

The Pipeline

Drinking Water Laboratory
Policy & Procedures Update

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Concentrated Fluoride Buffer

Several reagent vendors (Orion, Hach, Fisher) manufacture “concentrated” fluoride buffers. These need to be added to the samples at a 1:5 or 1:10 ratio. For Ohio certification purposes, the dilute buffer (TISAB II type) is recommended. This is added at a 1:1 ratio with the sample and provides for less margin of error than the concentrated types.

If any concentrated buffer has been purchased, the current inventory may be used prior to reordering the dilute type.

Storage of Dehydrated Media

Laboratories storing opened bottles of dehydrated media at ambient laboratory conditions may use them for up to six months after opening. If laboratories store opened containers of dehydrated media in a desiccator they may be used for up to one year after opening.

There are two basic types of desiccators; electronic and manual. The electronic units use a dehumidifier or a heating element that automatically regenerates the internal desiccant to maintain a low humidity level. The manual desiccators are available in both vacuum and non-vacuum ‘bell jar’ styles as well as cabinet models. The manual models require a desiccant to maintain a low humidity. Desiccants absorb a percentage of their weight in moisture or water, to maintain a ‘dry atmosphere’ in the chamber. Once a desiccant has reached its saturation point it will no longer absorb any more moisture and must be replaced or regenerated in an oven. For this reason you **must** use an indicating desiccant.

Follow the manufacturers’ instructions for the color change that indicates the desiccant needs to be replaced or regenerated; and the proper temperature and time to use in the oven. The most common indicating desiccants (Drierite & silica gel) are blue when they are in a working state and turn pink when they are exhausted. But there are

other desiccants with different indicators (i.e. alumina silicate starts out white and turns brown when it needs reactivated). Label the desiccator with the indicator color change that signals the desiccant needs to be regenerated.

Division of Drinking and Ground Waters List Serve

The Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters is pleased to announce its newest list serve “CMCUinfo”. The Chemical Monitoring and Compliance Unit (CMCU) will use this electronic mail service to provide you with quick and timely updates on drinking water monitoring and compliance issues. If you are interested in signing up, please subscribe at <http://www.epa.state.oh.us/ddagw/listserveCMCU.htm>. This is a free service and there is no charge for subscribing. The list of subscribers to this list server is private and will not be shared. Please contact Brian Tarver at (614)644-2752 or brian.tarver@epa.state.oh.us if you have any questions regarding the mailing list.

Reporting Reminder

On June 28, 2003, the Ohio Administrative Code Rule 3745-89-08 was revised to require laboratories to report certain parameters to Ohio EPA **only** when requested to do so by the Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW). These include the following parameters that are already submitted as part of public water systems monthly operating reports: lead; copper; phosphate; iron; manganese; alkalinity; pH; hardness. This requirement eliminates the submittal of duplicate information. Please make sure that your laboratory personnel responsible for reporting results to DDAGW are aware of these requirements.



Combined Effluent In-line Turbidity Meters

There are new in-line turbidity meters on the market that cannot be adjusted to match the bench top model readings. These meters may be used for the total combined effluent turbidity reading (and for reporting purposes) provided they are properly maintained and calibrated on a regular basis.

The manufacturer's recommended calibration must be performed at least once each three months and a secondary standard calibration check must be done daily. The daily check must agree within $\pm 10\%$ of the "calibrated" secondary standard value or the meter must be recalibrated. A 0.50 NTU secondary standard should be used for the daily check.

Chlorine Monitoring

Community and nontransient noncommunity public water systems that treat their water with chlorine and/or chloramines are required to comply with the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) of 4.0 mg/L for total chlorine. Compliance with the MRDL is determined by measuring total chlorine at the same time and place as total coliforms are sampled. This includes all routine and repeat samples, but does not include any special purpose samples. Some small public water systems may only have a single tap to collect repeat samples from. If multiple repeat samples are drawn in succession from the same tap, total chlorine only needs to be measured once. The total chlorine sample should be collected prior to disinfection of the tap and the collection of the repeat total coliform samples.



Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio
Christopher Jones, Director of Ohio EPA



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