

The Pipeline

A publication of the Ohio EPA/DES/DDAGW

Drinking Water Laboratory
Policy & Procedures Update

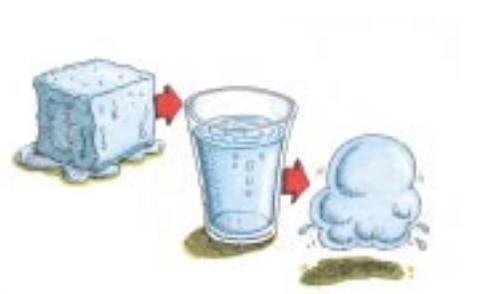
May 2007

Pocket II Chlorine Meters:

We have been finding that many of the Hach Pocket II chlorine meters have a broken part and are in need of repair or replacement. The broken part may not be noticeable to everyone. In the cell compartment there should be two small plastic tabs that hold the cell in place. If you notice that the cells are loose when in place, then your meter is one that is affected. We spoke with a Hach representative and the company is aware of the problem.

If your meter has broken tabs, then you should call Hach at (800) 227-4224 ext. 6120 and report that the Ohio drinking water certification program requires that the meter be replaced or repaired.

If you experience problems with getting your meters repaired, please contact Paul Albeit at (800) 227-4224 ext. 2108.



Reporting Arsenic Results:

According to Ohio Administrative Code 3745-81-23, arsenic sampling results shall be reported to the nearest 0.001 mg/L. For the purposes of rounding, the last digit should be increased by one unit if the digit dropped is 5 or greater. If the digit dropped is 4 or less, do not alter the preceding number.

For example, a result of 0.0105 mg/L should be reported as 11 ug/L; and a result of 0.0104 mg/L should be reported as 10 ug/L.

If you have questions about this information, please contact Kathy Pinto at (614) 644-2752.

TISAB for Fluoride Analysis:

Liquid TISAB is the only acceptable TISAB for use in Ohio. The dry TISAB is unacceptable for use. Concentrated liquid TISAB products, that require use at a ratio other than 1:1 with samples and standards, must be measured with class "A" volumetric pipettes. We have discovered that

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some of the available TISAB products are not prepared as required by Standard Methods with a final pH between 5.3 and 5.5. It is critical that the pH is between 5.3 and 5.5 for accurate results. The pH of each lot of TISAB received by laboratories should be checked for verification before the product is used. Erroneous readings will occur if the TISAB is not properly formulated or used correctly.

New Addresses:

The Ohio EPA Division of Environmental Services (DES), which the Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Section is a part of, has recently been given a new address. The street number has changed from 8995 to 8955. Our new address is:



Ohio EPA/Division of Environmental Services
Laboratory Certification Section
8955 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

The following is the current listing of our telephone, fax numbers and e-mail addresses, along with our laboratory certification web address:

Name	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Todd Bidlack	(614) 644-4067	todd.bidlack@epa.state.oh.us
James Dolfi	(614) 644-4068	jim.dolfi@epa.state.oh.us
James Evans	(614) 644-4222	james.evans@epa.state.oh.us
Charles Vasulka	(614) 644-4266	charles.vasulka@epa.state.oh.us
Jacqueline Williams	(614) 644-4245	jackie.williams@epa.state.oh.us
Fax	(614) 644-4272	

Web address: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/labcert.html>

The Division of Drinking and Grounds Waters also has a new address which is:

Ohio EPA/Division of Drinking and Ground Waters
Lazarus Government Center
50 West Town Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Their main number is (614) 644-2752 and their fax number is (614) 644-2909. The web address for them is: <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/index.htm>

Submit Stage 2 DBP Initial Distribution System Evaluation Samples to U.S. EPA:

In October 2006, Ohio EPA sent letters to Schedule 1 water systems and Ohio EPA certified drinking water laboratories reminding them of the importance of how to identify Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) samples from routine TTHM and HAA5 compliance monitoring samples, and where to submit IDSE sample results. This article is a summary of the information sent last Fall.

