



# CRITICAL CONTROL POINTS

## WHAT'S A CONTROL POINT?

A multi-barrier risk management approach identifies barriers that prevent contamination from entering the water at every step from catchment to tap.

These barriers can be active or passive:

- An aquifer is a passive barrier that prevents bacteria from entering the drinking water supplied to customers – it is a real barrier, however, the supplier has minimal control or visibility of the barrier.
- Chlorination is an active barrier that kills bacteria, if it entered the drinking water, before it is supplied to customers – the supplier controls the activity to ensure the barrier works.

Active barriers are otherwise known as Control Points.

## WHAT ARE CCPS?

Critical Control Points (CCPs) are a subset of Control Points.

CCPs are an activity, procedure or process where control can be applied, and the control is essential for preventing hazardous events with high risks. In other words – if a standard operating procedure at this point in the process goes wrong the customer might get unsafe water.

A CCP must have:

- parameters you can monitor to see if the control is working.
- critical limits set for those parameters that indicate the control is no longer effective.
- frequent monitoring, often enough to show any failures in time for an appropriate response before water quality is impacted.
- corrective actions to resolve issues that cause the process to be out of normal operating range while still providing safe water to customers.
- critical limits to shut-down a supply if the corrective actions fail to regain control and maintain safe water.