



*Office of Laboratory Licensure,
Certification & Training*

3443 N Central Avenue, Suite 810
Phoenix, Arizona 85012
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(602) 255-1070 FAX
[E-mail: acharyp@azdhs.gov](mailto:acharyp@azdhs.gov)

Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: February 05, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Dr. Barbara J. Erickson, Ph.D., Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #54
RE: Information on proficiency testing.
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. Arizona's New Proficiency Evaluation Policy and Schedule:

All laboratories licensed by our Office will be required to perform Proficiency Evaluations (PE) according to the following schedule, unless the laboratory has already run the appropriate PE after January 01, 1999:

By March 1, 1999: All laboratories must contract with any PE provider to order a WS and/or WP substitute PE study equivalent to the one the laboratory was running under the EPA program. After NIST has certified PE providers, only those specific providers can be used.

By April 1, 1999: All laboratories must run these WS/WP equivalent PE samples.

By May 1, 1999: All laboratories must report the results to the PE provider and have a copy of the acceptable or unacceptable results sent by the provider to our Office.

All PEs under this new policy shall be performed under the same conditions as the past programs, e.g. PE samples run the same way as regular samples.

Any laboratory that misses a certain analyte on this round of PEs will be required to rerun that analyte in a PE during the remainder calendar year of 1999. At this time a laboratory will only be required to run and pass one WS and/or WP (if a lab was performing both, then both are still required) per year. Any modification of this policy will be sent out in a later Information Update.

Specific full-volume PE samples may still be used by the Office when a laboratory is trying to bring on a new method or the laboratory may have been found to have had a potential problem as determined by an on-site audit.



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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: October 15, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Wesley B. Press, Acting Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #59
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. Section 4.3 of 200.7, rev. 4.4, as well as App. C in the 40 CFR, Section 5.1.3, allow the buffering of samples when there are chemical interferences. Using a buffer as a matrix modifier for ICP analyses is acceptable, as long as the laboratory is adding the buffer to all standards, QC samples and samples, and is able to meet the methods IDC.
2. After discussing the requirement of performing MDL studies for metals in both water and soils with the EPA, it has been agreed, that MDLs for metals on solid matrices is not required. We were told that MDLs are to be reflective of the best case scenario, and that as long as a lab has aqueous MDLs as well as performing the required QC in the method, one should be able to get enough information of the laboratory's sensitivity. MICE (Methods Information and Communication Exchange) informed us that soil matrix MDLs are not normally done due to the background contamination problem, and that the laboratory can just extrapolate soil MDLs from their water MDLs.
3. For GC/MS volatile methods: The BFB tune must be verified before sample analysis. Several labs have been monitoring the BFB tune by processing the BFB surrogate in the sample injected at the 12th hour through the tune program. This is not appropriate. Samples are unknowns and may have interferences or matrix effects. The laboratory must monitor the BFB through a separate injection. SW-846 allows BFB to be monitored in the CCV. ADHS has confirmed the technical validity of this interpretation with the MICE service.
4. Laboratories are required to have current MDLs for each analyte they report (A.A.C. R9-14-613, section B6). This includes each and every Aroclor the lab reports out. Typically these are 1016, 1260, 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248 and 1254. An MDL is considered current if no changes have been made to (1) extraction or analytical procedure, (2) type of columns used, (3) the instrument has not been moved (i. e. to a new lab facility) and (4) other modifications of this type. Once the laboratory has done an initial MDL study, if all parameters remain constant, a laboratory might be able to go two or three years before doing another MDL study. To verify that the MDL study is still current, the laboratory may choose to periodically analyze an LCS at the reporting limit.

