

The 1/9/08 email below from Steve Wendelken clarifies what he wrote in his original memo, which is attached. (Go to very bottom of this email string.)

Art

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----- Forwarded by Arthur Clark/R1/USEPA/US on 01/09/2008 02:02 PM -----

Steve  
Wendelken/CI/USE  
PA/US

To  
Lawrence Marchin/R7/USEPA/US@EPA

01/09/2008 10:32 AM

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Subject  
Re: THMs/Field Blanks(Document  
link: Arthur Clark)

All

There seems to be some confusion regarding the ATP determination regarding the THM field blank issue so I'll try and clarify.

There will not be specific method revisions issued that contain text that says field blanks do not need to be analyzed for THM hits. This is essentially the same paradigm as when a technical note is issued. If the method is revised in the future then this option will be included in the revised method.

Regarding the ATP determination:

The ATP program has determined that since EPA Methods 551.1, 502.2, and 524.2 are considered equivalent for total THM analysis and 551.1 does not require the analysis of field blanks when positive results are observed for total trihalomethanes, the analysis of field blanks is optional for Methods 502.2 and 524.2 when positive results are observed for total trihalomethanes. (thanks Peggy)

Therefore:

Since total trihalomethanes would be expected to be present in nearly all disinfected drinking water samples, field blank analysis is not required when reporting positive results for total trihalomethanes using Methods 502.2 or 524.2. This exception to the analysis of field blanks only applies to the analysis of total trihalomethanes. Positive results for all other chemicals observed using Methods 502.2 or 524.2 must still be accompanied by the analysis of field blanks to confirm that the positive result was not the result of contamination during sample handling or shipment.

Hope this helps

Steve

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Marchin/R7/USEPA  
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To

Steve Wendelken/CI/USEPA/US@EPA

01/07/2008 09:48

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Subject

Re: THMs/Field Blanks(Document  
link: Steve Wendelken)

Steve,

I agree with Art. And if you could provide us the specific methods'  
revision identifications (for example Method 524.2, Revision 4.1, 1995)  
that would be helpful.

Larry Marchin R7

Arthur  
Clark/R1/USEPA/U  
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01/04/2008 08:14  
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Subject  
Re: THMs/Field Blanks(Document  
link: Lawrence Marchin)

Steve,

I need clarification regarding your 1/3/08 memo about THM FRBs.

The memo says "versions of Methods 502.2 or 524.2 that do not require the analysis of field blanks when positive results are observed for total trihalomethanes are equivalent versions of these methods. I do not have any versions of 502.2 and 524.2 that do NOT require FRBs. The EPA-approved versions of these methods DO require FRBs. Does EPA plan to issue versions of 502.2 and 524.2 that do not require FRBs under certain circumstances?"

The memo says such methods are equivalent to "these methods"? What methods are you referring to? The only other method cited in your memo is 551.1.

My apologies for being a word smith, but I guarantee you our state

programs will ask these questions. Please advise.  
thanks,  
Art

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Subject

THMs/Field Blanks

All

Please distribute as necessary. Kevin, can you file a copy in the misc ATP file.

(See attached file: THM Field Blank Memo.pdf)

Thanks

Steve

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