

PFAS Field Blanks

PFAS REFERENCE METHOD EPA 533

Pre-Collection Information

- One field blank is required at each public water system (PWS), regardless of the number of samples taken, according to guidance developed by the Public Health Laboratory (PHL).
- PHL will provide reagent water used to take the field blank sample.
- After preparing the field blank at the first sampling location, the sample bottle must be opened at each subsequent sample location at the PWS during sample collection.

Bottle Information

- One field blank bottle label is printed for each PWS.
 - You do not need to write anything on the bottle, "Field Blank" on the pre-printed label serves as the unique identifier.
- If pre-printed bottle labels are not available, you must write the PWS identification (PWSID), PWS name, and the unique identifier on the field blank bottle label.

Chain of Custody (COC) Information

- You must write "Field Blank" on a line of the COC. You must mark PFAS Method 533 analysis.
 - PHL uses this information to log the field blank into their database, track it throughout the lab, and analyze it as a quality control sample.
- Do not enter anything in the Location ID field.
- You must write down a time on the COC and the field blank bottle labels that a sample is collected.
 - The time should be the same time as the time the first PFAS sample is collected.
 - If you chose to use a field number as the unique identifier, you must write that on the COC and the field blank bottle labels.

1	Field Number XYZ123A	Time Collected 1:15 am □ pm □	Location ID E01	Sampling Point Well #1 Entry Point
2	Field Number XYZ123B	Time Collected 1:15 am □ pm □	Location ID Field Blank	Sampling Point
3	Field Number	Time Collected am □ pm □	Location ID	Sampling Point
4	Field Number	Time Collected am □ pm □	Location ID	Sampling Point

Leave blank- do not add a Location ID

INORGANIC				METALS				ORGANIC			
1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Unpreserved								BNA (Na_2SO_3) EPA 545			
Alkalinity SM 2320B								BNA ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_3/\text{HCl}$) EPA 525			
Bromide EPA 300.1								Carbamates ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8/\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ & $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{K}_2\text{O}_4$) EPA 531.1/531.2			
Chloride EPA 300.1								Glyphosate ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$) EPA 547			
Conductivity SM 2510B				Lead EPA 300.8				Herbicides ($\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$) EPA 515.4			
DOC SM 5310C				Manganese EPA 300.8				VOCs, Low Level ($\text{HC}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2/\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}_2$) EPA 524.3			
Fluoride SM 4500-F-C				Sodium EPA 300.7				THMs (Ascorbic/HCl or HCl) EPA 524.3			
Nitrite-N SM 4500-NO2-B				Ca as CaCO_3 EPA 200.7				HAA (NH_4Cl) EPA 552.2			
pH SM 4500-HB				Mg as CaCO_3 EPA 200.7				PFC Expanded (Unpreserved) MDH 555			
Silica SM 4500-SiO2-C				Hardness EPA 200.7				PFAS ($\text{NH}_4\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{O}_2$) EPA 533			
Sulfate EPA 300.1				Metals Scan (Non-Regulatory)				X X			

Field number is only required if being used as the unique identifier.

Unique COC Examples

- If a COC already has four sample points identified, the field blank must be documented on a second COC.

PFAS FIELD BLANKS - PFAS REFERENCE METHOD EPA 533

- In this case it is necessary to mark the COC "1 of 2" and "2 of 2".
- Ship or drop off both COCs and containers in the same box to PHL.
- The images below show examples. You can write across the Sample Point section or you can write in the Sampler Comment section.

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Post-Collection Information

- If a PFAS sample arrives at the PHL without a field blank or with a field blank that is canceled, the PFAS sample will **not** be canceled. It will be analyzed and the data qualified if needed.
- If a field blank is documented on the COC but no time is documented, PHL will contact MDH staff and request a time. In these cases, the field blank and the sample will **not** be canceled.
- PWSs may see two data qualifiers (B6 and B7) associated with field blanks on their final reports. If you receive questions about these, please refer the PWS to the PFAS Project Manager. Information about what the new data qualifiers mean:
 - B6: The analyte was found in both field blank and sample.
 - B7: The result is suspect. It was not confirmed as a positive detection because there was no trip blank to evaluate for possible contamination.

If you have questions, call 651-201-4700, or email health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us.

Minnesota Department of Health
Drinking Water Protection
651-201-4700
health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us
www.health.state.mn.us

June 2024

To obtain this information in a different format, call 651-201-4700.