



FACT SHEET: LEAD AND COPPER CONFIRMATION SAMPLES

(Version 1, July 2020)

Introduction

In the event a water system conducting lead and copper monitoring has an individual site location that exceeds the lead and/or copper action level (AL) (0.015mg/L or 1.3 mg/L, respectively) the water system may choose to collect a confirmation sample from the same site.

What are Confirmation Samples?

Confirmation samples may be first-draw or flushed samples at the individual site(s) that exceeded the AL in which the water system and/or customer wishes to receive further confirmation of the water quality at that site.

- Confirmation samples are to only be analyzed for the parameter(s) that exceeded the AL.
- First-draw confirmation samples are 1-liter in volume and have stood motionless, without flushing, in the plumbing system of the sampling site for at least 6 hours in accordance with 40 CFR 141.86(b)(2).
- Flushed confirmation samples are taken after the water at the sampling site has run to remove water that may have been in contact with the service line or interior plumbing, for an extended period of time. This can be done to investigate the source of lead and/or copper at the site.

A water system's Lead and Copper Sampling Plan must detail if collection of confirmation samples is routine protocol. If a water system chooses to collect a confirmation sample, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection strongly recommends that it is collected within the same monitoring period that the exceedance occurred.

Reporting of Confirmation Sample Results

- Semi-Annual (Standard) Monitoring: A water system on standard lead and copper monitoring will always be collecting confirmation samples within a monitoring period. If the water system has a site that exceeded in the first half (January – June) of 2018; however, a first-draw confirmation sample is taken in the second half (July – December) of 2018; the first-draw sample must be submitted for compliance for the second half of 2018.
- Reduced (Annual & Triennial) Monitoring: A water system on reduced lead and copper monitoring collects compliance samples from the months of June – September. Therefore, first-draw confirmation samples taken January – May and/or October – December cannot be submitted for compliance.

Refer to the table below for how to report compliance and non-compliance confirmation sample results to the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water.

Confirmation Sample Type	Collected within the Monitoring Period	Collected outside the Monitoring Period
First-draw	Submit via E2 and use to calculate the 90th percentile.	Submit Non-Compliance Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring Form (BWSE-16).
Flushed	Submit Non-Compliance Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring Form (BWSE-16).	Submit Non-Compliance Lead and Copper Tap Monitoring Form (BWSE-16).

Minimum Site Requirement

A water system is required to collect lead and copper tap samples from a minimum number of sites within the distribution system; therefore, confirmation samples collected during the same compliance monitoring period do not count towards meeting this minimum requirement.

Additional Resources:

DEP Lead in Drinking Water Public Water System Information:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc_lead_public.html

For further assistance, please contact the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov