



## *Final Methods Update Rule*

### Summary

EPA has issued a final rule to approve several new or revised analytical methods, or test procedures, for measuring regulated pollutants in wastewater.

The full title of this final rule is "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; Analysis and Sampling Procedures."

Through this rule, EPA is adding to 40 CFR 136 new and revised methods published by EPA, voluntary consensus organizations (e.g., ASTM International and the Standard Methods Committee) and commercial entities, for use in water quality monitoring programs. These new and revised methods will provide increased flexibility to the regulated community and laboratories in their selection of analytical methods for use in Clean Water Act programs.

### Why is EPA Making these Changes?

EPA approves analytical methods for measuring regulated pollutants in wastewater. The regulated community and laboratories use these approved methods for determining compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or other monitoring requirements. Often, these entities have a choice in deciding which approved method they will use to measure a pollutant because more than one approved method is available.

Some of these additional analytical methods are new methods (i.e., introduce a new technology or establish a method for a pollutant for the first time) to the NPDES program. Others are updated versions of previously approved methods. Some are approved methods that have been cited within effluent guideline regulations, and EPA is now adding them to 40 CFR 136 to assist stakeholders in finding Agency-approved methods for wastewater regulatory programs.

This rule also provides clarification of the process for requesting limited or nationwide review of alternate test procedures (ATP) and additional examples of allowed flexibility to modify approved analytical methods. It also includes new standardized quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) requirements, and makes some changes to sample collection, preservation, and holding times.

#### Methods Update Rule Includes:

- New and Revised Wastewater Methods
- Examples of Allowed Method Flexibility
- New QA/QC Requirements
- Clarifications and Corrections to Previously Approved Methods
- Revisions to Preservation and Holding Times

### For More Information

You can view the Federal Register notice at <http://www.epa.gov/scitech/methods>. In addition, the final rule will be available at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2010-0192.

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