



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

EPA is approving 12 alternative test procedures for contaminants listed in the drinking water regulations. These procedures have been determined by EPA to be as effective as the methods already established in the regulations for the same contaminants. EPA has used its streamlined approval authority to make these 12 alternative methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Background

When 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 EPA when performing analyses of samples required by regulation.

Reference methods that are incorporated into the regulation 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. 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, 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 EPA 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*. The listing is also available at: http://epa.gov/safewater/methods/analyticalmethods_expedited.html.

Summary of Action

EPA has evaluated 12 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. EPA has used its streamlined approval authority to make the 12 optional, alternative methods listed in the following table available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under SDWA.

Method	Contaminant
US EPA Method 557	Dalapon
Standard Method 6640 B (Standard Methods, 21 st Edition)	Dalapon
Standard Method 6640 B-01 (Standard Methods On-Line)	Dalapon
ASTM Method D3454-05	Radium-226
ASTM Method D2460-07	Radium-226
ASTM Method D5174-07	Uranium
ASTM Method D3649-06	Radioactive Cesium
	Radioactive Iodine
	Gamma emitters
ASTM Method D4785-08	Radioactive Iodine
	Gamma emitters
ASTM Method D4107-08	Tritium
Readycult® (EMD Chemicals)	<i>E. coli</i> (Ground Water Rule)
Chromocult® (EMD Chemicals)	<i>E. coli</i> (Ground Water Rule)
Modified Colitag™ (CPI International)	<i>E. coli</i> (Ground Water Rule)

Additional Information and Copies

You can view or download the complete text of the *Federal Register* final action from the Internet at:

http://epa.gov/safewater/methods/analyticalmethods_expedited.html. A listing of the methods approved using the expedited approval process can also be downloaded from the same Web site.

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: smith.glynda@epa.gov).