
GLOSSARY

Aliquot: A discrete sample used for analysis.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD): The quantity of oxygen consumed during the biochemical oxidation of matter over a specified period of time, usually 5 days (BOD₅).

Chain-of-Custody: Procedures used to minimize the possibility of tampering with samples.

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD): Measurement of all the oxidizable matter found in a runoff sample, a portion of which could deplete dissolved oxygen in receiving waters.

Composite Sample: Used to determine "average" loadings or concentrations of pollutants, such samples are collected at regular time intervals, and pooled into one large sample, can be developed on time or flow rate.

Confined Space: Enclosed space that an employee can bodily enter and perform assigned work, that has limited means of exit and entry, that is not designed for continuous employee occupancy, and has one of the following characteristics:

- Contains or has a known potential to contain a hazardous atmosphere
- Contains a material with the potential for engulfment of an entrant
- Has an internal configuration such that an entrant could be trapped or asphyxiated by inwardly converging walls or a floor that slopes downward and tapers to a smaller cross section
- Contains any other recognized serious safety or health hazard.

Conveyance: A channel or passage which conducts or carries water including any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, or container.

Detention Ponds: A surface water impoundment constructed to hold and manage storm water runoff.

Discharge: Any addition of any pollutant to waters of the U.S. from any conveyance.

Effluent: Any discharge flowing from a conveyance.

Flumes: A specially shaped open channel flow section providing a change in the channel area and/or slope which results in an increased velocity and change in the level of the liquid flowing through the flume. A flume normally consists of three sections: (1) a converging section; (2) a throat section; and (3) a diverging section. The flow rate through the flume is a function of the liquid level at some point in the flume.

Flow-Weighted Composite Sample: Means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of aliquots collected at a constant time interval, where the volume of each aliquot is proportional to the flow rate of the discharge.

Flow-Proportional Composite Sample: Combines discrete aliquots of a sample collected over time, based on the flow of the wastestream being sampled. There are two methods used to collect this type

of sample. One collects a constant sample volume at time intervals which vary based on stream flow. The other collects aliquots at varying volumes based on stream flow, at constant time intervals.

First Flush: Individual sample taken during the first 30 minutes of a storm event. The pollutants in this sample can often be used as a screen for non-storm water discharges since such pollutants are flushed out of the system during the initial portion of the discharge.

Grab Sample: A discrete sample which is taken from a wastestream on a one-time basis with no regard to flow or time; instantaneous sample that is analyzed separately.

Head of Liquid: Depth of flow.

Illicit Discharge: Any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of storm water except discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit and discharges from fire fighting activities.

Materials Management Practices: Practices used to limit the contact between significant materials and precipitation. These may include structural or nonstructural controls such as dikes, berms, sedimentation ponds, vegetation strips, spill response plans, etc.

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems: A conveyance or system of conveyances including roads with drainage systems, storm drains, gutters, ditches under the jurisdiction of a city, town, borough, county, parish, or other public body.

Outfall: Point source where an effluent is discharged into receiving waters.

Point Source: Any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff (see 40 CFR 122.3).

Reverse Meniscus: The curved upper surface of a liquid in a container.

Runoff Coefficient: Means the fraction of total rainfall that will appear at the conveyance as runoff.

Significant Materials: Include, but are not limited to, raw materials, fuels, solvents, detergents, metallic products, CERCLA hazardous substances, fertilizers, pesticides, and wastes such as ashes, slag, and sludge that have potential for release with storm water discharges [see 40 CFR 122.26(b)(12)].

Storm Water: Storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff, and drainage.

Storm Water Discharge Associated with Industrial Activity: Discharge from any conveyance which is used for collecting and conveying storm water which is directly related to manufacturing processing or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant [see 40 CFR 122.26(b)(14)].

Time Composite Sample: Prepared by collecting fixed volume aliquots at specified time intervals and combining into a single sample for analysis.

Turbidity: Describes the capability of light to pass through water.

Weir: A device used to gauge the flow rate of liquid through a channel; is essentially a dam built across an open channel over which the liquid flows, usually through some type of notch.