



T.C.  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER MANAGEMENT



# Water Efficiency Guide Documents Series

## HARD COAL MINING

NACE CODE: 05.10

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# Abbreviations

WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
EU	European Union
SS	Suspended Solids
BREF	Best Available Techniques Reference Document
EMS	Environmental Management System
MoEUB	Republic of Turkey Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change
NOM	Natural Organic Matter
EMAS	Eco Management and Audit Program Directive
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
IPPC	Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
FLOW	Best Techniques Available
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities
DGWM	General Directorate of Water Management
RO	Reverse Osmosis
MOAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey
TurkStat	Turkish Statistical Institute
NF	Nanophilia
MF	Microfiltration
UF	Ultrafilt
GW	Groundwater
SW	Surface Water

# 1 Introduction

Our country is located in the Mediterranean basin, where the effects of global climate change are felt intensely, and is considered among the regions that will be most affected by the negative effects of climate change. Projections on how our water resources in our basins will be affected in the future due to climate change show that our water resources may decrease by up to 25 percent in the next hundred years.

For 2022, the annual amount of usable water per capita in our country is 1,313 m<sup>3</sup>, and it is expected that the annual amount of usable water per capita will fall below 1,000 cubic meters after 2030 due to human pressures and the effects of climate change. It is obvious that if the necessary measures are not taken, Turkey will become a country suffering from water scarcity in the very near future and will bring many negative social and economic consequences. As can be understood from the results of future projections, the risk of drought and water scarcity awaiting our country necessitates the efficient and sustainable use of our existing water resources.

The concept of water efficiency *can be defined as* "the use of the least amount of water in the production of a product or service". Water efficiency approach; It is based on the rational, sharing, equitable, efficient and effective use of water in all sectors, especially drinking water, agriculture, industry and household uses, taking into account the needs of not only people but also ecosystem sensitivity and all living things by protecting it in terms of quantity and quality.

With the increasing demand for water resources, the change in precipitation and temperature regimes as a result of climate change, the increase in population, urbanization and pollution, it is becoming more and more important to share the usable water resources among the users in a fair and balanced way. For this reason, it has become a necessity to create a roadmap based on efficiency and optimization in order to protect and use limited water resources with sustainable management practices.

In the sustainable development vision determined by the United Nations, Goal 7 from the Millennium Development Goals: *Ensuring Environmental Sustainability* and Goal 9 from the Sustainable Development Goals: *Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure* and Goal 12: *Responsible Production and Consumption goals* Issues such as efficient, fair and sustainable use of resources, especially water, environmentally friendly production and consumption that is the concern of future generations are included.

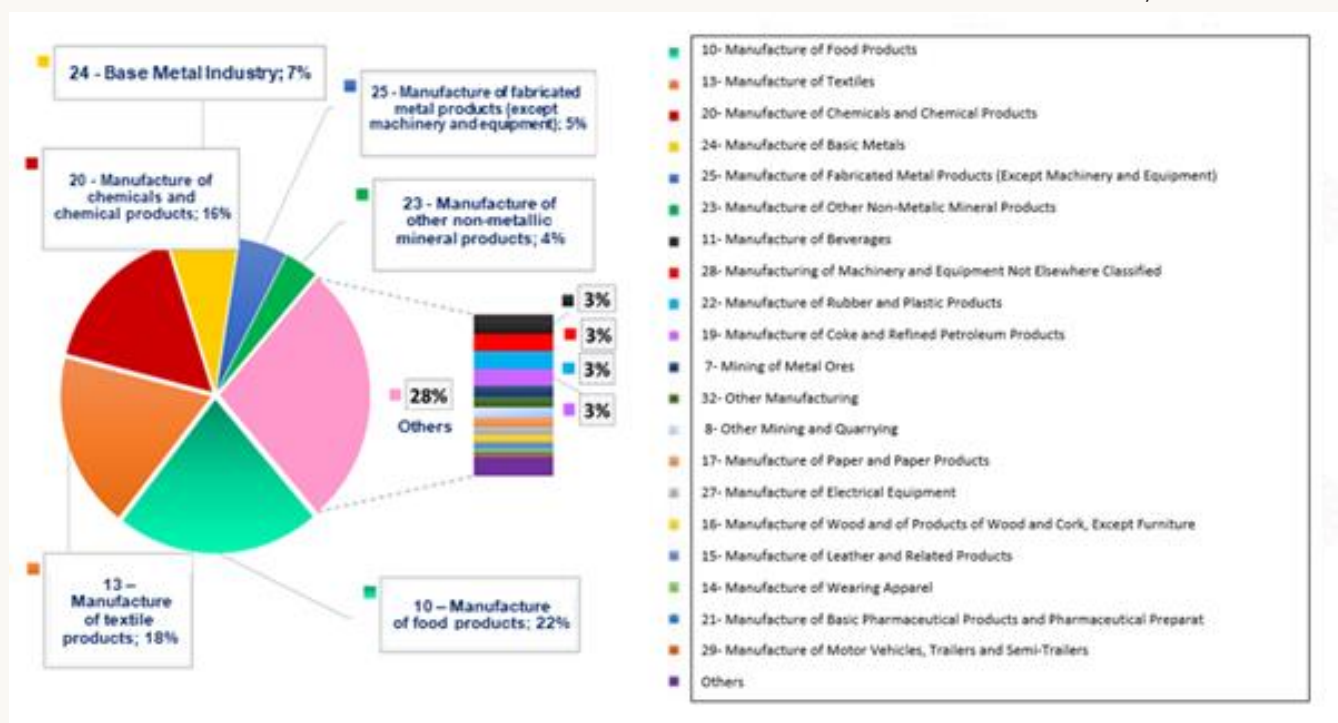
In the European Green Deal Action Plan prepared by our country within the scope of the European Green Deal, where member countries agree on goals such as implementing a clean, circular economy model with the goal of carbon neutrality, expanding the efficient use of resources and reducing environmental impacts, actions emphasizing water and resource efficiency in various fields, especially in industry, production and consumption have been determined.