5. Arizona Department of Health Services/Bureau of Laboratory Services has some senior level Chemist positions open in their Environmental Organic section and a Quality Assurance Coordinator's position in their Technical Resources and Training section. If interested, fax your resume to Prabha Acharya @ (602) 255-1070. If you need more information about the positions, please call Prabha Acharya @ (602) 255-3454 Ext. 221 or Pat Adler @ (602) 542-6120.
6. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's QA/QC Unit has posted ADEQ's 5035 draft policy on its Web Page at www.adeq.state.az.us. Click on "Directors Office" and then on "Quality Assurance". Select "Analytical Methods Update" and then "Draft Policy- Implementation of EPA Method 5035-Soil Preparation for EPA Methods 8015B, 8021 and 8260B". Once this policy is promulgated it will be used for compliance testing of VOC's in soil in Arizona. ADEQ is accepting comments from the environmental laboratory community regarding ADEQ's Method 5035 policy as it is currently drafted through Sunday, October 31, 1999. Please e-mail all correspondence to: carlson.kenyon@ev.state.az.us or mail to:

**AZ Dept. of Environmental Quality
c/o Kenyon C. Carlson, Manager
QA/QC Unit S1360C
3033 N. Central Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85012-2809**

7. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](mailto:prabha.acharya@adeq.state.az.us) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: September 8, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Wesley B. Press, Acting Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #58
RE: Upcoming workshops on Performance Based Measurement System (PBMS) and Surface Water / Ground Water Sampling and Analysis.
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. We have scheduled the following two workshops in Phoenix:

A. A three day "Surface Water / Ground Water Sampling and Analysis Workshop" will be held on October 19, 20, 21, 1999. This workshop is designed to give the participants an overview of the sample planning, collection and analysis of surface water or ground water samples. Day one will introduce the participants to sample plan preparation and environmental laboratory analysis. We also will be touring the Arizona Department of Health Services Laboratory. Day two will focus on ground water rules and regulations and will include a field demonstration of ground water sampling techniques and equipment. Day three will focus on surface water rules and regulations and will include a field demonstration of surface water sampling techniques and equipment. The registration fee for this workshop is \$200.00 (total cost for the 3 day workshop) which includes lectures and printed materials. Class size is limited to 40. The presenter for this workshop will be Ms. Melinda Longworth of Water Quality Consultants from Tucson, AZ. For more detailed information regarding this workshop call:

Cristy Finan at (602) 255-3454 ext. 208
David Winters at (602) 255-3454 ext. 205

B. A one-day workshop entitled "An Introduction to Performance Based Measurement System" (PBMS) will be held on November 4, 1999. PBMS is a new approach to compliance monitoring that is being adopted by EPA to improve data quality, reduce the monitoring community's cost of compliance monitoring, and encourage the development and use of innovative approaches to environmental monitoring.

Under the PBMS approach, regulated facilities will be allowed to use any measurement methodology that meets the performance requirements established for a particular application without having to first obtain EPA approval. The regulated entity will, however, be required to

demonstrate and document that the test method actually met the specified performance requirements and will be held responsible for the correctness of the compliance decision. In addition to impacting compliance monitoring, PBMS will affect the permit writing and facility compliance auditing processes, and the national environmental laboratory accreditation program.

In the workshop David Friedman, EPA's representative, will review:

- What is PBMS and how does it differ from the current regulatory approaches?
- How does PBMS impact regulated facilities, commercial laboratories, permit writers and compliance inspectors?
- Where does EPA and the national environmental laboratory accreditation program stand in their transition to PBMS and what do they still have to do to implement the new approach?
- What critical role do the States play with respect to these efforts?

Jerry Parr, from Catalyst Information Resources, will focus on how the change will affect the laboratory community, especially contracting for services under a flexible method selection system, how PBMS may impact laboratory staffing, and potential liability issues.

The workshop will be interactive with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Learn how this fundamental shift in EPA regulatory policy might affect you and your business.

The registration fee for this workshop is \$75.00 which includes printed materials and parking.

