

Chemical Speciation Network's Quality Assurance Project Plan Template Instructions

The EPA's Office of State Air Partnerships (OSAP) is providing this optional Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) template for state, local, and Tribal (SLT) monitoring agencies participating in the national Chemical Speciation Network (CSN). The template was created to meet quality assurance standards as defined by the current version of the EPA's *Environmental Quality Policy* ([CIO 2105](#)) and incorporates elements from the current version of the EPA's *Environmental Information Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Standard* ([CIO 2105-S-02](#)).

The field operations of CSN are relatively standardized, and many aspects of the operations and requirements are determined for the network at the national level. Previously, EPA's OAQPS provided a national QAPP for the CSN program's field operations that monitoring organizations could adopt and use as their CSN Field QAPP. Instead of a national QAPP for CSN's field operations, OSAP is now providing an optional QAPP template for CSN monitoring organization to use. As described below, CSN monitoring organizations will need to add some information unique to their organizations prior to approval and signatures.

The EPA reviews this CSN Field QAPP template annually and revises it as needed. If, the EPA determines a revision is needed, the EPA will notify the EPA Regional representatives of the revision during routine monthly calls and via email. The revised QAPP template will be posted to <https://www.epa.gov/amtic/chemical-speciation-network-field-qapps-and-sops>. SLT programs are expected to either adopt the EPA revised version, or develop their own modified QAPP as soon as possible, but no longer than 5 years from the issuance of their approved EPA CSN Field QAPP.

Signatures by SLT representatives acknowledge the adoption of this QAPP template for their CSN field sampling activities and signifies concurrence with all aspects of the template. Signature by an EPA Regional representative, such as a CSN Regional Representative, QA manager, air monitoring program manager, or their designee, signifies concurrence with all aspects of the CSN Field QAPP. The EPA CSN Regional Representative is expected to retain a copy of the approved CSN Field QAPP.

Template Design

This QAPP template provides sufficient detail to be directly adoptable by SLT monitoring organizations with minimal modifications for conducting chemical speciation monitoring as part of CSN. SLT monitoring organizations should only modify those sections of the QAPP template

that are highlighted in <BLUE>. Prior to submitting the QAPP for approval, the highlight formatting should be removed. Monitoring agency SOPs and agency-specific forms relevant to the CSN field operations shall be attached as an appendix.

Examples of criteria that must not be modified in this template include, but are not limited to, Quality Assurance (QA) and Quality Control (QC) acceptance limits and frequency, speciation sampling equipment, Data Quality Objectives, Measurement Quality Objectives, CSN Program background and problem definition. If modifying this QAPP template or developing their own QAPP, the SLTs must submit a list of deviations from this template to the Regional reviewer as an appendix in their QAPP. At the discretion of the EPA Regional representative, the SLT may also need to separately provide supporting documentation to demonstrate that the quality aspects of this QAPP template remain satisfied. EPA Regional Offices have final signature approval on the CSN Field QAPP.

QAPP Template Revision History

Date	Version #	Description of Revision & Comments
December 2000	1.0	Initial Draft
June 2012	1.2	Addendum with multiple edits
May 2025	2.0	Updated to align with the new QAPP Standard and added specifics for SLTs to input their information.
February 2026		Addendum to address EPA's reorganization