



PFAS (PFC) EPA Method 537 / 537.1 533 Sampling Instructions

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Sampling Clothing



- **Avoid wearing clothing or boots containing Gore-Tex or using materials containing Tyvek.**
- **Avoid using cosmetics, moisturizers, heavy fabric softeners on clothes the day of sampling.**
- **Sample PFAS first if your cooler contains other sample collection bottles! Other sample containers for other methods may have PFAS present.**

Consideration of Supplies



- **Do NOT use chemical ice packs.**
- **Felt-tip pens and permanent markers should NOT be used. Use regular ball point pens.**
- **Avoid adhesive products like sticky notes.**
- **Avoid plastic clipboards, binders, hard covers, etc.**
- **Sampler must wash hands before wearing nitrile gloves in order to limit contamination during sampling.**

Container Requirements



- **ONLY** use the containers that have been provided by the laboratory.
- These containers are made of HDPE (High Density Polyethylene). All other plastics, including Nalgene, could contaminate the sample.
- Trizma is the only preservative that may be used.
- (Trizma Pre-set crystals are a trademarked chemical made for adjusting the pH of samples and the removal of any free chlorine.)

Before Sampling



- **Read all lab specific instructions before sampling.**
- **Plan to have all samples collected just prior to the pick-up time of your overnight carrier (UPS/Fed Ex) or the lab to limit potential of on-site environmental contamination.**
- **If your sampling point has a faucet with an aerator, remove the aerator prior to collection of the samples.**

Sampling Protocol Steps



- ***CAUTION: Containers contain chemical preservatives...avoid skin contact!***
- **Wash hands and put on Nitrile gloves (provided). They must be worn during the sample collection.**
- **Find the PFAS containers in your cooler: 2 – 250 ml plastic (HDPE) containers pre-preserved with 1.25 g Trizma.**

Sampling Protocol Steps (continued)



- **Flush the cold water sampling line approximately 15 minutes immediately prior to sampling.**
- **Slow the water stream before collection to ensure no splashing of sample.**
- **Remove cap WITHOUT touching the inside of the cap or around the edge of the container.**
- **Fill the container to the neck, replace cap and tighten.**

Sampling Protocol Steps (continued)



- **Do NOT overfill container.**
- **Allow a small amount of head space for mixing the sample with the preservative.**
- **Invert at least five times to mix the sample with the preservative.**
- **Indicate sampling date, time, and location on both the container label and the chain of custody (COC). If there is no COC, please contact your lab as soon as possible.**
- **The info on both label and COC must match.**

PFAS Field / Trip Blank



- **Per EPA 537 / 537.1 methodology, a Field / Trip Blank (FB) must be collected with all drinking water samples.**
- **Open the FB container and pour the PFAS-free field blank water (provided) into the empty container labeled Field Blank.**
- **The FB will only be analyzed if the targeted compounds for the sample are detected on the associated sample. (MRL = 2.0 ppt)**

FB Analysis Example



- If PFNA / PFOS / PFOA is requested on the COC, and we detect any level of them above 2.0 ppt, then...per the method, we must analyze the FB for those three compounds.
- If 18 target PFC's are requested on the COC and we find any one of them with a detect of >2.0 ppt, then we must analyze the FB, even though the PFNA may not be detected.
- If no detect above 2.0 ppt on sample, then the FB is NOT analyzed.

Shipping Instructions



- **Place wet ice, samples, FB's, and COC into the shipping container.**
- **If your lab has a courier picking up the samples, confirm that they will be shipping your samples to the testing lab that night.**
- **If samples are being sent directly to the testing lab, make sure they are overnighted to the testing lab.**

Shipping Instructions (continued)



- **Samples must arrive at testing laboratory within 48 hours of sampling.**
- **Maximum temperature of samples can be 10 degrees C...but not below 0 degrees C.**
- **Maximum hold time to start analysis is 14 days.**
- **Collection days should be Monday – Wednesday. Thursday's will also be fine, but they must be overnighted Thursday for a Friday delivery.**

Special Shipping



- If sampling can only be completed on a Friday, then special arrangements should be made with the testing lab to receive the samples on a Saturday.

Any Questions?



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Are You Sure That's It???



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