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Water & Wastewater Test Procedures

The U.S. EPA recently modified the Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR Part 122 and 136). The following is a brief summary of the changes.

Sample Holding Times & Preservation Techniques

The new rule revises Table II - Required Containers, Preservation Techniques, and Holding Times. For example;

- The revisions clarify that the holding time for a composite sample begins at the time the last grab sample component is collected.
- The holding time for pH, total residual chlorine, sulfite and dissolved oxygen has been changed to 15 minutes. **Therefore, these parameters must be analyzed in the field.** It is not acceptable to wait for testing in the laboratory. As always, Admiral's field technician will bring the necessary test equipment for immediate testing.
- The general temperature preservation requirement for aqueous samples has been changed from 4° C to $\leq 6^{\circ}$ C. Aqueous samples should not be frozen.
- The new rule clarifies that preservation must occur within 15 minutes of sample collection. However, for many metals the acid preservation step can now be performed later at the laboratory.

Analytical Methods

The new rule is intended to provide increased flexibility in the selection of analytical methods. In addition to approving new test methods, the rule modifies some existing methods and withdraws approval for others. Here are two examples:

- The rule withdraws approval for all oil and grease methods that used Freon as the extraction solvent. Instead, Hexane will be used. In a few cases, the new oil and grease results using Hexane can be different than was previously found using Freon.
- Many other previously acceptable procedures have been withdrawn. This includes specific test methods for cyanide, ammonia, BOD & COD, heavy metals, and phosphorus. Acceptable methods are listed.

Admiral Environmental Services has made all necessary adjustments in order to comply with the revised requirements. If you have any questions, please call.

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