

**ETHOS BOTTLED WATER QUALITY REPORT**  
**For**  
**Safeway-Lucerne Foods Bottling Plant Merced, CA.**

**INTRODUCTION**

Your bottled water products manufactured by Safeway- Lucerne bottling facilities meets all federal and state health standards. The Food and Drug Administration, (FDA) regulates bottled water as a food product whereas the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA regulates tap water as provided by water utilities. Standards of quality enacted by the FDA for bottled water must be as protective of the public health as EPA's Primary Drinking Water Standards (known as Maximum Contaminant Levels) for tap water. Ensuring the safety of the water is our primary objective in providing our bottled water products to our customers. Please review the following water quality -related definition of terms, to further your understanding of this bottled water report.

**DEFINITION of Terms:**

**Public Health Goal (PHG):** The PHG is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG limits are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA)

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** MCL is the maximum level of a contaminant substance allowed in public drinking water sources.

**Primary Drinking Water Standards (PDWS):** PDWS are set at levels to provide the maximum feasible protection to the public health. The purpose of setting PDWS is to identify MCLs, along with their respective monitoring and reporting requirements, which prevent adverse health effects. The PDWS are set as close to the public health goal (PHG) or maximum contaminant level (MCL) as technologically and economically feasible.

**Statement of Quality:** The quality standards for bottled water provide the maximum legal limits for a variety of substances that are allowed in bottled water, along with their respective monitoring requirements. These substances can include but are not limited to; microbiological contaminants, pesticides, organic & inorganic contaminants and radiological contaminants. The standards for these types of contaminants have been set by the FDA, based on the public drinking water standards of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, (USEPA). The California Department of Public Health adopts the FDA regulations as they pertain to the quality standards of bottled water.

**INTRODUCTION TO REPORT CONTENTS:**

**Section A.**

This section of the bottled water report contains consumer information statements relative to drinking water as mandated by California Senate Bill 220 Section 111070. These statements are immediately followed by the appropriate current contact information for the United States regulatory branch pertaining to the specified statements, where applicable.

**Section B.**

This section of the bottled water report contains specific information relative to the bottled water products produced at Safeway- Lucerne Foods in Merced CA. This section of the report will disclose company address and contact information, water sources, treatment processes and bottling safeguards used to ensure the safety and high quality of their products.

## Report Section A.

The following consumer information statements comply with and are taken directly from SB220 111070. SEC.2. (a) "Bottled Water", means any water that is placed in a sealed container at a water-bottling plant to be used for drinking, culinary, or other purposes involving a likelihood of the water being ingested by humans. Bottled water shall not include water packaged with the approval of the department for use in a public emergency. SEC.2. (c) "Water-bottling plant" means any facility in which bottled water is produced.

The following consumer information statements comply with and are taken directly from SB220 111070 SEC.3. (d) (7) (A)

"Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the United States Food and Drug Administration, Food and Cosmetic Hotline (1-888-723-3366), For access to the FDA website providing recall information, to go: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

## Report Section A. (Continued)

The following consumer information statements comply with and are taken directly from SB220 111070 SEC.3. (d) (8)

"Some persons may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, including, but not limited to, persons with cancer who are undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly persons, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These persons should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."

The following consumer information statements comply with and are taken directly from SB220 111070 SEC.3. (d) (9)

"The sources of bottled water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water naturally travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can pick up naturally occurring substances as well as substances that are present due to animal and human activity. Substances that may be present in the source water include any of the following:

(1) Inorganic substances, including, but not limited to, salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from farming, urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, or oil and gas production.

(2) Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

(3) Organic substances that are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application, and septic systems.

(4) Microbial organisms that may come from wildlife, agricultural livestock operations, sewage treatment plants, and septic systems.

(5) Substances with radioactive properties that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities."

The following consumer information statements comply with and are taken directly from SB220 111070 SEC.3. (d) (10)

"In order to ensure that bottled water is safe to drink, the United States Food and Drug Administration and the State Department of Public Health prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by bottled water companies."

## **Report Section B.**

The Safeway Lucerne bottling plant in Merced, California, manufactures three varieties of bottled water products: purified drinking water, purified drinking water with minerals and spring water.

The Safeway-Lucerne bottling plant corporate headquarters address and contact information:

Safeway Inc. PO Box 99, Pleasanton, California 94566-0009

1-888-SAFEWAY / [www.safeway.com](http://www.safeway.com)

### **Section B. Source Water**

Safeway-Lucerne bottling facilities use municipally controlled wells and protected springs as the sources for our process water. These wells and springs bring water to the surface from aquifers below the surface. The water in these aquifers begins as rain and snow high up in the mountains and it remains underground until we bring it to the surface. Layers of solid rock and clay provide an impervious (not-passable) protective cover for the aquifer water. This source water is completely safe to drink. We test our sources regularly to verify that they are of extremely high quality.

### **Section B. Water Processing**

Bottled water products manufactured by the Safeway-Lucerne bottling plant are protected by a multi-barrier approach which may include steps such as source protection and monitoring, and in-process treatments such as reverse osmosis, micron filtration, ozone treatment, the application of ultraviolet light or other appropriate processing measures. Bottled water products labeled as "spring water" must come from protected sources which are monitored frequently. Bottled water labeled as "drinking water" or "purified drinking water", may also come from treated municipal supplies. The Safeway-Lucerne bottling plant uses municipal sources and employs processing methods such as reverse osmosis, micron filtration, UV light and ozone treatment to remove any chemical and /or microbiological contaminants.

Multiple stages of filtration include carbon filtration, micron filtration and particulate filtration to remove sediment and suspended particles. Reverse osmosis, a process that removes nearly all of the salts or minerals in the source water is then used for further purification processing for "purified drinking water." Reverse osmosis works by forcing the water through a semipermeable membrane at high pressure to force water against the natural osmotic gradient, producing salt and mineral free water. This "purified water" is captured for bottling. The concentrated minerals and salts are rejected as waste in a smaller stream for treatment and disposal.

The spring water is filtered through micron filtration, carbon filtration and treated with UV light and Ozone to ensure the highest purity natural product.

All of our bottled water products are treated with ozone to provide the highest level of purification for these products. We use ozone instead of chlorine because it leaves no residual and it quickly dissipates without imparting any odor or taste to the products. Ozone is oxygen (O<sub>3</sub>) which is bubbled through the water just before it goes into a clean, sanitized bottle. Within a few hours after the products have been filled and capped, the ozone dissipates or converts back to the same form of oxygen that we breathe (O<sub>2</sub>).

### **Section B. Water Testing**

Our company regularly tests for organic chemicals and inorganic chemicals that are regulated by the FDA. No contaminants were detected above FDA's MCL (Maximum Contaminant Limits) in our testing for 2010. There have been no violations of any FDA Standard of Quality.