

The Pipeline

A publication of the Ohio EPA/DES/DDAGW

Drinking Water Laboratory
Policy & Procedures Update

May 2006

Micro Lab Rule Change:

Effective May 1, 2006 all approved microbiological laboratories must incorporate the following rule change into their QA/QC procedures. All media prepared in the laboratory must be labeled with a date of preparation and a date of expiration. The label does not need to be on every flask, tube, or plate prepared. You may label the basket, rack, box or any other clearly decipherable grouping for a BATCH of media prepared. Many laboratories have already successfully incorporated this procedure when preparing the media with minimal extra time and effort.

Quarterly Calibrations:

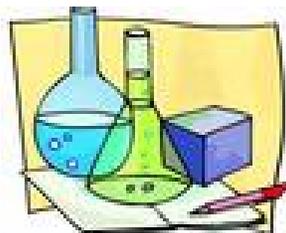
Too many labs are having problems maintaining the proper testing frequency for the quarterly turbidity meter and DPD chlorine kit calibrations.

We recommend that everyone maintain a testing schedule for these quality control requirements. The best schedule to follow is to perform the calibrations within the first two weeks of the following months: January, April, July and October. This (1, 4, 7, 10) frequency is easy for you to follow and for us to review.

Colilert Color Comparator:

Laboratories that have recently received a new colilert color comparator have noticed some subtle changes. First the yellow color, indicative of a total coliform positive sample, is lighter. Secondly the fluorescence that indicates an *E. coli* positive sample is less intense than in the past. According to Idexx, these changes are by design to make the color comparator more representative of a "one colony forming unit" (1CFU) sample.

Remember the color comparator is light sensitive and must be stored in the dark. This sensitivity may be even more critical with the new formulation.



Certification Tip:

EDTA Standardization with UniVer III

Labs using UniVer III hardness reagent may want to try this tip given by Lynn Bayne from the Steubenville WTP Laboratory.

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To obtain a sharper and more distinct endpoint when performing the titrant standardization try this. Add the UniVer III to the 30 mL of D.I. water used for this procedure, then add the 20 mL standard solution. No more waiting for a stable blue endpoint!

We've Moved:

On February 27, 2006, the Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Section along with the rest of the Ohio EPA Laboratory (Division of Environmental Services) moved to its new location on the east side of Columbus on the Ohio Department of Agriculture complex. Our new address is:

Ohio EPA/Division of Environmental Services
Laboratory Certification Section
8995 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Even though we have moved to a new facility, our telephone numbers have remained the same. The following is the listing of our telephone, fax numbers and e-mail addresses, along with our laboratory certification web address:

Name	Telephone 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) 644-4299	

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

MicroBioLogics Q.C. Cultures:

Some laboratories using colilert or colisure have experienced problems with the K. pneumoniae Q.C. culture not turning total coliform positive or giving a weak positive result. MicroBioLogics recommends that you use their ATCC 31488 K. pneumoniae for colilert and colisure Q.C.

MicroBioLogics package a specific colisure Q.C. set (MBL 5143) that contains:

E. coli ATCC 25922
K. pneumoniae ATCC 31488
P. aeruginosa ATCC 10145

If you have questions, contact their technical support section at 1-800-599-2847.

Laboratories that have been using particular ATCC strains of MicroBioLogics Q.C. cultures with no adverse results do not need to change what they are doing.

E-Mail Addresses:

The Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Section would like to establish an e-mail address book for all certification participants. If you or your facility have an e-mail address where we can contact you, we would like for you to send us a message from that address. A complete e-mail address book would be a useful tool for us in the event that we need to contact everyone within a short notice.



Send an e-mail with the subject line "Laboratory E-mail" to:

jackie.williams@epa.state.oh.us

Please include the following in the e-mail message:

- * Name of laboratory and phone number
- * Type of lab:
 1. Chemistry and/or Micro
 2. Commercial/Private
Surface WTP/Ground WTP
- * Name of contact person for the e-mail address.

