



Technical Memo

Preservation and Holding Time: Acrolein & Acrylonitrile in Aqueous Samples

Updated: June 19, 2013

As per the Federal Register (40 CFR, Part 136), the preservation and hold time rules for volatile compounds, Acrolein and Acrylonitrile (Ac-Ac), have changed. This change only applies to aqueous matrices.

- **Please determine if Ac-Ac are necessary for your sites.** Ac-Ac are part of the EPA Priority Pollutant (PP) list, but are not part of the EPA Target Compound List (TCL). Ac-Ac will most likely not be required for analysis of groundwater for Site Remediation programs. The pertinent points are:
 - If Ac-Ac are not required, then no further action is needed. Samples may be submitted as usual.
 - If Ac-Ac are required for your site, such as in a discharge permit, please follow the steps below.

The regulatory change applies to Ac-Ac for both EPA Methods 624 and 8260. The following changes are effective July 1:

- Hydrochloric acid (HCl; $\text{pH} \leq 2$) preserved vials are most commonly used for 624 or 8260 analysis to attain a 14 day holding time. However, preserved vials cannot be used for Ac-Ac analysis.
- **Ac-Ac must be analyzed from unpreserved vials. The holding time for unpreserved samples is 72 hours from time of sampling.**
- **If Ac-Ac are required site VOCs, IAL recommends submitting unpreserved samples using an accelerated TAT for the entire sample.**
 - Accelerated TAT will incur applicable rush surcharges.
 - The alternative is to submit one unpreserved sample for Ac-Ac and one preserved sample for the rest of the compounds. Since this would nearly double your analytical fees, IAL does not recommend this approach.
- Unpreserved samples should be brought to the lab immediately after sampling.

When Ac-Ac are required for your project, please inform your IAL Project Manager at the time of bottle order placement so the laboratory can provide the correct sample media.

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