

Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Science and Ecosystem Support Division
Athens, Georgia

OPERATING PROCEDURE

Title: **Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination**

Effective Date: December 20, 2011

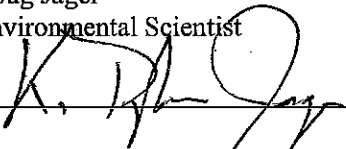
Number: SESDPROC-205-R2

Authors

Name: Donald Hunter
Title: Environmental Scientist, Regional Expert

Signature:  Date: 12/16/11

Name: Doug Jager
Title: Environmental Scientist

Signature:  Date: 12/16/11

Approvals


Name: Archie Lee
Title: Chief, Enforcement and Investigations Branch

Signature:  Date: 12/19/11

Name: Bill Cosgrove
Title: Chief, Ecological Assessment Branch

Signature:  Date: 12/19/11

Name: Bobby Lewis
Title: Field Quality Manager, Science and Ecosystem Support Division

Signature:  Date: 12/19/11

Revision History

This table shows changes to this controlled document over time. The most recent version is presented in the top row of the table. Previous versions of the document are maintained by the SESD Document Control Coordinator.

History	Effective Date
<p>SESDPROC-205-R2, <i>Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination</i>, replaces SESDPROC-205-R1.</p> <p>General: Corrected any typographical, grammatical and/or editorial errors.</p> <p>Title Page: Changed the Enforcement and Investigations Branch Chief from Antonio Quinones to Archie Lee. Changed the Field Quality Manager form Laura Ackerman to Bobby Lewis.</p> <p>Revision History: Changed Field Quality Manager to Document Control Coordinator.</p> <p>Section 1.2: Added the following statement: Mention of trade names or commercial products in this operating procedure does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.</p> <p>Section 1.3: Omitted reference to the H: drive. Changed the Field Quality Manager to the Document Control Coordinator.</p> <p>Section 1.4: In definitions (third bullet), replaced “soap” with “detergent.” Changed all references in document from “soap” to “detergent.”</p> <p>Section 1.5: Updated references.</p> <p>Section 2.1: On the 2nd paragraph, removed the last two sentences and replaced with new language. The new language clarifies that any deviations from the standard decon procedures that need to be made during the course of the field investigation will be documented in the field logbook.</p> <p>Section 3.5: Revised to clarify that it is only necessary to decontaminate the wetted portion of the sounder or tape.</p> <p>Section 3.6: Rewritten to reflect updated RediFlo2® internal cleaning procedures.</p> <p>Section 3.7: Added Section 3.7.5, <i>Field Decontamination Procedure for Direct Push Technology (DPT) Equipment</i>.</p>	<p>December 20, 2011</p>

