

Acceptance Limits for Proficiency Test Samples

Table 1. Acceptance Limits for Inorganic Contaminants

Contaminant	Acceptance limit
Antimony	$\pm 30\%$ at ≥ 0.006 mg/L
Arsenic	$\pm 30\%$ at ≥ 0.003 mg/L
Asbestos	2 standard deviations based on study statistics
Barium	$\pm 15\%$ at ≥ 0.15 mg/L
Beryllium	$\pm 15\%$ at ≥ 0.001 mg/L
Cadmium	$\pm 20\%$ at ≥ 0.002 mg/L
Chromium	$\pm 15\%$ at ≥ 0.01 mg/L
Cyanide	$\pm 25\%$ at ≥ 0.1 mg/L
Fluoride	$\pm 10\%$ at ≥ 1 to 10 mg/L
Mercury	$\pm 30\%$ at ≥ 0.0005 mg/L
Nickel	$\pm 15\%$ at ≥ 0.01 mg/L
Nitrate	$\pm 10\%$ at ≥ 0.4 mg/L
Nitrite	$\pm 15\%$ at ≥ 0.4 mg/L
Selenium	$\pm 20\%$ at ≥ 0.01 mg/L
Thallium	$\pm 30\%$ at ≥ 0.002 mg/L

Table 2. Acceptance Limits for Disinfection Byproducts

Contaminant	Acceptance limit	Comments
TTHM		
Chloroform-	$\pm 20\%$	Laboratory must meet all 4 individual THM acceptance limits in order to successfully pass a proficiency test for TTHM
Bromodichloromethane	$\pm 20\%$	
Dibromochloromethane-	$\pm 20\%$	
Bromoform	$\pm 20\%$	
HAA5		
Monochloroacetic Acid	$\pm 40\%$	Laboratory must meet the acceptance limits for 4 out of 5 of the HAA5 compounds in order to successfully pass a proficiency test for HAA5
Dichloroacetic Acid	$\pm 40\%$	
Trichloroacetic Acid	$\pm 40\%$	
Monobromoacetic Acid	$\pm 40\%$	
Dibromoacetic Acid	$\pm 40\%$	
Chlorite	$\pm 30\%$	
Bromate	$\pm 30\%$	

Table 3. Acceptance Limits for Lead and Copper

Contaminant	Acceptance limit
Lead	$\pm 30\%$ at ≥ 0.005 mg/L
Copper	$\pm 10\%$ at ≥ 0.050 mg/L

Table 4. Acceptance Limits for Organic Contaminants

Contaminant	Acceptance limit
DBCP	±40%
EDB	±40%
Alachlor	±45%
Atrazine	±45%
Benzo[a]pyrene	2 standard deviations
Carbofuran	±45%
Chlordane	±45%
Dalapon	2 standard deviations
Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate	2 standard deviations
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	2 standard deviations
Dinoseb	2 standard deviations
Diquat	2 standard deviations
Endothall	2 standard deviations
Endrin	±30%
Glyphosate	2 standard deviations
Heptachlor	±45%
Heptachlor epoxide	±45%
Hexachlorobenzene	2 standard deviations
Hexachloro-cyclopentadiene	2 standard deviations
Lindane	±45%
Methoxychlor	±45%
Oxamyl	2 standard deviations
PCBs (as Decachlorobiphenyl)	0-200%
Picloram	2 standard deviations
Simazine	2 standard deviations
Toxaphene	±45%
Aldicarb	2 standard deviations
Aldicarb-sulfoxide	2 standard deviations
Aldicarb-sulfone	2 standard deviations
Pentachlorophenol	±50%
2,3,7,8 TCDD (Dioxin)	2 standard deviations
2,4-D	±50%
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	±50%