Evaluation of Standards for the Hardness of Drinking Water

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In this article, we made an attempt to analyze acting standards for the hardness of drinking water in different countries. In a number of countries, there are some requirements for both upper and lower limits for the hardness, as well as for the separate concentrations of calcium and magnesium. We gave a short description of the effects of the drinking water hardness on the human health and also the actual values of hardness of tap water in a number of European and Russian cities. State standard for the drinking water was introduced in Russia in 1940 and has been changed since then several times, although the hardness index has been preserved at constant level of 7 mmol-equiv/l. We have stated in the paper that an optimization of the range of hardness of drinking water is necessary for both health care of the population and minimization of the corrosion of water supply equipment and pipelines.

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