



Memorandum

To: South Carolina Certified Laboratories

From: Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification, SCDES *BLC*

Date: October 22, 2024

Re: Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule & Safe Drinking Water Expedited Rules

The US EPA issued a final rule on April 16, 2024, to approve new and revised analytical methods for the analysis of wastewater entitled "Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent".

As stated in the Summary of the rule: "The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is finalizing changes to its test procedures required to be used by industries and municipalities when analyzing the chemical, physical, and biological properties of wastewater and other environmental samples for reporting under EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program." The Clean Water Act requires the EPA to promulgate these test procedures (analytical methods) for analysis of pollutants. This rule modifies the testing procedures approved for analysis and sampling under the Clean Water Act. In general, the changes in this action fall into four categories – 1) Updated versions of currently approved EPA methods in 40 CFR 136; 2) New or revised methods published by voluntary consensus standard bodies that are similar to methods previously adopted as EPA-approved methods in 40 CFR part 136; 3) Methods that EPA has reviewed under the alternate test procedures (ATP) program and preliminarily concluded are appropriate for nationwide use; and 4) Corrections or amendments to the text and tables of 40 CFR 136.

The CWA Methods Update Rule can be found here:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/app/details/FR-2024-04-16/2024-07412>

Additionally, the EPA has published expedited rules (January 30, 2024) that updated versions of methods (and some new vendor methods) for use under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The major change was to include the method versions found in the 24th edition of Standard Methods. This rule can be found here:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-01530>

Updated laboratory certificates will be mailed to impacted laboratories starting in January 2025. If your laboratory is currently in the renewal process, an updated certificate will be sent after the renewal process has been completed. If you feel your laboratory should have received a new certificate but did not receive one by the end of 2025, please feel free to contact us.

Our Office is requesting that laboratories update their SOPs as soon as possible after receiving their new certificate and updated parameter list. This includes SOPs and implementation of any required changes in method procedures, preservation requirements, QA/QC requirements, etc. These updates must be completed by the end of 2025 at the latest. Laboratories are not required to submit updated SOPs to our office, but they must be available for review during the onsite evaluation.

Please note that the methods as listed on the updated parameter list should be reported for all Proficiency Testing (PT) studies after the laboratory has received their updated certificate and parameter list from this Office.

Any questions regarding this memo should be directed to labcerthelp@des.sc.gov or (803) 896-0970.

cc: Micheal Mattocks, Assistant Bureau Chief
Bureau of Regional and Laboratory Services