

WAC 173-201A-430 Site-specific criteria. (1) Where the existing and designated uses for the water body would be fully protected using an alternative criterion, site-specific criteria may be adopted.

(a) The site-specific criterion must be consistent with the federal regulations on protecting uses (currently 40 C.F.R. 131.11); and

(b) The decision to approve a site-specific criterion must be subject to a public involvement and intergovernmental coordination process.

(2) The site-specific analyses for the development of a new water quality criterion must be conducted in a manner that is scientifically justifiable and consistent with 40 C.F.R. 131.11; and conducted in accordance with the procedures established in the "*Water Quality Standards Handbook*," EPA 2023, as revised.

(3) The decision to approve the site-specific criterion must be based on a demonstration that it will protect the existing and designated uses of the water body.

(4) Site-specific criteria are not in effect until they have been incorporated into this chapter and approved by the USEPA.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 90.48 RCW and 40 C.F.R. § 131.20. WSR 24-23-037 (Order 22-05), s 173-201A-430, filed 11/14/24, effective 12/15/24. Statutory Authority: Chapters 90.48 and 90.54 RCW. WSR 03-14-129 (Order 02-14), § 173-201A-430, filed 7/1/03, effective 8/1/03.]