

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BULLETIN OF THE WOMEN'S BUREAU, No. 87

SANITARY DRINKING FACILITIES

**WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE
TO DRINKING FOUNTAINS**

[PUBLIC—No. 259—66TH CONGRESS]

[H. R. 18229]

An Act To establish in the Department of Labor a bureau to be known as the Women's Bureau

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in the Department of Labor a bureau to be known as the Women's Bureau.

SEC. 2. That the said bureau shall be in charge of a director, a woman, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, who shall receive an annual compensation of \$5,000. It shall be the duty of said bureau to formulate standards and policies which shall promote the welfare of wage-earning women, improve their working conditions, increase their efficiency, and advance their opportunities for profitable employment. The said bureau shall have authority to investigate and report to the said department upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of women in industry. The director of said bureau may from time to time publish the results of these investigations in such a manner and to such extent as the Secretary of Labor may prescribe.

SEC. 3. That there shall be in said bureau an assistant director, to be appointed by the Secretary of Labor, who shall receive an annual compensation of \$3,500 and shall perform such duties as shall be prescribed by the director and approved by the Secretary of Labor.

SEC. 4. That there is hereby authorized to be employed by said bureau a chief clerk and such special agents, assistants, clerks, and other employees at such rates of compensation and in such numbers as Congress may from time to time provide by appropriations.

SEC. 5. That the Secretary of Labor is hereby directed to furnish sufficient quarters, office furniture, and equipment for the work of this bureau.

SEC. 6. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved, June 5, 1920.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

W. N. DOAK, SECRETARY

WOMEN'S BUREAU

MARY ANDERSON, Director

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BY

MARIE CORRELL



SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY'S
BRANCH LIBRARY
BOMBAY

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
WOMEN'S BUREAU,
Washington, March 23, 1931.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the report of this bureau's study of drinking facilities. The promulgation of standards for equipment to protect the health of employees is an important phase of the work of the Women's Bureau. This report develops and amplifies the bureau's recommendation, unchanged since 1918, that "Drinking water should be cool and accessible, with individual drinking cups or sanitary bubble fountain provided."

A presentation of the extent of legislation in the various States on the subject of drinking facilities constitutes a valuable part of the study from the point of view of securing uniform regulations of working conditions.

Every effort should be made to extend the use of sanitary facilities for the serving of drinking water. Employers aware of the savings to be effected by a standardization of equipment will appreciate the value of such standardization in the important matter of sanitary drinking fountains.

The bureau appreciates the courtesy and promptness with which information has been furnished by State departments of labor and of health. Grateful acknowledgment is made also of the assistance given by the persons following, who were consulted in the preparation of this report: Mr. Sheppard T. Powell, of the American Water Works Association; Messrs. Abel Wolman, C. A. Holmquist, Joel I. Connolly, and other members of the American Public Health Association; Dr. A. J. Chesley, secretary-treasurer, Mr. H. A. Whittaker, and other members of the Conference of State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America; Dr. L. R. Thompson, Assistant Surgeon General, and other officers of the United States Public Health Service.

The report was prepared by Marie Correll, of the division of research.

Respectfully submitted.

MARY ANDERSON, *Director.*

Hon. W. N. DOAK,
Secretary of Labor.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DRINKING WATER SERVICE

Source of water.—Should be absolutely pure. Consult a health department. Water not suitable for drinking should be so marked. Should not be in containers except where local supply is impure and bottled water is used.

Sanitary service.—Either A or B, as follows:

A. Bubbling fountains meeting these standards:¹

1. Fountain shall be of impervious material, as vitreous china, porcelain, enameled cast iron, other metals, or stoneware.

2. Jet shall issue from nozzle of nonoxidizing, impervious material set at an angle from the vertical. Nozzle and every opening in pipe or conductor leading to nozzle shall be above edge of bowl, so that nozzle or opening will not be flooded if drain from bowl becomes clogged.

Note.—It is understood that the angle be such that the water can neither fall back nor be forced back onto the point of discharge. The Women's Bureau desires to make this very emphatic.

3. Nozzle shall be protected by nonoxidizing guards to prevent mouth or nose of drinker from coming in contact with nozzle.

4. Jet of water shall not touch guard.

5. Bowl of fountain shall be free from corners difficult to clean or collecting dirt.

6. Bowl shall be so proportioned as to prevent unnecessary splashing.

7. Drain from fountain shall not have direct physical connection to waste pipe unless trapped.

8. Water-supply pipe shall have adjustable valve fitted with loose key or automatic valve permitting regulation of rate of flow of water to fountain so that valve manipulated by drinker will merely turn water on and off.

9. Height at drinking level shall be convenient to most persons using fountain. Step-like elevations may be provided for children.

10. Waste opening and pipe shall be large enough to carry off water promptly. Opening shall have strainer.

NOTE.—Under date of Feb. 26, 1931, the United States Treasury Department, in which is the Office of the Supervising Architect, states that specifications for drinking fountains to be installed by that department in Federal buildings will be in accordance with these standards.

B. Individual paper cups furnished free by employer.

Proper use.—Hands, mouth, or face should not touch any part of faucet, bubbler head, or guards of fountains. Individual paper cups should be protected from dirt, supply should be adequate, and means of disposal provided.

Location.—Should be convenient, well lighted, clean.

Temperature.—Water should be cool but not iced. If ice is used for cooling, it should not come in direct contact with the water.

Maintenance.—Facilities should have frequent cleaning and disinfecting; also repair and adjustment as necessary.

¹ Summarized from Essential Features in the Design of Sanitary Drinking Fountains, final report of the joint committee on plumbing of the public health engineering section of the American Public Health Association and the Conference of State Sanitary Engineers, October, 1930. U. S. Public Health Service, Public Health Reports, vol. 46, No. 4, Jan. 23, 1931, pp. 170-171. For verbatim standards and for other authorities see pp. 7 to 9 of the present study.