The "Industrial Emissions Directive (EED)", which is one of the most important components of the European Union environmental legislation in terms of industry, includes the measures to be taken to control, prevent or reduce the discharges/emissions from industrial activities to the receiving environment, including air, water and soil, with an integrated approach. In the Directive, Best Available Techniques (BAT) are presented in order to systematize the applicability of cleaner production processes and to eliminate the difficulties experienced in practice. Considering the costs and benefits, BATs are the most effective implementation techniques for a high level of environmental protection. In accordance with the Directive, Reference Documents (BAT-BREF) have been prepared for each sector, in which the BATs are explained in detail. In BREF documents, BATs are presented in a general framework such as good management practices, general precautionary techniques, chemical use and management, techniques for various production processes, wastewater management, emission management and waste management.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Water Management carries out studies aimed at disseminating efficient practices in urban, agricultural, industrial and individual water use and increasing social awareness. "Water Efficiency Strategy Document and Action Plan within the Framework of Adaptation to the Changing Climate (2023-2033)" **entered into force with the Presidential Circular No. 2023/9** Water efficiency action plans addressing all sectors and stakeholders have been prepared. In the Industrial Water Efficiency Action Plan, a total of 12 actions have been determined for the period 2023-2033 and responsible and relevant institutions have been appointed for these actions. Within the scope of the said Action Plan; Carrying out studies to determine specific water usage ranges and quality requirements on the basis of sub-sectors in the industry, organizing technical training programs and workshops on a sectoral basis, and preparing water efficiency guidance documents are defined as the responsibility of the General Directorate of Water Management.

On the other hand, with the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency Project According to NACE Codes" **carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Water Management**, the best sectoral techniques specific to our country have been determined within the scope of studies to improve water efficiency in the industry. As a result of the study, sectoral guidance documents and action plans classified with NACE codes, which include the measures recommended to improve water use efficiency in sectors with high water consumption operating in our country, have been prepared.

As in the world, the sectors with the highest share in water consumption in our country are food, textile, chemistry and basic metal sectors. Within the scope of the studies, field visits were carried out in enterprises representing 152 sub-sectors in 35 main sectors, especially food, textile, chemistry, main metal industry, representing production areas with different capacities and diversity within the scope of NACE Codes operating in our country and with high water consumption, and data on water supply, sectoral water use, wastewater generation and recycling were obtained. And the best available techniques (BAT) and sectoral reference documents (BREF) published by the European Union, water efficiency, cleaner production, water footprint, etc.



Distribution of water use in industry on a sectoral basis in our country

As a result of the studies, specific water consumption and potential savings rates for the processes of the enterprises were determined for 152 different 4-digit NACE codes with high water consumption, and water efficiency guidance documents were prepared by taking into account the EU best available techniques (BAT) and other cleaner production techniques. The guidelines include 500 techniques for water efficiency (BAT);

It has been examined under 4 main groups: (i) Good Management Practices, (ii) General Water Efficiency BATs, (iii) Measures Related to Auxiliary Processes and (iv) Sector-Specific Measures.

Within the scope of the project, environmental benefits, operational data, technical specifications-requirements and applicability criteria were taken into account during the determination of BATs for each sector. In the determination of BATs, BREF documents were not limited to the BATs, but also different data sources such as current literature data, real case studies, innovative practices, and reports of sector representatives on a global scale were examined in detail and sectoral BAT lists were created. In order to evaluate the suitability of the BAT lists created for the local industrial infrastructure and capacity of our country, the BAT lists prepared specifically for each NACE code were prioritized by the enterprises by scoring them on the criteria of water saving, economic saving, environmental benefit, applicability, cross-media impact, and the final BAT lists were determined using the scoring results. Sectoral water efficiency guidelines have been created on the basis of the NACE code based on the water and wastewater data of the facilities visited within the scope of the project and the final BAT lists highlighted by the sectoral stakeholders and determined by taking into account the local dynamics specific to our country.

## 2 Scope of the Study

The guidance documents prepared within the scope of water efficiency measures in the industry include the following main sectors:

- Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities (including sub-production areas represented by 6 four-digit NACE Codes)
- Fisheries and aquaculture (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Extraction of coal and lignite (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Service activities in support of mining (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Metal ore mining (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Other mining and quarrying (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of food products (including 22 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of beverages (including 4 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of MoAFacco products (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of textiles (including 9 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of apparel (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of leather and related products (including 3 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of wood, wood products and cork products (except furniture); manufacture of articles made by knitting from reeds, straw and similar materials (including 5 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of paper and paper products (including 3 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products (including 13 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical materials (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of rubber and plastic products (including 6 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products (including 12 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Base metal industry (including 11 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of fabricated metal products (excluding machinery and equipment) (including 12 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of computers, electronic and optical products (including sub-production area represented by 2 four-digit NACE Codes)
- Manufacture of electronic equipment (including 7 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of machinery and equipment, n.e.c. (including 8 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (including 3 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)