Over the next several years, some of Ohio's public water systems will be collecting TTHM and HAA5 samples for the IDSE, a requirement of the new Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule. It is very important that TTHM and HAA5 samples taken as part of the IDSE are labeled correctly. Proper labeling includes identifying samples as "IDSE Samples", as well as identifying both the sample collection address and sample monitoring point (SMP) code. The SMP code to be used for IDSE samples is DS000.

Because U.S. EPA is overseeing the implementation of the IDSE, IDSE sample results should only be reported to U.S. EPA and the public water systems. IDSE sample results should NOT be reported to Ohio EPA. Results for TTHM and HAA5 monitoring that is conducted to meet the Ohio EPA monitoring schedules should continue to be submitted by the laboratories to Ohio EPA (as well as to the water systems). Proper labeling of samples will help the laboratories correctly submit sample results.

Laboratories should have a means to identify which samples are for IDSE monitoring (submit to U.S. EPA) and which are for Ohio EPA compliance monitoring in order to correctly submit the results.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact Sarah Byerly with Ohio EPA at (614) 644-2752.

Micro PT Studies:

All certified drinking water microbiology testing laboratories must analyze proficiency test (PT) samples on an annual basis during the September - November time frame. Each laboratory must analyze one set of ten PT samples for each method for which they have received certification. A PT sample set may not be split for analysis by two methods.



Acceptable performance for the analysis of total coliform bacteria requires the correct analysis of a minimum of 9 out of 10 samples, with **no** false negative reported values. Acceptable performance for the analysis of fecal coliform/*E. coli* bacteria requires the correct analysis of a minimum of 9 out of 10 samples, with **no** false negative reported values. In other words, one false positive may be reported for a total coliform analysis, and one false positive may be reported for a fecal coliform/*E. coli* analysis and the laboratory will still receive an acceptable performance.

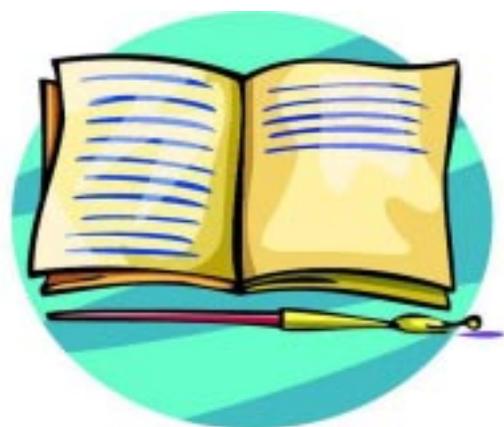
It is important that a result be reported for each fecal coliform/*E. coli* sample, even if the total coliform sample result is negative. A non-reported value is considered not acceptable by the PT provider.

Please contact James Evans at (614) 644-4222 if you have any questions.

Microbiological Record Keeping:

Please keep the following in mind when entering data into your Q.C. or sample log book.

The laboratory log book(s) must be organized and contain all required data. Each section of the log book must have a 'TAB' indicating the contents of that section. All pages in a section should be consecutively numbered.



All data must be entered into the log book as the results are being read. It is not acceptable to write on 'scrap' paper and later transcribe the information to the log book. The log book, or current log sheets, must be present when readings are taken to facilitate accuracy. This practice will also keep all data in chronological order with no skipped or out of order entries.

If you make an error in recording data cross out the error with a single line, then place the correct data immediately above the incorrect entry and initial it. If there is not room for this, place the correction on the next line down and do not enter any more data on that line. If an explanation is in order for the erroneous entry, place it on the bottom of the page. Under **NO** circumstances use white-out to cover up incorrect or inaccurate data.

Record all readings taken. If the reading is out of the acceptable range make a note at the bottom of the page indicating what corrective action was taken.

OTCO Micro Courses:

The first OTCO Micro Water Lab course of the year was held at the Dayton Water Plant Lab on March 8 & 9, 2007. Additional courses for 2007 are scheduled as follows:

June 7 & 8, 2007 Canton Water Plant - MMO-MUG, and Colilert-18

October 17 - 19, 2007 Columbus Dublin Road Water Plant - MMO-MUG, Colilert-18, and Membrane Filter

Contact OTCO at (614) 268-6825 for course registration.



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Ted Strickland, Governor
Chris Korleski, Director

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