

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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EHS Circular Letter # 2013-21

TO: All Connecticut Certified Laboratories

FROM: Dermot Jones, MPH, CPH,
Environmental Laboratory Consultant/Certification Officer
Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP)

DATE: April 5, 2013

RE: Agency Update to Private Well Water Action Levels and Drinking Water Reporting Limits

The Department of Public Health (DPH) has updated the 2004 well water Action Levels (AL) list. The updated AL list includes two additional contaminants (1,4-dioxane, 1,1-dichloroethane) and approved drinking water test method options have been added.

In a related matter, the ELCP office is revising the EPA method detection limits (MDLs) list, posted on its website. The list that was posted was referred to as the Phase II and Phase V Synthetic Organic Chemicals MDLs and will be relabeled as minimum reporting limits (RLs) for organic chemicals in drinking water.

The old MDL list had been misinterpreted by end users as an established list of required drinking water reporting limits for organic chemicals. Since it is no longer necessary for laboratories to establish MDLs for synthetic organic chemicals in order to meet certification requirements (since 2005) it does make sense to rename the list as it is presently being used. Over the years with technological improvements to analytical instrumentation, laboratories have been able to achieve reporting limits concentrations at or below these listed MDLs. So instead of a list of limits laboratories have to statistically derive, these now are limits that can be analytically determined and quantified.

Older versions of the AL lists had levels listed for some organics contaminants below required reporting limits. These updates are expected to resolve previous inconsistencies between established action levels and required reporting limits for drinking water testing. The updated AL and RL lists can be accessed at the Miscellaneous Information section of the attached link below.

www.ct.gov/dph/environmentallabs

It is expected, for laboratories testing private well water samples, that they include action levels where appropriate on final laboratory reports to homeowners. The information provided to homeowners on final reports about action levels can be beneficial in deciding on treatment options.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
Ellen Blaschinski, R.S., M.B.A., Chief, DPH Regulatory Services Branch



Phone: (860) 509-xxxx • Fax: (860) 509-xxxx • VP: (860) 899-1611
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

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