- Manufacture of other means of transport (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Other productions (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Installation and repair of machinery and equipment (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Electricity, gas, steam and ventilation system production and distribution (including 2 sub-production areas represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Waste collection, remediation and disposal activities; recovery of materials (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Construction of non-building structures (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Storage and supporting activities for transportation (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Accommodation (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Educational Activities (Higher Education Campuses) (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)
- Sports, entertainment and recreational activities (including 1 sub-production area represented by a four-digit NACE Code)

Extraction of coal and lignite

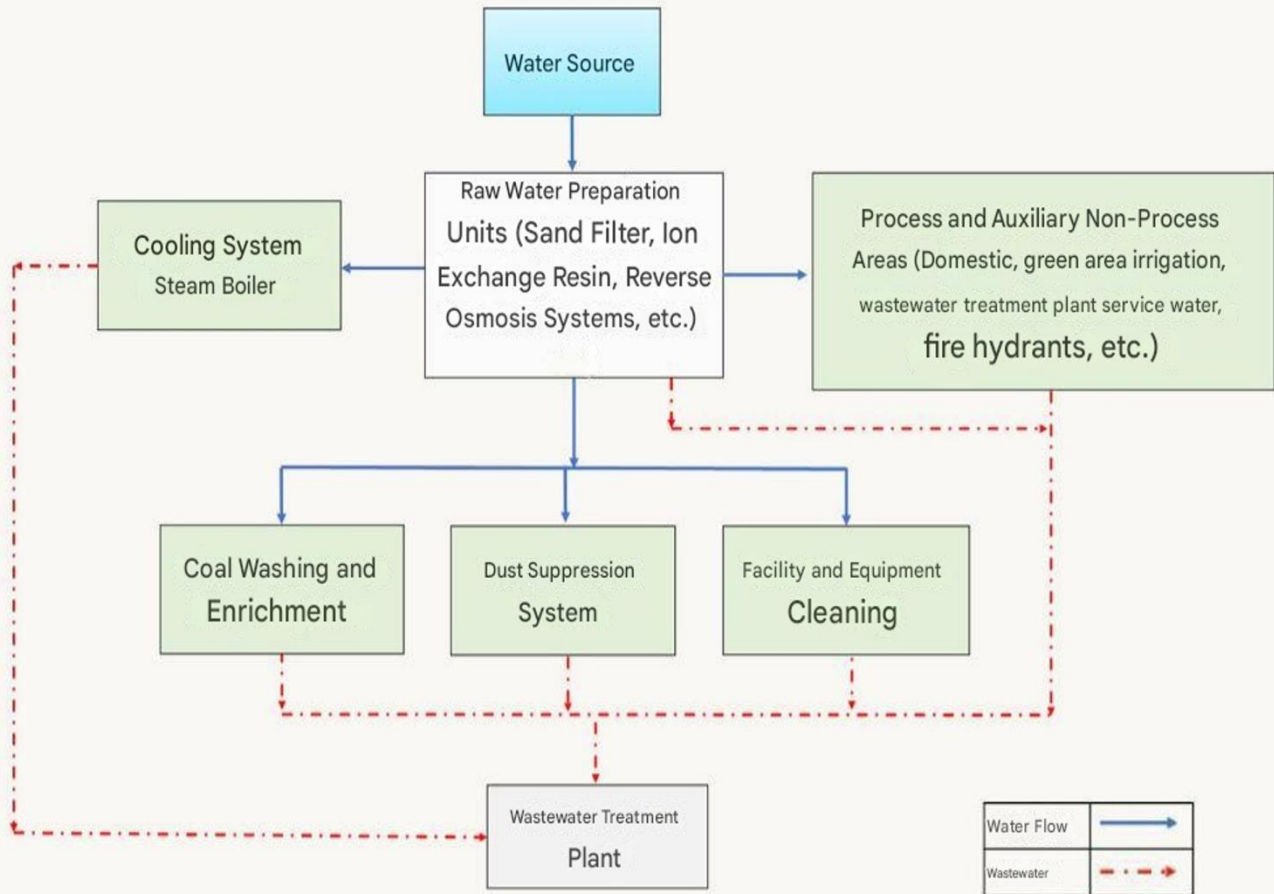
Under the coal and lignite extraction sector, the sub-production branches for which guide documents have been prepared are as follows:

05.10 Hard coal mining

05.20 Lignite mining

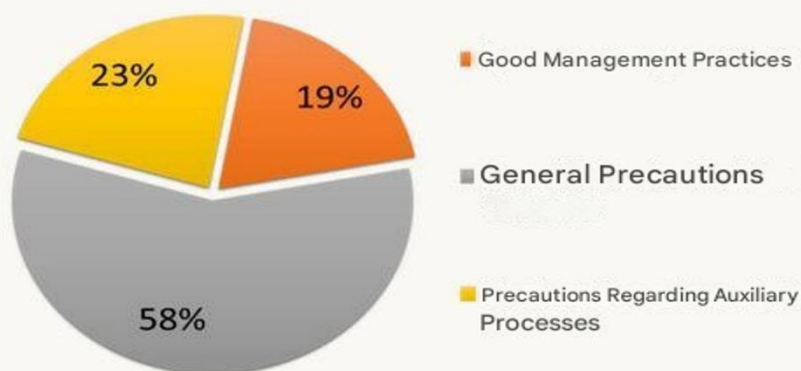
# 2.1 Hard Coal Mining (NACE 05.10)

Coal Mining Industry Water Flow Diagram



	Minimum	Maximum
Specific Water Consumption of Facilities Visited within the Scope of the Project (L/kg product)	0.15	1.87
Reference Specific Water Consumption (L/kg product)	0.14	0.43

Percentage Distribution of Water Efficiency Practices



The quarry stone and tuvenan coal extracted from the underground hard coal mining operation are separated by passing through crushers and sieves. The stones, along with the quarry stones, are sent to the landfill. Then, the raw coal is taken to the enrichment process. Coal enrichment can be done by dry beneficiation system, lavvar system, centrifuges and filter presses. After the coal enrichment process is completed, shale and coal, which is the final product, are formed.

