



Federal Register Action: Expedited Approval of Alternative Test Procedures for the Analysis of Contaminants Under the Safe Drinking Water Act; Analysis and Sampling Procedures

The EPA is approving 17 alternative test procedures for contaminants listed in the drinking water regulations. These procedures have been determined by the Agency to be as effective as the methods already established in the regulations for the same contaminants. The EPA has used its streamlined approval authority to make these 17 alternative methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Background

When the EPA establishes a monitoring requirement for a drinking water contaminant, it also specifies at least one “reference” analytical method that can be used to determine the contaminant’s concentration in drinking water. Public water systems must use a testing method approved by the Agency when performing analyses of samples required by regulation.

Reference methods that are incorporated into the regulations are approved through a rulemaking process. In general, this means that EPA publishes a proposed rule, citing the method along with a discussion of how the method can be used to analyze compliance samples. The method is proposed for approval in conjunction with monitoring requirements for one or more specific contaminants. Public comment is solicited. The EPA then decides whether to approve the method. If the method is deemed suitable, it is approved via a final rule. Under that process, the method is not approved for analysis of samples until it is referenced in a final rule.

After establishing monitoring requirements in the final rule, the EPA continues to evaluate additional analytical methods as they become available. When new or revised testing methods for drinking water contaminants are determined to be as effective as methods already established in the regulations, then the Agency can use its streamlined approval authority to make the new methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Methods approved under the expedited approval process are referenced in Appendix A to Subpart C of Part 141 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*.

Summary of Action

The EPA has evaluated 17 testing methods for contaminants listed in the regulations and determined them to be as effective as methods already established in the regulations for those contaminants. The Agency is using its streamlined approval authority to make these 17 optional, alternative methods listed in Tables 1 available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under SDWA.

Table 1. EPA, Voluntary Consensus Standard Organization, and Vendor-Developed Methods

Method	Contaminant(s)/Parameter(s)
EPA Method 903.0, Rev. 1.0	Radium-226
EPA Method 903.1, Rev. 1.0	Radium-226
EPA Method 127	Total chlorine as monochloramine
ASTM D 6919-17	Calcium, magnesium, sodium
ASTM D 4327-17	Fluoride, nitrate, nitrite, ortho-phosphate, chloride, sulfate
ASTM D 3697-17	Antimony
ASTM D 3223-17	Mercury
ASTM D 1688-17 A	Copper
ASTM D 1688-17 C	Copper
ASTM D 1293-18	pH
ASTM D 3454-18	Radium-226
Bio-Rad RAPID'E.coli 2 (REC2)	Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i>
Palintest ChloroSense, Rev. 1.1	Free chlorine, total chlorine
Palintest ChlordioX Plus, Rev. 1.1	Chlorine dioxide, chlorite (daily monitoring)
Palintest Method 1001, Rev. 1.1	Lead
Maine HETL ME 531	Carbofuran, oxamyl
Neogen Modified Colitag™, Version 2.0	Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i>

Additional Information and Copies

You can view or download the complete text of the Expedited Methods Approval action (<https://www.epa.gov/dwanalyticalmethods>).

A listing of the methods approved using the expedited approval process can also be downloaded from the same website.

You can learn more about the Expedited Method Approval Process for drinking water and the alternative testing methods approved under the program by contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or Glynda Smith, Technical Support Center (MC-140), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, 26 West Martin Luther King Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45268; (e-mail [Glynda Smith](mailto:smith.glynda@epa.gov): smith.glynda@epa.gov).