OhioEPA

The Pipeline

Drinking Water Laboratory Policy & Procedures Update

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Reporting Reminders

As 2005 draws to a close, now is a good time to review a few important reminders for reporting drinking water analyses to the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters:

1) **Timely Reporting -** Some laboratories continue to report results outside of the time periods required by Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-89-08. Chemical results are required to be reported to Ohio EPA by the tenth day following the month in which the chemical analyses are completed, and by the tenth day following the month in which a sample is collected for microbiological analysis. Please review the reporting deadlines at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/Documents/3745-89-08 effective 6-18-04.pdf to ensure that your laboratory meets these requirements for maintaining certification.

2) **Disinfection By-products Reporting -** If you submit disinfection by-products results, please remember to include the correct sample monitoring point code (e.g. RD001; MR001) in the "Sample Information" section of the report, as well as the location of the sample (e.g. address where sample was taken) in the "Remarks" section of the report. Reports cannot be processed without this information.

3) **Reporting Nondetections for Trihalomethanes and Xylenes** - If the four individual trihalomethane compounds are each nondetections, then the total trihalomethanes should be reported as < 2 ug/L (not < 0.5 ug/L). If each of the 3 xylene compounds are nondetections, than the total xylenes should be reported as < 1.5 ug/L (not <0.5 ug/L or <1.0 ug/L).

4) **Reporting Lab Accidents & Quality Control Problems** - In the event that a lab accident occurs, or the quality control indicates that valid results cannot be reported, please submit a case narrative explaining the situation to the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters as soon as possible. The case narrative should include the public water system information, the sample date and location information, and the quality control problem that occurred. Also, please contact the water system immediately so that they can make arrangements to collect another sample if necessary. A quick response on your part may prevent the water system from receiving a violation for missed monitoring.

5) **Reporting Results for Subcontracted Analyses** - A laboratory that subcontracts sample analyses is required to meet the reporting requirements specified in OAC 3745-89-08. Please remember to report subcontracted analyses on separate forms for each analytical laboratory (each report should have a unique sample number).

6) **Chemical Monitoring and Compliance Unit Listserve** - Certified laboratories are encouraged to register to receive free monthly email updates from CMCU at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/listserveCMCU.htm This electronic service provides quick and timely updates on drinking water monitoring and compliance issues, including notification of apparent monitoring violations.

In this issue:

2006 Monitoring Schedule Change

The 2006 monitoring schedules will be mailed to the public water systems by mid-December. Beginning in 2006, public water systems on annual monitoring will be scheduled to take their chemical samples between January 1 thru May 31, or June 1 thru October 31. The shortening of the annual monitoring periods from 6 months to 5 months is in response to USEPA's request that Ohio EPA submit violation information sooner. The Chemical Monitoring and Compliance Unit (CMCU) will continue to issue reminder monitoring postcards to the public water systems, as well as continue to post monitoring schedules on the web at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/SchedulesByCounty.htm Also, laboratories and public water systems that are registered to receive the free monthly email updates will continue to be notified of apparent monitoring violations (register at http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/listserveCMCU.htm).

If you have any questions about this information, please contact any of the CMCU staff listed below at 614-644-2752:

Ken Baughman - VOCs / SOCs
Holly Kaloz - Noncommunity Nitrates/Nitrites
Todd Kelleher - TTHMs / HAAs
Kathy Pinto - Inorganics / Asbestos
Wendy Sheeran - Community Nitrates/Nitrites / Rads

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Colilert-18

The laboratory certification office has received parallel test data on samples analyzed by Colilert-18 from greater than ten water supplies. This is enough data to substantiate the test is equivalent to the other approved MMO-MUG methods with different water sources throughout the year. Any laboratories desiring an interim authorization for Colilert-18 (9223-18) may do so with a limited number of parallel tests and a PT sample series. The parallel tests must consist of a minimum of ten potable and five non-potable samples. The data is to be submitted to the laboratory certification office along with a copy of the PT data and a microbiological application. If the application and data is acceptable, interim authorization to use Colilert-18 for compliance purposes will then be granted. A certificate will be issued after an on-site evaluation. An $1800.00 fee will be assessed at the time the application is accepted.

Colilert-18 is incubated for a total of 18-22 hours (18 + 4 if necessary) at 35° ± 0.5° C. The procedure begins with a 20 minute pre-incubation in a 35° C water bath. A 44.5° C water bath is not acceptable in Ohio. The water bath must be equipped with a rack to hold the samples upright. After the 20 minute pre-incubation, the samples are transferred to a regular 35° C incubator for the remainder of the 18 hour incubation period. The water bath must have a calibrated thermometer and corresponding temperature records. In order to maintain the proper water level, a cover for the water bath is recommended.

If you have any questions you may call (614)644-4067 or contact me at todd.bidlack@epa.state.oh.us

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StablCal

Some laboratories are still purchasing the StablCal standards in the sealed ampules and using them for their quarterly turbidity meter calibrations. These ampuled standards are not to be used as the primary standard for this calibration. Even though the manufacturer lists them as "primary" standards, they are considered secondary standards by the USEPA and the Ohio EPA for drinking water testing. The prediluted StablCal primary standards that are sold in 125 mL or 500 mL bottles are acceptable for the quarterly meter calibrations. If you have questions concerning this difference, please contact the Division of Environmental Services, Laboratory Certification Section.

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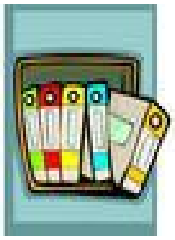
Records and Record Retention

Laboratory records must be maintained in a neat and orderly manner. The records must be recorded directly on the forms provided or laboratory produced forms. The analysts should not use scratch paper or transfer sheets to record results prior to recording them onto "Official Forms" at a later time. Where records are maintained electronically the transfer sheets must be maintained for the same time frame as laboratory records. Laboratory records must be readily available for a minimum of three years. Records more than three or four years old should be transferred from the daily record keeping format to a more long term storage format. Microbiological records must be retained for at least five years, general chemical and laboratory records for ten years and records pertaining to the lead and copper rule for at least twelve years . Page 12 and 13 of the Laboratory Manual for Chemical Analyses of Public Drinking Water 2000 outlines the requirements for laboratory records and record retention.



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Lead and Copper Samples

Lead and Copper samples should be received by the laboratories within 14 days of their collection. This is required in order to comply with preservation requirements in the Lead and Copper rule. Some of the laboratories have reported difficulty receiving samples within the required time frames.

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Chemistry Manual

The current chemistry manual is the Laboratory Manual For Chemical Analyses of Public Drinking Water 2000. Many people have asked when a new manual will come out. The current hope is that we will release a new manual early in 2007.

AWWA Research Committee Search

The AWWA Research Committee is seeking another member from a "small" system utility. The committee meets quarterly and has members from public utilities, private laboratories and the Ohio EPA. Issues are discussed concerning regulations, treatment and testing procedures. New test equipment, procedures and reagents are evaluated by member laboratories prior to using for certification purposes.

The committee also sponsors several speakers each year for the annual AWWA State Conference. Anyone interested in this membership, please contact Jim Dolfi at the Division of Environmental Services, Laboratory Certification Section.

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We are Moving!

The Ohio EPA and ODH Laboratories will be moving to our new laboratory facilities. The projected date is February 2006. Look for updates in our next newsletter.

The Pipeline

Bob Taft, Governor
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

Published three times each year by The Ohio EPA, Division of Environmental Services, Laboratory Certification Section with contributions from the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters. It is distributed to all certified drinking water laboratories.

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