<p>SESDPROC-205-R1, <i>Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination</i>, replaces SESDPROC-205-R0.</p> <p>General Corrected any typographical, grammatical and/or editorial errors.</p> <p>Title Page Changed title for Antonio Quinones from Environmental Investigations Branch to Enforcement and Investigations Branch. Changed Bill Cosgrove's title from Acting Chief to Chief.</p> <p>Section 1.3 Updated information to reflect that the procedure is located on the H: drive of the LAN. Clarified Field Quality Manager (FQM) responsibilities.</p> <p>Section 1.5 Alphabetized and revised the referencing style for consistency.</p> <p>Section 1.6.1 Corrected the title of the Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Program Procedures and Policy Manual.</p>	<p>November 1, 2007</p>
<p>SESDPROC-205-R0, <i>Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination</i>, Original Issue</p>	<p>February 05, 2007</p>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	General Information.....	5
1.1	Purpose.....	5
1.2	Scope/Application	5
1.3	Documentation/Verification.....	5
1.4	Definitions.....	5
1.5	References.....	6
1.6	General Precautions.....	6
1.6.1	<i>Safety</i>	6
1.6.2	<i>Procedural Precaution</i>	7
2	Introduction to Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination	8
2.1	General.....	8
2.2	Handling Practices and Containers for Cleaning Solutions	8
2.4	Sample Collection Equipment Contaminated with Concentrated Materials	9
2.5	Sample Collection Equipment Contaminated with Environmental Media..	9
2.6	Handling of Decontaminated Equipment	10
3	Field Equipment Decontamination Procedures	11
3.1	General.....	11
3.2	Specifications for Decontamination Pads	11
3.3	"Classical Parameter" Sampling Equipment	12
3.4	Sampling Equipment used for the Collection of Trace Organic and Inorganic Compounds	12
3.5	Well Sounders or Tapes	13
3.6	Redi-Flo2® Pump	13
3.6.1	<i>Purge Only (Pump and Wetted Portion of Tubing or Hose)</i>	13
3.6.2	<i>Purge And Sample</i>	13
3.6.3	<i>Redi-Flo2® Ball Check Valve</i>	14
3.7	Downhole Drilling Equipment.....	15
3.7.1	<i>Introduction</i>	15
3.7.2	<i>Preliminary Cleaning and Inspection</i>	15
3.7.3	<i>Drill Rig Field Cleaning Procedure</i>	16
3.7.4	<i>Field Decontamination Procedure for Drilling Equipment</i>	16
3.7.5	<i>Field Decontamination Procedure for Direct Push Technology (DPT) Equipment</i>	17

1 General Information

1.1 Purpose

This document describes general and specific procedures, methods and considerations to be used and observed when cleaning and decontaminating sampling equipment during the course of field investigations.

1.2 Scope/Application

The procedures contained in this document are to be followed when field cleaning sampling equipment, for both re-use in the field, as well as used equipment being returned to the Field Equipment Center (FEC). On the occasion that SESD field investigators determine that any of the procedures described in this section are either inappropriate, inadequate or impractical and that other procedures must be used to clean or decontaminate sampling equipment at a particular site, the variant procedure will be documented in the field logbook, along with a description of the circumstances requiring its use. Mention of trade names or commercial products in this operating procedure does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

1.3 Documentation/Verification

This procedure was prepared by persons deemed technically competent by SESD management, based on their knowledge, skills and abilities and have been tested in practice and reviewed in print by a subject matter expert. The official copy of this procedure resides on the SESD Local Area Network (LAN). The Document Control Coordinator (DCC) is responsible for ensuring the most recent version of the procedure is placed on LAN and for maintaining records of review conducted prior to its issuance.

1.4 Definitions

- Decontamination: The process of cleaning dirty sampling equipment to the degree to which it can be re-used, with appropriate QA/QC, in the field.
- Deionized water: Tap water that has been treated by passing through a standard deionizing resin column. At a minimum, the finished water should contain no detectable heavy metals or other inorganic compounds (i.e., at or above analytical detection limits) as defined by a standard inductively coupled Argon Plasma Spectrophotometer (ICP) (or equivalent) scan. Deionized water obtained by other methods is acceptable, as long as it meets the above analytical criteria. Organic-free water may be substituted for deionized water.

- Detergent: A standard brand of phosphate-free laboratory detergent, such as Luminox®.
- Drilling Equipment: All power equipment used to collect surface and sub-surface soil samples or install wells. For purposes of this procedure, direct push is also included in this definition.
- Field Cleaning: The process of cleaning dirty sampling equipment such that it can be returned to the FEC in a condition that will minimize the risk of transfer of contaminants from a site.
- Organic-free water: Tap water that has been treated with activated carbon and deionizing units. At a minimum, the finished water must meet the analytical criteria of deionized water and it should contain no detectable pesticides, herbicides, or extractable organic compounds, and no volatile organic compounds above minimum detectable levels as determined by the Region 4 laboratory for a given set of analyses. Organic-free water obtained by other methods is acceptable, as long as it meets the above analytical criteria.
- Tap water: Water from any potable water supply. Deionized water or organic-free water may be substituted for tap water.