In the hard coal mining sector, water is consumed in coal washing and coal enrichment processes in lavvar facilities. In addition, water consumption is carried out for dusting prevention. Raw water preparation units such as activated carbon filters, ion exchange resins, reverse osmosis, which are used to produce soft water for use in production processes in the sector, and filter washing, resin regeneration and membrane cleaning processes also consume significant amounts of water. In addition, water consumption occurs in auxiliary units such as cooling towers and steam boilers.

The reference specific water consumption in the hard coal mining sector is in the range of 0.14 – 0.43 L/kg. The specific water consumption of the production branch analyzed within the scope of the study is 0.15 – 1.87 L/kg. It is possible to achieve 20-63% water recovery in the sector with the implementation of good management practices, general measures and measures related to auxiliary processes.



Use of Water for Dust Prevention at the Mine Site



Coal Enrichment - Lavvar Plant

05.10 Hard Coal Mining The priority water efficiency implementation techniques recommended under the NACE code are presented in the table below.

NACE Code	NACE Code Description	Prioritized Sectoral Water Efficiency Techniques
05.10	Hard coal mining	<p><b>Good Management Practices</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparation of water flow diagrams and mass balances for water</li> <li>2. Preparation of a water efficiency action plan to reduce water use and prevent water pollution</li> <li>3. Providing technical training to personnel for the reduction and optimization of water use</li> <li>4. Good production planning to optimize water consumption</li> <li>5. Setting water efficiency targets</li> </ol> <p><b>General Water Efficiency BATs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimization of spills and leaks Automatic to save water at water usage points such as showers/toilets, etc.</li> <li>2. hardware and equipment (sensors, smart handwashing systems, etc.) Use</li> <li>3. Use of pressure washers for equipment cleaning, general cleaning, etc.</li> <li>4. Avoiding the use of drinking water in production lines</li> <li>5. Detection and reduction of water losses</li> <li>6. Use of automatic check-off valves to optimise water use</li> <li>7. Documentation of production procedures and use by employees to prevent waste of water and energy</li> <li>8. Optimising the frequency and duration of regeneration (including rinses) in water softening systems</li> <li>9. Construction of closed storage and impermeable waste/scrap yard to prevent the transportation of toxic or hazardous chemicals for the aquatic environment</li> <li>10. Substances that pose a risk in the aquatic environment (oils, emulsions, binders storage, storage and prevention of mixing with wastewater after use.</li> <li>11. Prevention of mixing of clean water streams with polluted water streams Wastewater quantities and qualities at all wastewater formation points</li> <li>12. Characterization and determination of wastewater streams that can be reused with or without treatment</li> <li>13. Use of closed-loop water cycles in appropriate processes</li> <li>14. Untreated reuse of relatively clean wastewater from washing, rinsing and equipment cleaning in production processes</li> <li>15. Separate collection and treatment of gray water in the facility and use it in areas that do not require high water quality (green area irrigation, floor, floor washing, etc.)</li> <li>16. Implementation of time optimization in production and arrangement of all processes to be completed as soon as possible</li> <li>17. Avoiding the need for rinsing between activities by using compatible chemicals in successive processes</li> </ol>

NACE Hom	BORN Code Description	Prioritized Sectoral Water Efficiency Techniques
05.10	Hard coal mining	<b>Precautions for Ancillary Processes</b>
		1. Reduction of water consumption in closed-loop cooling systems by increasing the number of cycles and improving the quality of the catch-up water
		2. Water recovery with tower cooling application in systems that do not have a closed loop
		3. Increasing the number of cycles by using anti-corrosion and anti-scale inhibitors in systems with a closed water loop
		4. Installation of water softening systems for the healthy operation of cooling water recovery systems
		5. Use of a closed-loop refrigeration system to reduce water use
6. Collecting the water generated by surface runoff with a separate collection system and using it for cooling water, process water, etc.		

A total of 28 techniques have been proposed in this sector.

For hard coal mining NACE code;

- (i) Good Management Practices,
- (ii) General Precautions and
- (iii) Measures related to auxiliary processes are given under separate headings.

## 2.1.1 Good Management Practices

Providing technical training to personnel for the reduction and optimization of water use. With this measure, water saving and water recovery can be achieved by increasing the training and awareness of the personnel, and water efficiency can be achieved by reducing water consumption and costs. Due to the fact that the personnel do not have the necessary technical knowledge in industrial facilities, problems may arise with the use of high amounts of water and wastewater formation. For example, it is important that cooling tower operators, who represent a significant proportion of water consumption in industrial operations, are properly trained and have technical knowledge. In applications such as determining water quality requirements in production processes, measuring water and wastewater amounts, etc., it is necessary for the relevant personnel to have sufficient technical knowledge (MoAF, 2021). For this reason, it is important to provide training to staff on water use reduction, optimization and water saving policies. Practices such as involving personnel in water conservation studies, creating regular reports on water usage amounts before and after water efficiency initiatives, and sharing these reports with personnel support participation and motivation in the process. The technical, economic and environmental benefits to be obtained through personnel training give results in the medium or long term (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021).

