



## **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 10 alternative test procedures for contaminants listed in the drinking water regulations. These procedures have been determined by EPA 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 10 alternative methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

### **Background**

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

Reference methods that are incorporated into the regulation 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. Public comment is solicited. EPA then decides whether to approve the method. If the method is deemed suitable, it is approved 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 additional analytical methods as they become available. When new or revised testing methods for drinking water contaminants are determined to be as effective as methods already established in the regulations, then EPA can use its streamlined approval authority to make the new methods available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Methods approved under the expedited approval process are referenced in Appendix A to Subpart C of Part 141 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*. The listing is also available at: [http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/analyticalmethods\\_expedited.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/analyticalmethods_expedited.cfm)

## Summary of Action

EPA has evaluated 10 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. EPA has used its streamlined approval authority to make the 10 optional, alternative methods listed in the following table available for determining contaminant concentrations in samples collected under SDWA.

Method	Contaminant(s)
EPA Method 536	Atrazine, simazine
EPA Method 523	Atrazine, simazine
EPA Method 525.3	Alachlor, atrazine, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), benzo(a)pyrene, chlordane, di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate, di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, endrin, lindane, heptachlor, heptachlor epoxide, hexachlorobenzene, hexachlorocyclopentadiene, methoxychlor, pentachlorophenol, simazine, toxaphene
EPA Method 1623.1	<i>Cryptosporidium</i>
Standard Method 3125 (Standard Methods, 21 <sup>st</sup> Edition)	Uranium
Standard Method 3112 B-09 (Standard Methods Online)	Mercury
ASTM Method D859-10	Silica
ASTM Method D1179-10 B	Fluoride
ASTM Method D5673-10	Uranium
ASTM Method D6239-09	Uranium

## Additional Information and Copies

You can view or download the complete text of the *Federal Register* final action from the Internet at: [http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/analyticalmethods\\_expedited.cfm](http://water.epa.gov/scitech/drinkingwater/labcert/analyticalmethods_expedited.cfm) A listing of the methods approved using the expedited approval process can also be downloaded from the same Web site.

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 Glynda Smith, Technical Support Center (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: [smith.glynda@epa.gov](mailto:smith.glynda@epa.gov)).