (approximately $1,280 \text{ kg/m}^3$). A solution of 2 lb/gal (0.24 kg/L) has a specific gravity of approximately 1.2.

The uses of sodium polyphosphate, glassy, include corrosion control, scale prevention, iron and manganese stabilization, and sequestering of metallic ions. The chemical is available in a wide range of physical forms and sizes, allowing flexibility in the type of dissolving or feeding apparatus to be used.

I.B. *History.* The first edition of AWWA B502 was approved as tentative on Jan. 23, 1966. It was approved as a standard on June 1, 1967, and published as AWWA B502-67. Subsequent revisions were approved by the AWWA Board of Directors as ANSI/AWWA B502-78, ANSI/AWWA B502-83, ANSI/AWWA B502-88, ANSI/AWWA B502-94, and ANSI/AWWA B502-01. This seventh edition was prepared by the AWWA Standards Committee on Scale and Corrosion-Control Chemicals and was approved by the AWWA Board of Directors on June 12, 2005.

I.C. *Acceptance.* In May 1985, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) entered into a cooperative agreement with a consortium led by NSF International (NSF) to develop voluntary third-party consensus standards and a certification program for direct and indirect drinking water additives. Other members of the original consortium included the American Water Works Association Research Foundation (AwwaRF) and the Conference of State Health and Environmental Managers (COSHEM). The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) joined later.

In the United States, authority to regulate products for use in, or in contact with, drinking water rests with individual states.* Local agencies may choose to impose

*Persons outside the United States should contact the appropriate authority having jurisdiction.

requirements more stringent than those required by the state. To evaluate the health effects of products and drinking water additives from such products, state and local agencies may use various references, including two standards developed under the direction of NSF, NSF^{*}/ANSI[†] 60, Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals—Health Effects, and NSF/ANSI 61, Drinking Water System Components—Health Effects.

Various certification organizations may be involved in certifying products in accordance with NSF/ANSI 60. Individual states or local agencies have authority to accept or accredit certification organizations within their jurisdiction. Accreditation of certification organizations may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Annex A, “Toxicology Review and Evaluation Procedures,” to NSF/ANSI 60 does not stipulate a maximum allowable level (MAL) of a contaminant for substances not regulated by a USEPA final maximum contaminant level (MCL). The MALs of an unspecified list of “unregulated contaminants” are based on toxicity testing guidelines (noncarcinogens) and risk characterization methodology (carcinogens). Use of Annex A procedures may not always be identical, depending on the certifier.

ANSI/AWWA B502 addresses additives requirements in Sec. 4.3 of the standard. The transfer of contaminants from chemicals to processed water or the residual solids is becoming a problem of great concern. The language in Sec. 4.3.3 is a recommendation only for direct additives used in the treatment of potable water to be certified by an accredited certification organization in accordance with NSF/ANSI 60, Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals—Health Effects. However, users of the standard may opt to make this certification a requirement for the product. Users of this standard should also consult the appropriate state or local agency having jurisdiction in order to

1. Determine additives requirements, including applicable standards.
2. Determine the status of certifications by all parties offering to certify products for contact with, or treatment of, drinking water.
3. Determine current information on product certification.

II. Special Issues.

II.A. *Storage and Handling Precautions.* Sodium polyphosphate, glassy, is hygroscopic in nature and must be stored under dry conditions. Exposure to humidity produces a sticky film on the exposed material. This results in poor flow and in caking,

^{*}NSF International, 789 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

[†]American National Standards Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10036.