1.5 References

SESD Operating Procedure for Management of Investigation Derived Waste, SESDPROC-202, Most Recent Version

SESD Operating Procedure for Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination at the FEC, SESDPROC-206, Most Recent Version

US EPA. Safety, Health and Environmental Management Program Procedures and Policy Manual. Region 4 SESD, Athens, GA, Most Recent Version

1.6 General Precautions

1.6.1 Safety

Proper safety precautions must be observed when field cleaning or decontaminating dirty sampling equipment. Refer to the SESD Safety, Health and Environmental Management Program (SHEMP) Procedures and Policy Manual and any pertinent site-specific Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) for guidelines on safety precautions. These guidelines, however, should only be used to complement the judgment of an experienced professional. Address chemicals that pose specific toxicity or safety concerns and follow any other relevant

requirements, as appropriate. At a minimum, the following precautions should be taken in the field during these cleaning operations:

- When conducting field cleaning or decontamination using laboratory detergent, safety glasses with splash shields or goggles, and latex gloves will be worn.
- No eating, smoking, drinking, chewing, or any hand to mouth contact should be permitted during cleaning operations.

1.6.2 Procedural Precaution

Prior to mobilization to a site, the expected types of contamination should be evaluated to determine if the field cleaning and decontamination activities will generate rinsates and other waste waters that might be considered RCRA hazardous waste or may require special handling.

2 Introduction to Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination

2.1 General

The procedures outlined in this document are intended for use by field investigators for cleaning and decontaminating sampling and other equipment in the field. These procedures should be followed in order that equipment is returned to the FEC in a condition that will minimize the risk of transfer of contaminants from a site.

Sampling and field equipment cleaned in accordance with these procedures must meet the minimum requirements for the Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) of the study or investigation. If deviations from these procedures need to be made during the course of the field investigation, they will be documented in the field logbook along with a description of the circumstances requiring the use of the variant procedure.

Cleaning procedures for use at the Field Equipment Center (FEC) are found in SESD Operating Procedure for Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination at the FEC (SESDPROC-206).

2.2 Handling Practices and Containers for Cleaning Solutions

Improperly handled cleaning solutions may easily become contaminated. Storage and application containers must be constructed of the proper materials to ensure their integrity. Following are acceptable materials used for containing the specified cleaning solutions:

- Detergent must be kept in clean plastic, metal, or glass containers until used. It should be poured directly from the container during use.
- Tap water may be kept in tanks, hand pressure sprayers, squeeze bottles, or applied directly from a hose.
- Deionized water must be stored in clean, glass or plastic containers that can be closed prior to use. It can be applied from plastic squeeze bottles.
- Organic-free water must be stored in clean glass or Teflon® containers prior to use. It may be applied using Teflon® squeeze bottles, or with the portable system.

2.3 Disposal of Cleaning Solutions

Procedures for the safe handling and disposition of investigation derived waste (IDW); including used wash water and rinse water are in SESD Operating Procedure for Management of Investigation Derived Waste (SESDPROC-202).

2.4 Sample Collection Equipment Contaminated with Concentrated Materials

Equipment used to collect samples of concentrated materials from investigation sites must be field cleaned before returning from the study. At a minimum, this should consist of washing with detergent and rinsing with tap water. When the above procedure cannot be followed, the following options are acceptable:

1. Leave with facility for proper disposal;
2. If possible, containerize, seal and secure the equipment and leave on-site for later disposal;
3. Containerize, bag or seal the equipment so that no odor is detected and return to the SESD.

It is the project leader's responsibility to evaluate the nature of the sampled material and determine the most appropriate cleaning procedures for the equipment used to sample that material.

2.5 Sample Collection Equipment Contaminated with Environmental Media

Equipment used to collect samples of environmental media from investigation sites should be field cleaned before returning from the study. Based on the condition of the sampling equipment, one or more of the following options must be used for field cleaning:

1. Wipe the equipment clean;
2. Water-rinse the equipment;
3. Wash the equipment in detergent and water followed by a tap water rinse.
4. For grossly contaminated equipment, the procedures set forth in Section 2.4 must be followed.