- ***Good production planning to optimize water consumption***

In industrial production processes, planning a raw material until it turns into a product by using the least process is an effective practice to reduce labor costs, resource use costs and environmental impacts and to ensure efficiency (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021). Production planning in industrial facilities by considering the water efficiency factor reduces water consumption and wastewater. Modifying production processes or combining some processes in industrial facilities provides significant benefits in terms of water efficiency and time planning (MoAF, 2021).

- ***Preparation of a water efficiency action plan to reduce water use and prevent water pollution***

*It is important for water efficiency to prepare an action plan that includes what to do in the short, medium and long term* in order to reduce the amount of water-wastewater in industrial facilities and to prevent water pollution. At this point, determining the water needs throughout the facility and in the production processes, water quality requirements should be determined at the points of use, wastewater formation points and wastewater characterization should be done (MoAF, 2021). At the same time, it is necessary to determine the measures to be implemented to reduce water consumption, wastewater generation and pollution loads, to make feasibility and to prepare action plans for the short-medium-long term. In this way, water efficiency and sustainable water use are ensured in facilities (MoAF, 2021).

- ***Setting water efficiency targets***

The first step in achieving water efficiency in industrial facilities is to set targets (MoAF, 2021). For this, first of all, a detailed water efficiency analysis should be carried out on the basis of processes. Thus, unnecessary water use, water losses, wrong practices affecting water efficiency, process losses, reusable water-wastewater resources with or without treatment can be determined. It is also extremely important to set water saving potential and water efficiency targets for each production process and the plant as a whole (MoAF, 2021).

- ***Preparation of water flow diagrams and mass balances for water***

Determination of water use and wastewater generation points in industrial facilities, creation of water-wastewater balances in production processes and auxiliary processes other than production processes are the basis of many good management practices in general. Creation of process profiles throughout the plant and on the basis of production processes; It facilitates the identification of unnecessary water usage points and high water use points, the evaluation of water recovery opportunities, process modifications and the determination of water losses (MoAF, 2021).

## 2.1.2 General Water Efficiency BATs

- ***Detection and reduction of water losses***

In industrial production processes, water losses occur in equipment, pumps and pipelines. First of all, water losses should be detected and leaks should be prevented by keeping equipment, pumps and pipelines in good condition by performing regular maintenance (IPPC BREF, 2003). Regular maintenance procedures should be established and particular attention should be paid to the following:

- Adding pumps, valves, level switches, pressure and flow regulators to the maintenance checklist,
- Carrying out inspections not only in the water system, but also especially for heat transfer and chemical distribution systems, broken and leaking pipes, barrels, pumps and valves,
- regular cleaning of filters and pipelines,
- Calibrating, routinely checking and monitoring measuring equipment such as chemical measuring and dispensing instruments, thermometers, etc. (IPPC BREF, 2003).

With effective maintenance-repair, cleaning and loss control practices, savings ranging from 1-6% in water consumption can be achieved (Öztürk, 2014).

- ***Minimization of spills and leaks***

Both raw material and water losses can be experienced due to spills and leaks in enterprises. In addition, if wet cleaning methods are used to clean the spilled areas, there may be increases in water consumption, wastewater amounts and pollution loads of wastewater (MoAF, 2021). In order to reduce raw material and product losses, spillage and splash losses are reduced by using anti-splashes, fins, drip trays, sieves (IPPC BREF, 2019).

- ***Untreated reuse of relatively clean wastewater from washing, rinsing and equipment cleaning in production processes***

In industrial facilities, relatively clean wastewater, especially washing-final rinsing wastewater and filter backwash wastewater, can be recycled without treatment in floor washing and garden irrigation processes that do not require high water quality, saving between 1-5% in raw water consumption. The initial investment costs required for the application consist of the establishment of new pipelines and reserved tanks (Öztürk, 2014).

- ***Prevention of mixing of clean water streams with dirty water streams***

By determining the wastewater formation points and characterizing the wastewater in industrial facilities, wastewater with high pollution load and relatively clean wastewater can be collected in separate lines (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021). In this way, wastewater streams of appropriate quality can be reused with or without treatment. By separating wastewater streams, water pollution is reduced, treatment performances are increased, energy consumption can be reduced in relation to reducing treatment needs, and emissions are reduced by ensuring wastewater recovery and recovery of valuable materials. In addition, heat recovery from separated hot wastewater streams is also possible (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021) Separation of wastewater streams often requires high investment costs, and where it is possible to recover a high amount of wastewater and energy, the costs

(IPPC BREF, 2006).



- **Determination of wastewater flows that can be reused with or without treatment by characterizing the amount and quality of wastewater at all wastewater formation points** By **determining** and characterizing wastewater formation points in industrial facilities, it is possible to reuse various wastewater streams with or without treatment (Öztürk, 2014; TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021). In this context, filter backwash water, RO concentrates, blowdown water, condensate water, relatively clean washing and rinsing water can be reused without treatment in the same/different processes and in areas that do not require high water quality (such as plant and equipment cleaning). Apart from this, it is possible to reuse wastewater streams that cannot be reused directly in production processes after they are treated using appropriate treatment technologies.