C. To register for either of the above workshops:

- i. Print and complete the **application form**
- ii. Make checks payable to ADHS
- iii. Mail or fax application, mail checks to:

Cristy Finan/Training
3443 North Central, Suite 810
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2204
Phone: (602) 255-3454 ext. 208
Fax: (602) 255-1070

For more information please contact:
Cristy Finan at (602) 255-3454 ext. 208
David Winters at (602) 255-3454 ext. 205
Prabha Acharya at (602) 255-3454 ext. 221

2. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: July 15, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Dr. Barbara J. Erickson, Ph.D., Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #57
RE: EPA T0-15, 1664 and Disinfectant Byproducts methods promulgated in Arizona
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. USEPA Compendium Method TO-15, "Determination of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in Air Collected in Specially-prepared Canisters and Analyzed by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)", published by the Center of Environmental Research Information, Office of Research and Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, OH 45268, EPA/625/R-96/010b, January 1997 in the "Compendium of Methods for the Determination of Toxic Organic Compounds in Ambient Air", Second Edition, can now be used for compliance testing of air in Arizona.
 1. The new Disinfectant Byproducts Methods promulgated by the USEPA in December of 1998 have now been approved for drinking water testing in Arizona.
 2. Method 1664, Revision A, n-Hexane Extractable material (HEM; Oil and Grease) and Silica Gel Treated n-Hexane Extractable Material (SGT-HEM; Non-polar Material) by Extraction and Gravimetry has now been promulgated in Arizona for Clean Water act and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
 3. There has been some discussion recently concerning the holding time for BOD samples whether it was 48 hours or 24 hours due to the discrepancies found in different reference documents (40 CFR 136.3, Table II and Standard Methods, Method 5210B). The footnote of Table 1060:I, Summary of Special Sampling or Handling Requirements, defers to 40 CFR for possible differences regarding container and preservation requirements. Therefore Arizona Environmental Laboratory Licensure will enforce 48 hours holding time for BOD samples.
 4. Quarterly meeting of Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting was held on June 24, 1999. Some of the items discussed were:
 - i. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is working on an internal policy for the implementation of EPA method 5035

- ii. EPA/Arizona newly promulgated methods
- iii. Y2K; the labs need to keep the electronic data for five years and be able to access the archived data for the Licensure auditors during that time frame even if the instrument/computer/software had to be replaced to make it Y2K compliant
- iv. 8270AZ shortened list
- v. 8021AZ and 8260AZ Reporting Limits survey responses were tabulated and distributed to the attendees and ADEQ staff
- vi. A possible upcoming PBMS (Performance Based Measurement System) workshop in Phoenix in November, 1999
- vii. Communication Sub-committee's findings and recommendations to the Licensure program to assist in providing a more defined structure for it's operation
- viii. Licensure rules are in the process of being revised and there will be a 15% fee increase
- ix. NELAC update was given

The next ELAC meeting is scheduled for September 30, 1999 at Casa Grande.

- x. A two-day workshop titled "An Overview of Environmental Regulations & Methods", which was scheduled to be held in Phoenix on April 6 & 7, 1999, was postponed to September 1 & 2, 1999. Details of the workshop and the instructions for registering can be found in the [Information Update #54](#), dated February 4, 1999. Those who have already registered don't need to register again. If you need further information, please call (602) 255-3454 ext. 221.
- xi. Arizona Environmental Laboratory Licensure, with assistance from the Arizona licensed laboratories, has compiled a shortened list of 8270C (8270AZ) target analyte list. This suggested list would be applicable to both water and soil samples. **This is not a regulatory compliance list, but only a suggested list and we would like to stress that you consult with your client if this list would fulfill their project's needs.**

In compiling this list, we looked at a couple of criteria; 1) if the compound was a priority pollutant, and 2) if the compound was most commonly reported by the labs. Benzidine and N-Nitrosodimethylamine, though priority pollutants, were dropped because of the difficulties in analysis. [See the suggested list.](#)

