

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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**EHS Circular letter #2015-05**

Date: January 28, 2015

To: Connecticut In-State Approved Environmental Laboratories

From: Dermot Jones, MS, MPH, CPH & Philip Schlossberg  
Environmental Laboratory Consultants/Certification Officers  
Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP)

Re: 2015 Proficiency Test (PT) Study Update – Vinyl Chloride & the 80% rule,  
Microbiologics

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In recent discussions with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1, it has been reaffirmed that vinyl chloride is not included as part of the Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) analytes that are graded based on the “80% rule”, which is applied to passing a drinking water VOCs PT study. The requirement for analysis of a separate PT for vinyl chloride in order to maintain certification for this analyte is specified at 40 CFR 141.24(f)(17)(ii). Therefore, the ELCP office will begin listing vinyl chloride separate from the VOCs analyte group listing in the drinking water matrix section of the Certified Analytes lists issued to approved laboratories.

Also, please be reminded that under the EPA Drinking Water certification requirements, laboratories must successfully analyze at least one set of PT samples every 12 months for each microbiological method for which it is certified. This means, for example, that if a laboratory is certified for both Colilert and Colisure, a set of PT samples would need to be analyzed for each. The same requirement applies to a laboratory certified for both Membrane Filter M-Endo and Membrane Filter MI Medium. Laboratories performing enumeration would also need to analyze a separate PT sample, which laboratories may select under the Source Water Matrix.

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



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