



# Technical Memo

## Regulatory Updates for 2018

Updated: December 29, 2017

### Upgrade of SW-846 Metals method

Effective January 2, 2018, IAL will be upgrading from SW-846 6020A to 6020B<sup>1</sup>

- What changes?
  - The differences between the methods are minimal and data users will see no changes in how results are calculated or reported.
  - Some QC data changes:
    - Addition of an LOQ (i.e. reporting limit) verification standard and mid-level initial calibration verification standard.
    - Selective elimination of the post spike standard based on sample concentrations.
  - The QC data changes will ultimately improve data quality by adding essential QC checks.

### 2017 Method Update Rule (MUR)<sup>2</sup> to 40 CFR 136<sup>3</sup>

Every 3-5 years, EPA updates 40 CFR 136. The latest MUR was issued August 28, 2017. Implementation from state accreditation bodies will not begin until 2018, with some being later than that.

- What changes?
  - The MDL procedure across the laboratory:
    - Though 40 CFR 136 is for the Clean Water Act, the MDL procedure found in Appendix B has been used as an industry standard for years.
    - The new MDL procedure:
      - Initial study (2018) is run over 3 days and includes analysis of blanks.
      - On-going studies (2019 and on) use data collection from throughout the year.
    - What difference will this make?
      - Increased variability may increase MDLs, but not much.
      - MDLs may not change from year to year if the values are close to each other, which helps with on-going data collection and writing QAPPs.
  - Future upgrades to EPA Methods 608, 624, and 625:
    - NJDEP has not yet opened the certification process for the upgraded methods 608.3, 624.1, and 625.1 for Pesticides/PCBs, Volatiles, and Base/Neutrals/Acids, respectively.
    - Once required by NJDEP, IAL will issue a supplemental Technical Memo regarding the changes in these methods.
    - In summary, the methods are very similar, if not identical in some places, to their SW-846 counterparts.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-12/documents/6020b.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rule-2017>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=2484903955ba58cccd2c0cb0bf03d4c9&mc=true&node=pt40.25.136&rqn=div5>

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