

The Pipeline

A publication of the Ohio EPA/DES/DDAGW

Drinking Water Laboratory
Policy & Procedures Update

September 2006

Thermometers in the Micro Lab:

The Laboratory Certification Section has received several inquiries pertaining to mercury-in-glass thermometers. The following will attempt to clarify the position of the certification program.

NIST certified thermometers for calibration of laboratory thermometers and maximum registering autoclave thermometers are only available as Hg-in-glass devices. Thermometers for incubators and refrigerators are available in both Hg-in-glass and non-Hg-in-glass units. The non-Hg-in-glass thermometers must come with a certificate from the manufacturer that they have a coefficient of linear expansion that is as accurate as Hg-in-glass thermometers and meet NIST standards.

Any of the laboratory thermometers may be equipped with a Teflon coating to reduce the chance of breakage and to help contain the mercury (where applicable) if they should become broken. New thermometers may be purchased with a Teflon coating or you may contact:

ERTCO Precision
Ever Ready Thermometer Co.
(800) 553-0039

or

Brooklyn Thermometer
(800) 241-6316

to make arrangements to have existing thermometers equipped with a protective Teflon coating. Steel armor cases are also available from the aforementioned manufacturers and laboratory supply companies to make the thermometers more resistant to breakage.

As per paragraph two page 22 of the *Laboratory Manual for the Microbiological Analysis of Public Drinking Water* 2001 edition "The laboratory must have at least one spare maximum registering thermometer" for the autoclave. If you will be purchasing a spare, or new, thermometer it is recommended it is equipped with a Teflon coating and/or steel armor case for greater durability and safety.

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Applications:

The current applications for drinking water certification are available on our website at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/labcert.html>. These new forms must be used when applying for interim authorization, chemical or microbiological certification. Simply download the PDF files, open with Adobe reader and print the form(s). If you have any questions about applications call Jim Evans at 614-644-4222 or e-mail him at james.evans@epa.state.oh.us

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Standard Method References:

Method reference material in many laboratories is out of date. All laboratories must have a copy of the methods for which they are certified to perform. The copy of the methods must also be readily available for the analysts. The current approved Standard Methods are the 18th, 19th and 20th editions. Laboratories should have one of these volumes for reference. The Ohio EPA *Laboratory Manual for Chemical Analyses of Public Drinking Water 2000* and the *Laboratory Manual for the Microbiological Analyses of*

Public Drinking Water 2001 are used to supplement the Standard Methods. The Ohio EPA laboratory manuals may be found and downloaded at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/labcert.html>

Important Reminder:

Remember WE HAVE MOVED!! The U.S. Post Office will stop forwarding mail soon. It is your responsibility to send correspondences to the correct address. Applications and required correspondences must be sent in a timely manner. Certification cannot be given or extended if communications are not received within the required deadlines.

Our address is:

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Division of Environmental Services
Laboratory Certification Section
8995 E. Main St.
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

Compliance Assurance Section Contact List:

In addition to several new staff members, the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters Compliance Assurance Section is in the process of reorganizing. If your laboratory has questions regarding chemical results, please contact the following staff members at 614-644-2752:

Inorganics/Asbestos - Kathy Pinto

Noncommunity Nitrate/Nitrite - Justin Burke

Community Nitrate/Nitrite, Community SOCs, and Radiological - Wendy Sheeran

Noncommunity DBPs and Noncommunity VOCs/SOCs - Ken Baughman

Community DBPs and Community VOCs - Sarah Byerly

Questions regarding total coliform results should be directed to the appropriate Ohio EPA district office.

Upcoming Increase in Radiological Monitoring by Community Public Water Systems:

During the upcoming three years from 2007 to 2009, a greater number of community public water systems will be required to monitor at a minimum for total alpha and radium-228. The number of community public water systems monitoring each year will increase to an estimated three hundred or more systems, roughly triple the number from the past three years. At this time, there is only one laboratory certified in Ohio to perform radiological testing of drinking water. To ensure adequate laboratory capacity for the radiological program, laboratories are encouraged to contact the DES Laboratory Certification Office about obtaining drinking water certification for radiological testing if they possess the appropriate equipment and personnel.

Laboratory Certification Fax Numbers:

There have been some intermittent problems with the fax machine at 614-644-4299. If you are unable to send to this fax an alternate fax is available at 614-644-4272.

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Bob Taft, Governor
Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

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