



## **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 93 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. EPA has used its streamlined approval authority to make these 93 alternative methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

### **Background**

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

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. EPA solicits and evaluates public comment before approving the method 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 any new or revised analytical methods for testing drinking water contaminants to determine if they are as effective as methods already established in the regulations. Based on the evaluation, the Agency then uses its streamlined approval authority to make the new methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under SDWA. 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

EPA has evaluated 93 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 93 optional, alternative methods listed in Tables 1 and 2 available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under SDWA.

**Table 1. ASTM and Vendor-Developed Methods**

Method	Contaminant(s)/Parameter(s)
ASTM D 3454-21	Radium-226
Hach Method 10312	Fluoride
Yokogawa Method 820	Turbidity

**Table 2. Standard methods**

Chemistry Methods (24 <sup>th</sup> edition)				
2120 B	4110 B	4500-F <sup>-</sup> B	4500-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> C	7120
2130 B	4500-Cl D	4500-F <sup>-</sup> C	4500-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> D	7500-Cs B
2150 B	4500-Cl E	4500-F <sup>-</sup> D	4500-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> E	7500- <sup>3</sup> H B
2320 B	4500-Cl F	4500-F <sup>-</sup> E	4500-SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup> F	7500-I B
2510 B	4500-Cl G	4500-H <sup>+</sup> B	5310 B	7500-I C
2540 C	4500-Cl H	4500-NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> D	5310 C	7500-I D
2550	4500-Cl I	4500-NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> E	5540 C	7500-Ra B
3111 B	4500-Cl <sup>-</sup> B	4500-NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> F	5910 B	7500-Ra C
3111 D	4500-Cl <sup>-</sup> D	4500-NO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> B	6251 B	7500-Ra D
3113 B	4500-ClO <sub>2</sub> C	4500-O <sub>3</sub> B	6610 B	7500-Ra E
3114 B	4500-ClO <sub>2</sub> E	4500-P E	6640 B	7500-Sr B
3112 B	4500-CN <sup>-</sup> C	4500-P F	6651 B	7500-U B
3120 B	4500-CN <sup>-</sup> E	4500-SiO <sub>2</sub> C	7110 B	7500-U C
3500-Ca B	4500-CN <sup>-</sup> F	4500-SiO <sub>2</sub> D	7110 C	
3500-Mg B	4500-CN <sup>-</sup> G	4500-SiO <sub>2</sub> E	7110 D	
Micro Methods (24 <sup>th</sup> edition)				
9221 A	9221 E	9222 C	9222 J	9230 D
9221 B	9221 F	9222 D	9223 B	
9221 C	9222 A	9222 H	9230 B	
9221 D	9222 B	9222 I	9230 C	

## **Additional Information and Copies**

You can view or download the complete text of the [Expedited Method Approval Federal Register final action](https://www.epa.gov/dwanalyticalmethods) (<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 Teresa Wells, Technical Support Branch (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 [wells.teresa@epa.gov](mailto:wells.teresa@epa.gov)).