Under extenuating circumstances such as facility limitations, regulatory limitations, or during residential sampling investigations where field cleaning operations are not feasible, equipment can be containerized, bagged or sealed so that no odor is detected and returned to the FEC without being field cleaned. If possible, FEC personnel should be notified that equipment will be returned without being field cleaned. It is the project leader's responsibility to evaluate the nature of the sampled material and determine the most appropriate cleaning procedures for the equipment used to sample that material.

2.6 Handling of Decontaminated Equipment

After decontamination, equipment should be handled only by personnel wearing clean gloves to prevent re-contamination. In addition, the equipment should be moved away (preferably upwind) from the decontamination area to prevent re-contamination. If the equipment is not to be immediately re-used it should be covered with plastic sheeting or wrapped in aluminum foil to prevent re-contamination. The area where the equipment is kept prior to re-use must be free of contaminants.

3 Field Equipment Decontamination Procedures

3.1 General

Sufficient equipment should be transported to the field so that an entire study can be conducted without the need for decontamination. When equipment must be decontaminated in the field, the following procedures are to be utilized.

3.2 Specifications for Decontamination Pads

Decontamination pads constructed for field cleaning of sampling and drilling equipment should meet the following minimum specifications:

- The pad should be constructed in an area known or believed to be free of surface contamination.
- The pad should not leak.
- If possible, the pad should be constructed on a level, paved surface and should facilitate the removal of wastewater. This may be accomplished by either constructing the pad with one corner lower than the rest, or by creating a sump or pit in one corner or along one side. Any sump or pit should also be lined.
- Sawhorses or racks constructed to hold equipment while being cleaned should be high enough above ground to prevent equipment from being splashed.
- Water should be removed from the decontamination pad frequently.
- A temporary pad should be lined with a water impermeable material with no seams within the pad. This material should be either easily replaced (disposable) or repairable.

At the completion of site activities, the decontamination pad should be deactivated. The pit or sump should be backfilled with the appropriate material designated by the site project leader, but only after all waste/rinse water has been pumped into containers for disposal. See SESD Operating Procedure for Management of Investigation Derived Waste (SESDPROC-202) for proper handling and disposal of these materials. If the decontamination pad has leaked excessively, soil sampling may be required.

3.3 "Classical Parameter" Sampling Equipment

"Classical Parameters" are analyses such as oxygen demand, nutrients, certain inorganic compounds, sulfide, flow measurements, etc. For routine operations involving classical parameter analyses, water quality sampling equipment such as Kemmerers, buckets, dissolved oxygen dunkers, dredges, etc., may be cleaned with the sample water or tap water between sampling locations as appropriate.

Flow measuring equipment such as weirs, staff gages, velocity meters, and other stream gauging equipment may be cleaned with tap water between measuring locations, if necessary.

Note: The procedures described in Section 3.3 are not to be used for cleaning field equipment to be used for the collection of samples undergoing trace organic or inorganic constituent analyses.

3.4 Sampling Equipment used for the Collection of Trace Organic and Inorganic Compounds

For samples undergoing trace organic or inorganic constituent analyses, the following procedures are to be used for all sampling equipment or components of equipment that come in contact with the sample:

1. Clean with tap water and Luminox® detergent using a brush, if necessary, to remove particulate matter and surface films. Equipment may be steam cleaned (Luminox® detergent and high pressure hot water) as an alternative to brushing. Sampling equipment that is steam cleaned should be placed on racks or saw horses at least two feet above the floor of the decontamination pad. PVC or plastic items should not be steam cleaned.
2. Rinse thoroughly with tap water.
3. Rinse thoroughly with organic-free water and place on a clean foil-wrapped surface to air-dry.
4. All equipment must be wrapped with foil. If the equipment is to be stored overnight before it is wrapped in foil, it should be covered and secured with clean, unused plastic sheeting.