Membrane filtration processes are an integral part of many wastewater reuse systems. Nanofiltration (NF) and Reverse osmosis (RO) filtration systems are used for industrial wastewater recovery. Microfiltration (MF) and ultrafiltration (UF) are often used for the pretreatment of water before it goes to the NF or RO process (Singh et al., 2014).

- **Use of automatic check-off valves to optimise water use**

Monitoring and controlling water consumption using flow control devices, meters and computer-aided monitoring systems provides significant technical, environmental and economic advantages (Öztürk, 2014). Monitoring the amount of water consumed within the facility and in various processes prevents water losses (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). It is necessary to use flow meters and meters in the facility and production processes, to use automatic shut-off valves and valves in continuously operating machines, to develop monitoring-control mechanisms according to water consumption and some determined quality parameters using computer-aided systems (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). With this application, it is possible to save up to 20-30% in water consumption on a process basis (DEPA, 2002; LCPC, 2010; IPPC BREF, 2003). By monitoring and controlling water consumption on a process basis, 3-5% savings can be achieved in process water consumption (Öztürk, 2014).

- **Avoiding the use of drinking water in production lines**

In different sub-sectors of the manufacturing industry, water with different water quality can be used in accordance with production purposes. In industrial facilities, raw water obtained from underground water sources is used in production processes after being treated. However, in some cases, although it is costly in production processes, drinking water can be used directly or raw water is disinfected with chlorinated compounds and evaluated in production processes. These waters, which contain residual chlorine, can react with organic compounds (natural organic substances (NOM)) in the water in the production processes and form disinfectant by-products harmful to living metabolisms (Özdemir & Toröz, 2010; Oğur et al.; MoAF, 2021). The use of drinking water containing residual chlorine compounds or raw water disinfected with chlorinated compounds should be avoided as much as possible. In the disinfection of raw water, disinfection methods with high oxidation ability such as ultraviolet (UV), ultrasound (US) or ozone can be used instead of chlorine disinfection. In order to increase the technical, economic and environmental benefits to be provided by the application, determining and using the water quality parameters required in each production process helps to reduce unnecessary water supply and treatment costs. With this application, it is possible to reduce water, energy and chemical costs (TUBITAK MAM, 2016).

- ***Use of pressure washers for equipment cleaning, general cleaning, etc.***

Water nozzles are widely used in equipment plant cleaning. Effective results can be obtained by using correctly placed, appropriate nozzles to reduce water consumption and wastewater pollution loads. The use of active sensors and nozzles where high water consumption occurs and where possible is very important for the efficient use of water. Thanks to the replacement of mechanical equipment with pressurized nozzles, it is possible to achieve significant water savings (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). Reducing water consumption, wastewater generation and wastewater pollution load through the use of water pressure-optimised nozzles in technically feasible processes are the main environmental benefits of the application.

- ***Optimising the frequency and duration of regeneration (including rinses) in water softening systems***

Cationic ion exchange resins, which are one of the most commonly used methods for softening raw water in industrial facilities, are routinely regenerated. In regeneration, pre-washing, brine regeneration and final rinsing processes are carried out using raw water, respectively. Regeneration periods are determined depending on the hardness of the water. If the hardness is high, more frequent regeneration should be done in water softening systems.

In regeneration processes, washing, regeneration and rinsing wastewater are usually removed directly. However, if the washing and final rinsing water is of raw water quality, it can be sent to the raw water tank or reused in processes that do not require high water quality, such as facility cleaning and green area irrigation (MoAF, 2021).

It is very important to determine the optimum regeneration frequency in regeneration systems. Although regeneration in water softening systems is adjusted according to the frequency recommended by the supplier or depending on the flow rate and time entering the softening system, this frequency also varies depending on the calcium concentration in the raw water. For this reason, online hardness measurement is applied when determining the frequency of regeneration. Thus, regeneration frequencies can be optimized, as well as excessive washing, rinsing or backwashing with salt water can be prevented by using online hardness sensors.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Deazp2Ukgio>

Water Softening Systems

- ***Use of closed-loop water cycles in appropriate processes***

In general, refrigerants are chemical compounds with certain thermodynamic properties that affect the performance of the cooling process, taking heat from the substances to be cooled and cooling them (Kuprasertwong et al., 2021).

Water is used as a refrigerant in manufacturing industry processes and in many processes led by product cooling. While this cooling process is carried out, the water can be reused through the cooling tower or central cooling systems. If unwanted microbial growth occurs in the cooling water, it can be controlled by adding chemicals to the recirculation water (TUBITAK MAM, 2016).

By reusing cooling water in processes such as cleaning, water consumption and the amount of wastewater generated are reduced. However, the need for energy for cooling and recirculation of cooling water emerges as a side interaction.

Heat recovery is also provided by the use of heat exchangers in cooling waters. Generally, closed loop systems are used in facilities where water cooling systems are used. However, the cooling system blowdowns are removed by giving them directly into the wastewater treatment plant channel. These removed blowdown waters can be reused in suitable production processes.

- ***Storage, storage and post-use of substances that pose a risk in the aquatic environment (such as oils, emulsions, binders) and preventing them from mixing with wastewater after use as much as possible*** Dry cleaning techniques to prevent chemicals that pose a risk to the aquatic environment such as oils, emulsions and binders from mixing with wastewater streams in industrial facilities can be used, and leaks can be avoided. In this way, the protection of water resources can be ensured (TUBITAK MAM, 2016).

