

Relative Risk Categories for Adverse Human Health Outcomes Due to Toxic Cyanoabacteria in Drinking Waters (Chorus and Bartram [editors] World Health Organization, 1999)

Protection Category ²	Cyanobacterial Biomass Category ¹			
	Absent or low (long-term)	Absent or low (short-term)	Moderate-High (Alert Level 1)	Very High (Alert Level 2)
I	-	Low	High	Very High
II	Minimal	Low	High	Very High
III	Minimal	Low	Medium-High	High
IV	Minimal	Low	Low-Medium	Medium
V	Minimal	Low	Low	Medium
VI	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal-Low	Low
VII	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal-Low ³

¹ = Cyanobacterial Biomass Categories are defined as follows:

Low: < 2,000 cells per ml, 0.2 mm₃ per liter biovolume, or 1 ug per liter chlorophyll-a

Moderate-High: < 100,00 cells per ml., 10 mm³ per liter, or 50 ug per liter chlorophyll-a

Very High > 100,000 per ml., 10 mm³ per liter, or 50 ug per liter and the presence of toxins confirmed by chemical analysis or bioassay

Long-term: based on data compiled for two months or greater

Short-term: based on data compiled for less than two months

² = Protection Categories from Figure 6.2 (previous schematic).

³ = Risk Category is greater than minimal because of the increased risk associated with treatment breakthrough or failure at high biomass loads.

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