

WAC 173-340-705 Use of Method B. (1) **Applicability.** Method B is applicable to all sites. It shall be used to develop cleanup levels unless one or more of the conditions for using Method A or Method C are demonstrated to exist and the person conducting the cleanup action elects to use that method.

(2) **Cleanup levels.** Method B consists of two approaches, standard and modified. Standard Method B uses default formulas, assumptions, and procedures to develop cleanup levels. Under modified Method B chemical-specific or site-specific information may be used to change certain assumptions to calculate different cleanup levels. When the term "Method B" is used in this chapter, it means both standard and modified Method B. Method B cleanup levels shall be established in accordance with the procedures in WAC 173-340-720 through 173-340-760. Method B cleanup levels shall be at least as stringent as all of the following:

(a) Concentrations of individual hazardous substances established under applicable state and federal laws;

(b) Concentrations that are estimated to result in no adverse effects on the protection and propagation of aquatic life, and no significant adverse effects on terrestrial ecological receptors using the procedures specified in WAC 173-340-7490 through 173-340-7494;

(c) For hazardous substances for which sufficiently protective, health-based criteria or standards have not been established under applicable state and federal laws, those concentrations which protect human health as determined by the following methods:

(i) Concentrations that are estimated to result in no acute or chronic toxic effects on human health as determined using a hazard quotient of one (1) and the procedures specified in WAC 173-340-720 through 173-340-760;

(ii) For known or suspected carcinogens, concentrations for which the upper bound on the estimated excess cancer risk is less than or equal to one in one million (1×10^{-6}) as determined using the procedures specified in WAC 173-340-720 through 173-340-760; and

(iii) Concentrations that eliminate or minimize the potential for food chain contamination as necessary to protect human health.

(3) **More stringent cleanup levels.** The department may establish Method B cleanup levels that are more stringent than those required by subsection (2) of this section, when based upon a site-specific evaluation, the department determines that such levels are necessary to protect human health and the environment. Any imposition of more stringent requirements under this provision shall comply with WAC 173-340-702 and 173-340-708.

(4) **Multiple hazardous substances or pathways.** Concentrations of individual hazardous substances established under subsections (2) and (3) of this section, including those based on applicable state and federal laws, shall be adjusted downward to take into account exposure to multiple hazardous substances and/or exposure resulting from more than one pathway of exposure. These adjustments need to be made only if, without these adjustments, the hazard index would exceed one (1) or the total excess cancer risk would exceed one in one hundred thousand (1×10^{-5}). These adjustments shall be made in accordance with the procedures in WAC 173-340-708 (5) and (6). In making these adjustments, the hazard index shall not exceed one (1) and the total excess cancer risk shall not exceed one in one hundred thousand (1×10^{-5}).

(5) **Adjustments to cleanup levels based on applicable laws.** Where a cleanup level is based on an applicable state or federal law, and

the level of risk upon which the applicable state and federal law is based exceeds an excess cancer risk of one in one hundred thousand (1×10^{-5}) or a hazard index of one (1), the cleanup level must be adjusted downward so that the total excess cancer risk and hazard index at the site does not exceed the limits established in subsection (4) of this section.

(6) **Limitation on adjustments.** Cleanup levels determined using Method B, including cleanup levels adjusted under subsections (4) and (5) of this section, shall not be set at levels below the practical quantitation limit or natural background, whichever is higher. See WAC 173-340-707 and 173-340-709 for additional requirements on practical quantitation limits and natural background.

(7) **Remediation levels.** Method B formulas may be modified for the purpose of using a human health risk assessment to evaluate the protectiveness of a remedy. WAC 173-340-708 (3) and (10) describe the adjustments that can be made to the Method B formulas. Also see WAC 173-340-355 and 173-340-357 for more detailed information on remediation levels and quantitative risk assessment.

(8) **Inconsistencies.** If there are any inconsistencies between this section and any specifically referenced sections, the referenced section shall govern.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 70.105D RCW. WSR 01-05-024 (Order 97-09A), § 173-340-705, filed 2/12/01, effective 8/15/01; WSR 91-04-019, § 173-340-705, filed 1/28/91, effective 2/28/91.]