



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

EHS Circular Letter #2011-18

Date: May 27, 2011

To: All Connecticut In-state Certified Laboratories

From: Dermot Jones, Environmental Laboratory Consultant

Re: Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs) analysis by EPA Methods 524.2 & 524.3

It has come to the attention of the ELCP office that some in-state laboratories testing drinking water for VOCs contamination may still be applying the analysis modification waiver for the EPA 524.2 method, which was granted several years ago by this office. Prior to the formal promulgation of EPA method 524.3 in May of 2009, the ELCP office granted a waiver allowing modifications to the purge and desorb analysis times for the drinking water EPA 524.2 method, in part due to the recognition of the advances in GC column and GC/MSD instrument technology. Specifically, the ELCP waiver allowed for a much reduced desorb time from the 4 minute time published in the 524.2 method. This letter will serve as formal notification that the ELCP waiver for the EPA 524.2 method has been rescinded.

Effective immediately laboratories analyzing drinking water samples for VOCs contamination must perform the approved EPA GC/MSD 524.2 and 524.3 VOCs methods as they are written. The 524.2 method requires a purge time of 11 minutes and a desorb time of 4 (\pm 1) minutes. The 524.3 method allows for modifications to these analysis times but it is necessary to purchase a cooling unit for the autosampler and there are required QC analyses to be performed that are not included in the previous method version. Also be aware that each of these methods has unique sample preservation techniques.

If you have any concerns with this notification please contact the program office at 860-509-7389 or my e-mail at dermot.jones@ct.gov.

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