- ***Construction of closed storage and impermeable waste/scrap yard to prevent the transportation of toxic or hazardous chemicals for the aquatic environment***

In industrial facilities, closed and impermeable waste/scrap storage areas can be built to prevent the transport of toxic or dangerous chemicals to the receiving environments for the aquatic environment. This practice is already being implemented within the scope of the current environmental regulations in our country. Within the scope of the field studies carried out, a separate collection channel can be built in the toxic or hazardous substance storage areas in industrial facilities to prevent the separate collection of the leachate in question and its mixing with the natural water environments.

- ***Use of automatic equipment and equipment (sensors, smart hand washing systems, etc.) that will save water at water usage points such as showers/toilets, etc.***

Water is very important in many sectors of the manufacturing industry, both for production processes and for personnel to provide the necessary hygiene standards. Water consumption can be achieved in various ways in the production processes of industrial facilities, as well as savings in water consumption by using equipment such as sensor taps and smart hand washing systems in the water usage areas of the personnel. Smart hand washing systems adjust the water, soap and air mixture in the right proportion and provide resource efficiency in addition to water savings.

- ***Avoiding the need for rinsing between activities by using compatible chemicals in successive processes***

Chemical compatibility is a measure of how stable a substance is when mixed with another substance. If two substances mix with each other and undergo a chemical reaction, they are considered incompatible.

Various chemicals are used in industrial facilities to increase washing and rinsing efficiency. The fact that these chemicals are compatible and act as solvents shows a positive course in increasing efficiency. Therefore, dirt on the material can be removed in a shorter time and more effectively, and the amount of water used in washing processes can be significantly reduced. In this case, even if the amount of wastewater can be reduced, there may be an increase in the chemical loads carried by the wastewater. These negative effects can be minimized by ensuring that the washing water containing solvents used in the washing and rinsing processes is reused.

It is possible to save 25-50% of water by reusing washing water. Reserved tanks and new pipelines may be needed for the application. In alternative cases, the washing solution is kept directly in the system and can be used many times until it loses its properties.

- ***Documentation of production procedures and use by employees to prevent waste of water and energy***

In order to make efficient production in an enterprise, effective procedures should be applied in order to identify and evaluate potential problems and their sources and to control the production stages (Ayan, 2010). Determining and implementing appropriate procedures in production processes ensures more efficient use of resources (such as raw materials, water, energy, chemicals, personnel and time) and assurance of reliability and quality in production processes (Ayan, 2010). The presence of documented production procedures in production processes contributes to the development of the ability to develop sudden reflexes for the evaluation of operational performance and the solution of problems (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021). Effective implementation and monitoring of procedures created specifically for production processes is one of the most effective ways to ensure product quality, to receive feedback and to develop solution proposals (Ayan, 2010). Documenting, effectively implementing and monitoring production procedures is a good management practice and is an effective tool in structuring and ensuring the continuity of the cleaner production approach and environmental management system. In addition to the potential benefits, there may be changes in the cost and economic gains of the application depending on the sector or facility structure (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021). Although the establishment and monitoring of production procedures is not costly, the payback period may be short considering the savings and benefits it will provide (TUBITAK MAM, 2016; MoAF, 2021).

- ***Separate collection and treatment of gray water in the facility and use it in areas that do not require high water quality (green area irrigation, floor, floor washing, etc.)***

Wastewater generated in industrial facilities is not only industrial wastewater originating from production processes, but also includes wastewater originating from showers, sinks, kitchens, etc. Wastewater consisting of showers, sinks, kitchens, etc. is called gray water. Water savings can be achieved by treating these gray waters with various treatment processes and using them in areas that do not require high water quality.

## 2.1.3 Precautions for Ancillary Processes

### METs for refrigeration systems

- ***Use of a closed-loop refrigeration system to reduce water use***

Closed-loop cooling systems significantly reduce water consumption compared to open-loop systems with more water-intensive use. In closed-loop systems, when the same water is recirculated in the system, cooling water is usually required to be added as much as the amount of evaporated water. Evaporation losses can also be reduced by optimizing cooling systems.

- ***Reduction of water consumption in closed-loop cooling systems by increasing the number of cycles and improving the quality of the catch-up water***

Water is used as a refrigerant in many processes such as the production processes of the manufacturing industry and the cooling of products. Water is recirculated through a cooling tower or central cooling systems and the cooling process is carried out. If an undesirable microbial growth occurs in the cooling water, it can be controlled by adding chemicals to the recirculation water (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). In the recirculation process, the number of cycles can be increased by good chemical conditioning. In this way, water can be saved by reducing the amount of fresh water fed into the system. In addition, good conditioning of the cooling completion water can also increase the number of cycles (MoAF, 2021).

- ***Water recovery with tower cooling application in systems that do not have a closed loop***

Cooling towers are divided into two as counter-flow and cross-flow according to their working principles. In counter-flow cooling towers, the airflow moves upwards as the water flows downwards, and in cross-flow cooling towers, the airflow moves horizontally as the water flows downwards.

The water, which is exposed to fresh air, cools down until it descends into the cold water pool, where it is collected and sent to the facility. During these processes, some of the water evaporates. The air, whose humidity increases as a result of the evaporation of water, is thrown into the atmosphere from the fan chimney at the top of the tower. Evaporation losses in cooling towers must be managed effectively.