Remember the e-mail must be sent from the address that is to be added to our address book

Reminder:

In addition to address changes, laboratories must notify the Laboratory Certification Office whenever there is a change to the laboratory phone number(s) and contact person. This information is included as part of the quarterly certified drinking water laboratory list update provided to the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW). DDAGW posts laboratory contact information on their web site, as well as provides this information to public water systems as part of Division mailings.

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule and Ohio's Certified Drinking Water Laboratories:

The Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR) was published in the Federal Register January 4, 2006. This rule will significantly impact monitoring and compliance requirements for all community public water systems and nontransient public water systems that add a disinfectant. In addition, Ohio's certified drinking water laboratories will also be impacted by these requirements.

The first step towards meeting the Stage 2 DBPR requirements that Ohio's community public water systems will need to take is to conduct an Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE). The purpose of the IDSE is for systems to acquire adequate information about their distribution system and DBP levels for selection of sample locations that are more likely to have higher DBP levels. Systems will then use these sites to fulfill the monitoring requirements under the Stage 2 DBPR. Compliance dates for the IDSE requirements are staggered for the public water systems, beginning this Fall and continuing through early 2010.

There are four ways that public water systems can comply with the IDSE. However, only the standard monitoring option, and possibly the system specific study option, will impact Ohio's certified drinking water laboratories. Public water systems that choose the standard monitoring option (or choose to model their distribution system under the system specific study option) will be collecting TTHM and HAA5 samples at locations that are different from their current TTHM and HAA5 locations, and they will be submitting these samples to laboratories for analyses. Additionally, these systems will also continue to collect TTHM and HAA5 samples according to their Ohio EPA monitoring schedules at their current monitoring locations.

The important part of this rule for Ohio's certified drinking water laboratories is what happens with the IDSE monitoring results once the analyses are

completed. Laboratories will need to send the results for the IDSE monitoring to only the public water systems. **IDSE RESULTS SHOULD NOT BE SENT 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). Laboratories will be notified should this process change in the future.

Because public water systems will continue to monitor for TTHM and HAA5 according to their Ohio EPA monitoring schedules while the IDSE monitoring is occurring, it will be critical that laboratories know whether or not the samples submitted by the water systems are for IDSE monitoring. Although the earliest the IDSE monitoring may begin is not until late 2006 (more likely in 2007), laboratories should begin now to prepare a means to identify which samples are for IDSE monitoring and which are for Ohio EPA compliance monitoring in order to correctly submit the results.



Ohio EPA will do its part to notify those systems that choose the IDSE standard monitoring option of the importance of correctly identifying which samples are for IDSE monitoring and which are for Ohio EPA compliance monitoring as they submit samples to their laboratories. We will also continue to update laboratories of the IDSE monitoring process and other Stage 2 DBPR requirements. The following U.S. EPA web site has additional information regarding the Stage 2 DBPR: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/index.html>

For questions regarding this information, please contact Todd Kelleher, DDAGW, at (614)644-2752.

Drinking Water Results - Reporting Reminder:

Some laboratories continue to submit disinfection byproduct results without all of the information necessary for Ohio EPA to process the results. Please

remember to include the correct sample monitoring point code (e.g. MR001; RD001) in the "Sample Information" section of the report. It is also necessary to report the location of the sample (e.g. address where sample was taken) in the "Remarks" section of the report. If you are uncertain of the sample monitoring point code or location information, please call the public water system and request this information.

Interested in Colilert-18?:

Have you considered getting approval for Colilert-18 for those times when you would like or/need your results a little sooner? However, you were just not sure if it was the correct choice for your facility. OTCO has secured the necessary supplies for including Colilert-18 in the micro drinking water courses. The first successful hands-on course including Colilert-18 was held at the Dayton Water Plant March 9 and 10, 2006. Additional courses for 2006:

- * June 8 and 9 at the Canton Water Plant: MMO-MUG and Colilert-18
- * October 18-20 at Delco/Alum Creek Water Plant: MMO-MUG, Colilert-18, and Membrane Filter

If you are interested contact OTCO at (614) 268-6826.

The Pipeline

Bob Taft, Governor
 Joseph P. Koncelik, Director

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