Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)

What are Haloacetic Acids?

Haloacetic Acids are a group of disinfectant byproducts that are formed when disinfectants are used to treat water and react with naturally occurring organic and inorganic matter present in source waters.

Do Haloacetic Acids have any additional names?

HAA5, dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid

What are the known health effects?

Data from research studies indicate that several HAAs, e.g., dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid, may be carcinogenic in laboratory animals. Exposure to other HAAs has also been associated with reproductive and developmental effects in laboratory animals.

How does exposure occur?

The primary way people are exposed to HAAs is by ingesting disinfected drinking water. Disinfection of drinking water is a necessity to avoid infectious diseases in the general public from microbial contamination of drinking water supplies. There is not a significant risk of haloacetic acids present in water being absorbed through the skin.

Is this contaminant regulated?

Yes, and water supplied to customers of Mount Laurel MUA is in compliance with USEPA and NJDEP requirements. The maximum allowable concentration for HAA5 is 60 ppb; water supplied by the MLTMUA system has a detected a maximum of 26.0 ppb.

How can I reduce exposure?

Activated carbon filters can reduce HAA levels in tap water.

Additional information regarding Haloacetic Acids, including the information referenced, can be found at:
https://drinktap.org/Water-Info/Whats-in-My-Water/Haloacetic-Acids