3.5 Well Sounders or Tapes

The following procedures are recommended for decontaminating well sounders (water level indicators) and tapes. Unless conditions warrant, it is only necessary to decontaminate the wetted portion of the sounder or tape.

1. Wash with detergent and tap water.
2. Rinse with tap water.
3. Rinse with deionized water.

3.6 Redi-Flo2® Pump

CAUTION – Do not wet the controller. Always disconnect power from the pump when handling the pump body.

The Redi-Flo2® pump and any associated connected hardware (e.g., check valve) should be decontaminated between each monitoring well. The following procedures are required, depending on whether the pump is used solely for purging or used for purging and sampling.

3.6.1 Purge Only (Pump and Wetted Portion of Tubing or Hose)

1. Disconnect power and wash exterior of pump and wetted portion of the power lead and tubing or hose with detergent and water solution.
2. Rinse with tap water.
3. Final rinse with deionized water.
4. Place pump and reel in a clean plastic bag and keep tubing or hose contained in clean plastic or galvanized tub between uses.

3.6.2 Purge And Sample

Grundfos Redi-Flo2® pumps are extensively decontaminated and tested at the FEC to prevent contamination from being transmitted between sites. The relevant sections of SESDPROC-206, *Field Equipment Cleaning and Decontamination at the FEC*, should be implemented in the field where a high risk of cross-contamination exists, such as where NAPL or high-concentration contaminants occur. In most cases, the abbreviated cleaning procedure described below will suffice.

1. Disconnect and discard the previously used sample tubing from the pump. Remove the check valve and tubing adapters and clean separately (See Section 3.6.3 for check valve). Wash the pump exterior with detergent and water.
2. Prepare and fill three containers with decontamination solutions, consisting of Container #1, a tap water/detergent washing solution; Container #2, a tap water rinsing solution; and Container #3, a deionized or organic-free water final rinsing solution. Choice of detergent and final rinsing solution for all steps in this procedure is dependent upon project objectives (analytes and compounds of interest). The containers should be large enough to hold the pump and one to two liters of solution.
3. Place the pump in Container #1. Turn the pump on and circulate the detergent and water solution through the pump and then turn the pump off.
4. Place the pump in Container #2. Turn the pump on and circulate the tap water through the pump and then turn the pump off.
5. Place the pump in Container #3. Turn the pump on and circulate deionized or organic-free water through the pump and then turn the pump off.
6. Disconnect power and remove pump from Container #3. Rinse exterior and interior of pump with fresh deionized or organic-free water.
7. Decontaminate the power lead by washing with detergent and water, followed by tap water and deionized water rinses. This step may be performed before washing the pump if desired.
8. Reassemble check valve and tubing adapters to pump. ALWAYS use Teflon® tape to prevent galling of threads. Firm hand-tightening of fittings or light wrench torque is generally adequate.
9. Place the pump and reel in a clean plastic bag.

3.6.3 Redi-Flo2® Ball Check Valve

1. Remove the ball check valve from the pump head. Check for wear and/or corrosion, and replace as needed. During decontamination check for free-flow in forward direction and blocking of flow in reverse direction.

2. Using a brush, scrub all components with detergent and tap water.
3. Rinse with deionized water.
4. Replace the ball check valve to the Redi-Flo2® pump head.

3.7 Downhole Drilling Equipment

These procedures are to be used for drilling activities involving the collection of soil samples for trace organic and inorganic constituent analyses and for the construction of monitoring wells to be used for the collection of groundwater samples for trace organic and inorganic constituent analyses.

3.7.1 Introduction

Cleaning and decontamination of all equipment should occur at a designated area (decontamination pad) on the site. The decontamination pad should meet the specifications of Section 3.2 of this procedure.

Tap water brought on the site for drilling and cleaning purposes should be contained in a pre-cleaned tank.

