UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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OFFICE OF
WATER

RE: ATP # N03-0005; N03-0010; N03-0038; N03-0039; N03-0040; N06-0027; N06-0028; N06-0029; N06-0030; N06-0031

Dear Ms. Egan:

We are pleased to inform you that we are returning your application for the use of Segmented Flow Analyzer (SFA), Flow Injection Analyzer (FIA) or self-filling reagent vials because use of this technology does not require our approval. Under recently adopted changes to EPA's Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act, approval for use of such technology and method is not required if certain requirements are met. Consequently, the Engineering and Analysis Division (EAD) will no longer review applications for approval of such uses under EPA's Alternate Test Procedures (ATP) Program. We recommend that you inform your customers of these recent developments. Previously, in a Memorandum (Flexibility to Modify CWA Methods - Automated Methods), dated April 2, 2007, Richard Reding, Chief, Engineering & Analytical Support Branch, EAD, OST stated that: "(1) The Methods Update Rule, published March 12, 2007 (72 FR 11200), added a provision that provides the regulated community with the flexibility to automate analysis by an approved Clean Water Act (CWA) method without further EPA action, and (2) The amended regulations at 40 CFR Part 136.6 (72 FR 11239-40) authorize an analyst to modify an approved test procedure in certain circumstances, provided that the chemistry of the method or the determinative technique is not changed."

In the past EAD has issued letters authorizing the use of modified methods that relied on the same underlying combination of chemistry and determinative technique when it determined that these modified methods were equivalent and acceptable alternatives to the unmodified CWA method. Now, however, under the new allowed modifications provisions of 40 CFR Part 136, laboratories that use a modification to a currently approved CWA method in compliance with the requirements of section 136.6 will no longer require an ATP determination letter. All methods modified pursuant to section 136.6 will have the same regulatory standing as those methods for which an ATP determination letter had been issued in the past. Thus, both a "lettered modified method" and a "non lettered modified method" are authorized test procedures under Part 136 so long as the non lettered method complies with the requirements of section 136.6.

We recommend that authorities allow the use of methods modified to include the use of SFA or FIA. We also recommend that permitting authorities allow the use of methods modified to include the use of self filling reagent vials (e.g.,Vacu-vials™ or Auto-Test™ Cuvettes) that contain the same reagents as those used in the approved methods provided that these methods meet the requirements of section 136.6. We recommend that authorities ensure that methods using these modifications produce results equivalent to those produced by an approved method have the following documentation:

Each SFA or FIA or self-filling reagent vials or Discrete Analyzer (DA) manufacturer should provide to their customers:

- a side-by-side method comparison demonstrating similarities to and differences from the approved method(s), and
- all data comparing the performance of the modified methods to the performance of the approved methods for all the requested procedures.

The laboratory should notify the regulatory authority and/or certification program in writing of the intent to use the SIA, FIA, DA technology or reagent filling vials method for reporting data. The laboratory need not conduct a side-by-side comparison, but before using the modified method the laboratory should demonstrate proficiency by:

- making a detailed SOP available,
- performing and documenting an initial demonstration of capability,
- checking the modified method on seven separate days on the plant effluent,
- using the same reagents, reactions and determinative step as the approved method,
- demonstrating proficiency by meeting the QC specifications of the method, In cases where the reference method does not provide quality control information, the targets listed in the December 1996 Streamlining Guide (http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/guide/flex.html) or the QC found in the ATP Protocol (http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/EPA821B98002.pdf) should be used.
- maintaining all manufacturer's method/data and the laboratory's documentation should be available for review.

We appreciate your interest in the development of environmental monitoring methods. If you have any questions regarding the ATP program please contact me at walker.lemuel@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Lemuel Walker
CWA ATP Coordinator
Engineering and Analysis Division (4303 T)
Engineering and Analytical Support Branch

cc:
Steve Wendelken, SDWA ATP Coordinator
Richard Reding, Chief, EASB

Attachments
April 2, 2007, Richard Reding Flexibility to Modify CWA Methods – Automated Methods memo.

List of ATPs returned without need for further EPA action

N03-0005 – Lachat QuickChem Method 10-107-06-1-I Determination of Ammonia (Phenolate) by Flow Injection Analysis as an alternate to EPA Method 350.1.

N03-0010 – Lachat QuickChem Method 10-301-31-1-A Determination of Total Hardness by Flow Injection Analysis as an alternate to EPA Method 130.1

N03-0038 - Lachat QuickChem Method 31-107-04-1-E Determination of Nitrate and/ or Nitrate in Brackish or Seawater by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry as an alternate to EPA Method 353.2

N03-0039 - Lachat QuickChem Method 10-210-00-1-X Determination of Phenolic Compounds by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry as an alternate to EPA Method 420.4

N03-0040 - Lachat QuickChem Method 10-115-01-1-C Determination of Total Phosphorus by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry (Block Digestor Method) as an alternate to EPA Method 365.4

N06-0027 - Lachat QuickChem Method 10-107-06-2-M Determination of Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry (Copper Catalyst/Block Digestor Method) as an alternate to EPA Method 351.2

N06-0028 - Lachat QuickChem Method 10-115-01-2-B Determination of Total Phosphorus in Kjeldahl Digests by Flow Injection Colorimetry as an alternate to EPA Method 365.4 (Copper Catalyst/Block Digestor Method)

N06-0029 - Lachat QuickChem Method 10-116-10-2-A Determination of Sulfate by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry as an alternate to EPA Method 375.2

N06-0030 - Lachat QuickChem Method 10-116-10-2-B Determination of Sulfate by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry as an alternate to EPA Method 375.2

N06-0031 Lachat QuickChem Method 10-116-10-2-C Determination of Sulfate by Flow Injection Analysis Colorimetry as an alternate to EPA Method 375.2