Various chemicals are used in cooling towers to prevent the formation of bacteria and parasites and to control lime residues. These chemicals condense with the evaporation of water and cause unwanted sediment and deposits within the tower. A blowdown system is used to keep this concentration at a certain level. Blowdown water can be recovered by treatment with the use of membrane filtration systems or ion exchange resins. Recycling of blowdown wastewater is important in terms of water efficiency.

- ***Implementation of time optimization in production, arrangement of all processes to be completed as soon as possible***

In industrial production processes, planning a raw material by using the least process until it turns into a product can be an effective application in terms of reducing labor costs, resource use costs, efficiency and environmental impacts. In this context, it may be necessary to review the production processes and revise them to use the least number of process steps (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). In cases where the desired product quality cannot be achieved due to some inadequacies, inefficiency and design errors in basic production processes, production processes may need to be renewed. Therefore, in this case, the amount of resource use required in the manufacture of the unit amount of product and the amount of waste, emissions and solid waste generated increase. Time optimization in production processes is an application that can be used effectively together with other good management practices (TUBITAK MAM, 2016).

- ***Collecting the water generated by surface runoff with a separate collection system and using it for cooling water, process water, etc.***

In most industrial facilities, wastewater is generated from process-sourced or non-process-based areas. The resulting wastewater can be treated and reused in appropriate places. By reusing the wastewater generated in the facility after treatment, savings can be achieved at varying rates in various industrial facilities. Water generated by surface runoff can be collected with a separate collection system and used as cooling water (MoAF, 2021).

- ***Installation of water softening systems for the healthy operation of cooling water recovery systems***

Cooling water is collected separately and used for cooling purposes or reused in appropriate processes (EC, 2009). In order for this system to work properly, a water softening system is required. It has suitable water quality in terms of cooling water, cleaning and reuse as irrigation water. However, due to the fact that it contains some hardness in its use as cooling water, an additional softening is required in order to prevent corrosion problems that will occur over time. Cooling water or before it can be reused in the process, these waters must be properly disinfected. In addition, it is possible to reuse the water in question not only in cooling processes but also in all production processes by treating it with appropriate treatment techniques (membrane filtration, advanced oxidation, chemical precipitation, granular activated carbon adsorption, etc.) (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). As the hardness of the cooling water increases, limestone and debris formation occurs on the walls. Deposit formation negatively affects heat transfer, reducing energy efficiency and increasing energy costs. With the increase in evaporation in the system, the ion concentration and conductivity value in the water increases. In order to prevent these negativities, it is necessary to apply lime and anti-corrosion chemical conditioning to the cooling water, to disinfect with a biocide that prevents biological activation, to subject the cooling towers to chemical and mechanical cleaning at least twice a year, to clean the sediments, and to keep the hardness and conductivity values as low as possible (TUBITAK MAM, 2016).

- **Increasing the number of cycles by using anti-corrosion and anti-scale inhibitors in systems with closed water cycles** Cooling towers and evaporative condensers are efficient and cost-effective systems that remove heat from air conditioning and industrial process cooling systems (IPPC BREF, 2001b; MoAF, 2021).

More than 95% of the circulating water in these systems can be recovered (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). In cooling systems, impurities remain in the recirculation water due to the fact that some of the recirculation water is worked on the basis of evaporation, and the impurity concentrations gradually increase in each cycle. Impurities that can be included in the cooling system together with the air can cause contamination in the recirculation water (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). If impurities and contaminants are not effectively controlled, they can cause the formation of boilerstone and corrosion, unwanted biological growth and sludge accumulation. This can become a chronic problem that leads to a decrease in the efficiency of heat transfer surfaces and an increase in operating costs. In this case, it is necessary to implement a water treatment program specially designed in terms of the quality of the feed water supplied to the cooling system, the cooling water system building material and operating conditions. In this context; blowdown control, biological growth control, corrosion control, avoiding the use of hard water, using sludge control chemicals, using filtration and sieve systems may be appropriate (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). In addition, the establishment and periodic implementation of an effective cleaning procedure and program is a good management practice in terms of protecting cooling systems. Corrosion is one of the most important problems in cooling systems. In the tower recirculation water, as the degree of hardness increases, dissolved solids (sulfate, chloride, carbonate, etc.) that cause corrosion as a result of the formation of limestone and deposits on the walls will cause abrasion on the surface over time. In addition, the formation of deposits negatively affects heat transfer and reduces energy efficiency. In order to prevent these negativities, it is necessary to implement a lime and corrosion preventive chemical conditioning program, to disinfect with biocide that prevents biological activation, to clean the sediments by subjecting the cooling towers in use to chemical and mechanical cleaning at least twice a year, and to keep the hardness and conductivity values of the reinforcement water as low as possible (IPPC BREF, 2001; Kayabek et al., 2005). In order to improve the quality of the supplementary water, it may be necessary to treat (condition) it using an appropriate treatment system. In addition, unwanted microbial growth needs to be kept under control (IPPC BREF, 2001b; MoAF, 2021). Due to micro-residues and deposits in the cooling water, blowdown occurs in cooling systems as well as in steam boilers. Deliberate draining of the cooling system to bring the increased density of solids in the cooling system to balance is called cooling blowdown. It is possible to reduce the use of biocides and blowdown amounts by pre-treating cooling water with appropriate methods and continuous monitoring of cooling water quality (TUBITAK MAM, 2016). Although the investment cost depends on the scale of the application, the payback period in expected investment expenses varies between 3 and 4 years (IPPC BREF, 2001).



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