- 5. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: April 23, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Dr. Barbara J. Erickson, Ph.D., Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #56
RE: Microbiology workshop on 5/18/99
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. The hot line to obtain information and clarification on EPA Solid Waste methods, MICE, Methods Information Communication and Exchange, has a new e-mail address: mice@cpmx.saic.com
2. In accordance with the goal of maintaining high quality in the analytical services carried out by the participants in the performance evaluation studies, your laboratory is requested to investigate the possible sources of error which produced "not acceptable" or "unusable" results, if any. Please inform the Arizona Laboratory Licensure office, by letter, of steps taken to correct the problems identified.
3. In response to questions concerning our Office's policy on the frequency of the certification on the reference and "working" weights:
 - o "S" weights should be certified every 5 years by NIST/NBS. A reference weight should be recertified if it is damaged or corroded.
 - o "Class 1" weights should be certified every year by ASTM. A reference weight should be recertified if it is damaged or corroded.
 - o Chemistry "working" weights (non-reference weights used daily, weekly, etc.) checked against certified reference weights at a frequency set per individual laboratory.
 - o Micro "working" weights checked against certified reference weights every 6 months.
4. On march 23, 1999, the following methods were approved by the Director of Arizona Department of Health services for the compliance testing of drinking water:
 - o Chlorine by 4500-CI-I
 - o Haloacetic acids by 6251B

- o Total Organic Carbon by 5310B, C and D
- o UV absorption method by 5910B
- o Chlorite and bromite by 300.0
- o Bromate, chlorite and bromide by 300.1
- o TTHMs by 551.1
- o Haloacetic acids by 552.1 and 552.2

5. Preservation criteria for 200.7 (rev 4.4), 200.8 (rev 5.4), 200.9 (rev 2.2) and 245.1 (rev 3.0):

The Arizona Laboratory Licensure requires EPA Method 200.7, Rev. 4.4, May 1994, for both drinking water and wastewater analyses. The method requires the samples to be held for 16 hours after acid preservation, verified to be <2 just prior to withdrawing an aliquot for processing, for both total and dissolved metals. Thus, if a laboratory receives a sample unpreserved, the laboratory must preserve, then wait 16 hours (recheck the pH) prior to digesting, testing for turbidity, and running as a direct analyses. Per EPA Cincinnati, the wait allows the acid sufficient contact time to leach any metal that may have adhered to the sample container. This preservation requirement is also specified in EPA Methods 200.8, Revision 5.4, Section 8.3, 200.9, Revision, 2.2, Section 8.3 & 245.1, Revision 3.0, Section 8.2.

6. A free workshop on "New and Upcoming Technologies in Microbiology Testing" is being held @ 3443, N. Central, Phoenix, Arizona, in the conference room on the 9th floor, on May 18, 1999, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. It is being presented by Mr. Scott King, Western Regional Manager-Environmental, IDEX Laboratories, WA. Mr. King has 12 years experience in clinical and environmental diagnostic testing as Sales Manager. The topics being presented are:

- o Short history of coliform as indicator organism
- o Technical explanation of defined substrate technology
- o Demonstrate Colilert, Colilert 18 hour, Colisure, Quantitray, Enterolert, and New HPC Test Simplate
- o Discuss approvals in U.S. for drinking water, wastewater, and recreational waters for defined substrates
- o Share data and colilert stories from around the world.

Please complete and fax the **registration form** if interested in attending this workshop.

7. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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Jane Dee Hull, Governor
James R. Allen, MD, MPH, Director

DATE: March 1, 1999
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager
FROM: Dr. Barbara J. Erickson, Ph.D., Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Information Update #55
RE: Implementation of EPA method 5035
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call 1-800-952-0374 or (602) 255-3454 extension 205, 221 or 222. Thank You.

1. **REMINDER:** March 1, 1999 is the implementation date for Method 5035. If your laboratory receives samples on or after this date for Method 5035, then your lab will have to make certain that the appropriate sample containers, preservation and holding times are met. For an explanation of these requirements please refer to Method 5035 directly AND to our Information [Update #53](#) dated December 23, 1998. If these requirements are not met then ADHS requires that the final report for these samples be flagged.
2. The next Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee (ELAC) is scheduled for March 4, 1999, at the Property Restaurant, 1252 W. Gila Bend Hwy, Casa Grande {(520) 836-1101}. Please call Wyn Nimmo at (602) 255-3454 ext. 201 if you are interested in attending or would like to get more information.
3. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is interested in taking a survey from the Arizona licensed laboratories on the reporting limits that are achievable in water and soil samples by 8021AZ and 8260AZ methods. Please respond to the survey if your laboratory has the necessary information. Please fax the completed survey forms to (602) 255-1070.
4. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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Exceptions:

PE samples that fit the above criteria that have been performed for other States are acceptable as long as they have been performed after January 01, 1999.

