

**ARCHIVE:** Archived because revisions made to VAP rules in 2002 in OAC Chapter 3745-300 render this guidance unnecessary. However, this document is accurate under the 1996 VAP rules.

**TITLE:** Requesting PE Ampules

**DATE EFFECTIVE:** 1998

**KEYWORDS:** Performance Evaluation, (PE), ampule, volatile, aromatic, halogenated, request for performance evaluation information letter, Certified Laboratories (CLs).

**RULE:** OAC 3745-300-04(C) and (D)

**QUESTION:** How does a laboratory request PE ampules for a specific analytical method, combination of methods and/or parameter group?

**ANSWER:** Laboratories interested in becoming certified to conduct analyses in support of a Voluntary Action Program (VAP) No Further Action letter will notify OEPA/VAP by mailing a request for performance evaluation information/certification letter to the VAP program manager. (DAV list address here) Regardless of whether this is an initial CL application or a request by a CL to add additional analytes and/or parameter groups. In accordance with OAC 3745-300-04(C), this letter must be on company letterhead and must contain the following information:

- The methods, parameter groups and analytes for which the laboratory seeks certification.
- A request to receive a VAP laboratory certification application.
- A request to receive information regarding the procedures and costs to participate in the VAP Performance Evaluation (PE) program.

The laboratory is responsible for making arrangements with the PE laboratory to begin participating in the program. A laboratory must pass **all** analytes in the PE sample in either of the two attempts or a combination of the two attempts (the second PE attempt must be within thirty (30) days of receipt of the first PE results). If both PE attempts are failed, the laboratory must wait three (3) months from the receipt date of the results from the second PE attempt before making another PE attempt (see OAC 3745-300-04(D)).

Once the laboratory successfully completes the PE rounds for the analytes and parameter groups they want to be certified for, they can then complete the CL application, including all required documents and fee), and send it to Ohio EPA/VAP. (any form of mail that is accompanied by a receipt is acceptable).

The following outline provides clarification on the types of ampules required when laboratories are applying for certification, or are conducting PE rounds after initial certification.

- Laboratories currently applying for only method 8020A or 602 must analyze the aromatic ampule instead of the volatile ampule (i.e., laboratories are not certified or applying for 8010B or 601).
- Laboratories currently applying for only method 8010B or 601 must analyze the halogenated volatile ampule (i.e., laboratories are not certified or applying for 8020A or 602).
- Laboratories applying for methods 8010B/8020A, methods 601/602, 8260 series, 8240 series, or 8021 must analyze the volatile ampule and report all compounds provided in the ampule.

Laboratories who were certified for either 8010B, 8020A, 601, 602 and who analyzed a volatile ampule in the December, 1997 periodic PE program will only be evaluated for compliance with periodic PE criteria using the compounds listed in any of the aforementioned methods.

**SUMMARY:**

In order to obtain the proper ampule for participation in the VAP's PE program, the laboratory must send a request for performance evaluation information/certification letter to the VAP program manager. The letter must list the methods, parameter groups and analytes for which the laboratory seeks certification. The laboratory is responsible for making arrangements with the PE laboratory in order to begin participating in the program.

**OHIO EPA  
CONTACT:**

For any questions concerning this issue, please contact the VAP central office at (614) 644-2924.