

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Manisha Juthani, MD
Commissioner



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Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

EHDW Circular Letter # 2024-18

TO: In-State Certified Drinking Water laboratories
FROM: Rachel Nowek, MPH, Public Health Services Manager
DATE: April 30, 2024
SUBJECT: Drinking Water Volatile Organic Method Field Reagent Blank

The State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP) would like to remind laboratories of the requirement for Field Reagent Blanks (FRB), also commonly referred to as Trip Blanks, for drinking water compliance. The FRBs are required by EPA method 524.2, 524.3, 524.4 and 502.2.

The definition of the FRB is an aliquot of reagent water or other blank matrix that is placed in a sample container in the laboratory and treated as a sample in all respects, including shipment to the sampling site, exposure to sampling site conditions, storage, preservation, and all analytical procedures. The purpose of the FRB is to determine if method analytes or other interferences are present in the field environment. Please refer to the analytical method for proper handling, analysis, and reporting of the FRB.

ELCP recommends that all CT drinking water laboratories be familiar with FRB requirements and have a standard operating procedure, which includes the specifications along with documented training for personnel.

Feel free to contact Dawn Shaban at Dawn.Shaban@ct.gov or Nicole Paradise at Nicole.Paradise@ct.gov with any questions.

C: Lisa Michelle Morrissey, MPH, Deputy Commissioner



Phone: (860) 509-7101 • Fax: (860) 509-7111
Telecommunications Relay Service 7-1-1
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
www.ct.gov/dph

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