A steam cleaner and/or high pressure hot water washer capable of generating a pressure of at least 2500 PSI and producing hot water and/or steam (200° F plus), with a detergent compartment, should be obtained.

3.7.2 Preliminary Cleaning and Inspection

Drilling equipment should be clean of any contaminants that may have been transported from off-site to minimize the potential for cross-contamination. The drilling equipment should not serve as a source of contaminants. Associated drilling and decontamination equipment, well construction materials, and equipment handling procedures should meet these minimum specified criteria:

- All downhole augering, drilling, and sampling equipment should be sandblasted before use if painted, and/or there is a buildup of rust, hard or caked matter, etc., that cannot be removed by steam cleaning (detergent and high pressure hot water), or wire brushing. Sandblasting should be performed prior to arrival on site, or well away from the decontamination pad and areas to be sampled.
- Any portion of the drilling equipment that is over the borehole (kelly bar or mast, backhoe buckets, drilling platform, hoist or chain pulldowns, spindles, cathead, etc.) should be steam cleaned (detergent

and high pressure hot water) and wire brushed (as needed) to remove all rust, soil, and other material which may have come from other sites before being brought on site.

- Printing and/or writing on well casing, tremie tubing, etc., should be removed before use. Emery cloth or sand paper can be used to remove the printing and/or writing. Most well material suppliers can provide materials without the printing and/or writing if specified when ordered. Items that cannot be cleaned are not acceptable and should be discarded.
- Equipment associated with the drilling and sampling activities should be inspected to insure that all oils, greases, hydraulic fluids, etc., have been removed, and all seals and gaskets are intact with no fluid leaks.

3.7.3 Drill Rig Field Cleaning Procedure

Any portion of the drill rig, backhoe, etc., that is over the borehole (kelly bar or mast, backhoe buckets, drilling platform, hoist or chain pulldowns, spindles, cathead, etc.) should be steam cleaned (detergent and high pressure hot water) between boreholes.

3.7.4 Field Decontamination Procedure for Drilling Equipment

The following is the standard procedure for field cleaning augers, drill stems, rods, tools, and associated equipment. This procedure does not apply to well casings, well screens, or split-spoon samplers used to obtain samples for chemical analyses, which should be decontaminated as outlined in Section 3.4 of this procedure.

1. Wash with tap water and detergent, using a brush if necessary, to remove particulate matter and surface films. Steam cleaning (high pressure hot water with detergent) may be necessary to remove matter that is difficult to remove with the brush. Drilling equipment that is steam cleaned should be placed on racks or saw horses at least two feet above the floor of the decontamination pad. Hollow-stem augers, drill rods, etc., that are hollow or have holes that transmit water or drilling fluids, should be cleaned on the inside with vigorous brushing.
2. Rinse thoroughly with tap water.
3. Remove from the decontamination pad and cover with clean, unused plastic. If stored overnight, the plastic should be secured to ensure that it stays in place.

3.7.5 *Field Decontamination Procedure for Direct Push Technology (DPT) Equipment*

1. Certain specific procedures for the decontamination of DPT tools are described in the various sampling procedures, but the following general guidelines apply:
2. Prior to return to the Field Equipment Center, all threaded tool joints should be broken apart and the equipment cleaned per the provisions of *Section 2.5, Sample Collection Equipment Contaminated with Environmental Media* of this procedure.
3. Equipment that contacts the sample media and is cleaned in the field for reuse should be cleaned per the provisions of *Section 3.4, Sampling Equipment used for the Collection of Trace Organic and Inorganic Compounds* of this procedure. This would include piston sampler points and shoes, screen point sampler screens and sheaths, and the drive rods when used for groundwater sampling.
4. Equipment that does not directly contact the sample media and is cleaned in the field for reuse can generally be cleaned per the provisions of *Section 3.7.4, Field Decontamination Procedure for Drilling Equipment* of this procedure.