If a laboratory was not doing a WS or WP PE (e.g. microbiology) and a PE sample was or is not available, then that laboratory need not perform a PE sample at this time.

2. Records retention and Y2K

Pursuant to A.A.C. R9-14-615.A, "Records and reports required to be maintained by this Article shall be available for inspection and copying during normal business hours by representatives of the Department." These records must be available for the past 5 years. If records and reports are stored electronically, they must be available after January 01, 2000. The Y2K computer glitch cannot be used as an excuse to circumvent this regulation. Labs must come into Y2K compliance ASAP **so that the laboratory will not face potential fines pursuant to this regulation.**

3. **PLEASE NOTE:** The following two policies were generated by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). These are NOT ADHS policies. For the routine audit process by the ADHS consultants, adherence to the following policies will not be required. ADEQ requested ADHS to include the following information in this Update:

"ADEQ QA/QC Unit has created two substantive policies that will affect how data submitted to ADEQ for compliance purposes shall be interpreted. These policies are:

0154.000 'Addressing Spike and Surrogate Recovery As They Relate To Matrix Effects In Water, Air, Sludge and Soil Matrices', and

0155.000 'Analytical Methods Having Provisions For A One-Point Calibration And Continuing Calibration Verification Constraints Policy'

Both of the above policies were designed to provide alternatives to laboratories when the method established QC criteria have not or can not be achieved. These policies are optional and are intended to provide time and money saving options to the laboratory if method specific QC acceptance criteria are not achieved and therefore enable a laboratory to submit results to ADEQ that can be considered suitable for compliance purposes. If a laboratory chooses to comply with the policies and include the extra QC as established in the policies, then laboratory resources can be saved by avoiding the unnecessary re-extraction and/or "re-running" of samples as may be required by the method. To avoid missing the holding times and resampling events because of insufficient sample left for reanalysis are but two examples of the benefits offered by these policies.

Both of these policies were developed after extensive consulting with EPA and although they have already been approved by the ADEQ Director, after having been examined by the Policy Review Committee and the Agency's legal review, they are strictly optional. If a laboratory elects not to adhere to the policies, ADEQ will default to reviewing flagged data using the QC criteria as required by the analytical method.

If you have any specific questions on the above policies, please call Kenyon Carlson @ (602) 207-4866. The copies of the above policies can be found at www.adeq.state.az.us.

4. ADHS is planning a two-day workshop on "An Overview of Environmental Regulations & Methods", on April 6 & 7, 1999, in Phoenix. This is a very basic overview of the various EPA regulations and laboratory methods. This workshop is designed for the participants to become familiar with the various federal regulations and compliance methods. This workshop is designed to introduce the following topics to the participants: Various regulatory programs, EPA Methods, Laboratory Quality Control and instrumentation, Description of some of the common EPA methods, Description of instrumental detectors, Field quality assurance and Introduction to PBMS. This workshop is applicable to environmental consultants, engineers, entry level lab technicians and analysts and sales representatives. This is being presented by Roy-Keith Smith, Ph.D, Analytical Services, Inc., 110 Technology Parkway, Norcross, GA 30093. Please fax your registration form to our office before 2/19/99, to give us enough time to prepare for the workshop.

Registration fee for the workshop is \$125.00, includes lectures and printed materials. Class size is limited to 60. Preference will be given to applications with the earliest postmarks.

TO REGISTER:

1. Complete registration form
2. Make checks payable to ADHS
3. Mail or fax registration, mail checks to:

Cristy Finan/Training
3443 North Central Suite 810
Phoenix, Arizona 85012-2204
Phone: (602) 255-3454 ext 208
FAX: (602) 255-1070

5. If you have any questions regarding the Updates, or if you have any technical questions that need clarification, please call or send [e-mail](#) to Prabha Acharya, Program Manager, Technical Resources and Training at the Laboratory Licensure. A [table of contents](#) to all the Information Updates published is also available.

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