United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Solid Waste and
Emergency Response
(OS-305)

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Office of Solid Waste

EPA

Environmental Fact Sheet

EPA Revises Quality Assurance Measures For The Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure

This rule amends the requirements for sample testing associated with the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP). By removing "spike recovery correction" from the list of required quality assurance measures, the TC testing methods will remain consistent with those outlined in EPA's manual on RCRA testing methodology.

Background

Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) creates a comprehensive program for the safe management of hazardous waste. Under this program, EPA has promulgated criteria for identifying and listing hazardous wastes, along with standards for the storage, treatment and disposal of those wastes. The guidance document, *Test Methods For Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods*, SW-846, was first published in 1980 to support the associated testing requirements.

On February 8, 1990, the Agency requested comment on proposed revisions to Chapter One of the RCRA methods manual. The revisions included specific mandatory quality assurance procedures for all testing conducted pursuant to Subtitle C of RCRA, and identified "spike recovery correction" (see box) as a Quality Assurance (QA) requirement.

On March 29, 1990, EPA revised the existing Toxicity Characteristic (TC) and replaced the Extraction Procedure (EP) Toxicity Characteristic Test, with the TCLP. On June 29, 1990, the Agency

> ***Spike Recovery Correction*** *is a procedure used to document the bias of a method in a given sample matrix. A known concentration of a target analyte is added to the sample prior to analysis. Then, during the analysis, the percentage of the target analyte detected is measured. If the analysis detects less than 100 percent of the target analyte, then the concentration of that analyte and other similar chemicals present in the sample can be adjusted by that percentage.*

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