



***Bureau of State Laboratory Services***  
***Office of Laboratory Licensure, Certification & Training***

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JANE DEE HULL, GOVERNOR  
CATHERINE R. EDEN, DIRECTOR

DATE: August 29, 2000  
TO: Laboratory Director and QA Manager  
FROM: Wesley B. Press, Bureau Chief  
SUBJECT: Information Update #63  
NOTE: If any problems occur with this web site, please call (602) 364-0720. Thank you.

1. Due to the difficulties in the analysis of 2-Chloro ethylvinyl ether (Information Update #62, June 16, 2000, item #4), the Arizona Environmental Laboratory Advisory Committee's (ELAC) technical subcommittee participants have agreed to delete that compound from the 8260AZ standardized list (Information Update #52, November 16, 1998, item # 4). Please note that this compound can be requested in addition to the standard list if it is required by specific projects.
2. For Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen Analyses, our office will accept the use of cupric sulfate catalyst, instead of mercuric sulfate, for wastewater as well as drinking water samples. Standard Methods, 19th edition, 4500-Norg (Section A.4), and EPA 351.2, Revision 2.0 (Methods for the Determination of Inorganic Substances in Environmental Samples, August 1993), Section 7.3, both allow the alternate mercury-free digestion solution because of the problems with disposal and toxicity of the mercury catalyst. As long as the laboratory has completed the Initial Demonstration of Performance and can show that the laboratory can achieve acceptable blank recoveries, precision and accuracy, then either catalyst may be used.
3. Kenyon Carlson, Manager, Quality Assurance Unit, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requested our Office to publish the following:

The ELAC has created a technical subcommittee to develop standardized data qualifiers to be used in qualifying analytical results for use in Arizona. The technical subcommittee comprised ADEQ QA (Quality Assurance) Unit and the Arizona Department of Health Services-Office of Laboratory Licensure, Certification and Training as well as members of local environmental laboratories.

In the absence of guidance provided by ADEQ, laboratories have been forced to develop their own data qualifiers. The purpose for developing a standardized set of data qualifiers is to assist ADEQ project managers in assessing data quality. The

ELAC technical subcommittee endeavored to ensure that each data qualifier was succinct and narrow in scope to eliminate broad or multiple interpretations when assessing the impact on data.

Additionally, a standardized set of data qualifiers will save valuable space in the ADEQ's databases and simplify the retrieval and display of data. A standardized set of data qualifiers will also improve the selection of data required to meet the ADEQ's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) project's needs.

Any qualified data submitted to ADEQ after January 1, 2001 must be designated using the Arizona Data Qualifiers as developed by the ELAC technical subcommittee. Because the data qualifiers are specific, there may be multiple qualifiers assigned to each analytical result. Any events that cannot be described by the data qualifiers must be documented in a case narrative which must be included with the final report. Using the Arizona Data Qualifiers does not automatically qualify the data as acceptable to the Agency.

These Data Qualifiers can be found at ADHS Internet address:

[www.azdhs.gov/lab/license.htm](http://www.azdhs.gov/lab/license.htm)

and the ADEQ address:

[www.adeq.state.az.us/function/business/download/azdatqa.pdf](http://www.adeq.state.az.us/function/business/download/azdatqa.pdf)

4. Chiou Chen of Water Quality Division, Water Permits Section, Industrial & Stormwater Unit, ADEQ, would like to request the following information from the Arizona licensed environmental laboratories performing thallium analysis in ground water:
  - a. What is the Reporting Limit achievable in a clean matrix and the method employed?
  - b. What is the Reporting Limit achievable in a matrix that contains a Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) concentration ranging from 2000 to 8000 mg/L?
  - c. Does a high TDS impact the Reporting Limit? If so, how high?
  - d. Can you achieve a Reporting Limit below 0.002 mg/L? If so, how low and what method was employed?

Please send your response to Prabha Acharya, Fax number: (602) 255-1070. Please include your laboratory's name and the contact person. Thank You.

5. If you have any questions regarding the Information 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 numbers/address.

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