

National Contract for Ambient Air Lead Analysis

Question: Who is the Contractor?

Answer: The contractor is Eastern Research Group (ERG).

Question: What services are available?

Answer: ERG will provide analysis of Pb-TSP and Pb-PM10 filters according to FRM/FEM analysis specifications.

Pb-TSP analysis will be performed by Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS). ERG will conduct the analysis using the method specifications in FEM EQL-0510-191, or an equivalent EPA approved method. A copy of the FEM EQL-0510-191 SOP can be found at the following link –

- <http://www3.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/files/ambient/pb/EQL-0512-201.pdf>

Pb-PM10 analysis will be performed by X-ray Fluorescence (XRF). The analysis method complies with all specifications and procedures in 40 CFR part 50 Appendix Q for the analysis of Pb-PM₁₀ by XRF. A copy of 40 CFR part 50 Appendix Q can be found at the following link –

- <http://www3.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/files/ambient/pb/EQL-0512-202.pdf>

Question: What filter media are appropriate for Pb-TSP and Pb-PM10?

Answer: 8 by 10 inch Glass Fiber Filters are appropriate for Pb-TSP. 47mm Teflon Filters are appropriate for Pb-PM10.

Question: Who supplies the filters?

Answer: The State, local and Tribal Agencies are responsible for providing the filters and shipping the filters to ERG for analysis. Be sure to account for your lead filter needs when responding to the OAQPS/AAMG annual request for filter needs.

Question: Where should filters be sent?

Answer: Filters should be sent to the following address:

Eastern Research Group
601 Keystone Park Drive, Suite 700
Morrisville, NC 27560
Attn: Julie Swift

Question: Who reports the data to AQS?

Answer: The State, local or Tribal Agency is responsible for reporting the data to AQS.

Question: What is the turn-around time for analysis results?

Answer: ERG will provide an electronic report within 30 days of receipt of a sample. Electronic reports will be provided in a Microsoft Excel compatible format. A single report may contain the results for multiple samples. Information to be included is:

- Site and sample identifying information such as date, site ID, and sampler ID,
- The Pb content per filter in units of mg/filter reported to 3 or more significant figures,
- The method detection limit in units of mg/filter, and
- A description of any problems encountered or exceptions to the required analysis procedures identified in section III.

Question: Is there a provision for auditing the ERG Laboratory by EPA or a third party?

Answer: Yes. In accordance with the OAQPS Quality Management Plan, EPA (or an EPA designated third party) will initially perform both a management and a technical systems audit (TSA) of the ERG laboratory to ensure it is implementing its laboratory Quality Assurance Project Plan according to the EPA guidelines established in the Quality Assurance Handbook. A TSA will be conducted annually for the next 2 years and every 2 years thereafter. In addition, performance evaluation samples will also be required. Reports of QA/QC evaluations or assessments of the laboratory will be posted on AMTIC (<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/quality.html>).

Question: Who is responsible for the verification/validation/certification and follow-up of data of questionable quality?

Answer: The monitoring organization buying into the contract will be responsible for verifying and validating the samples they send into the Laboratory and certifying the AQS data on annual basis. Purchasing the Pb analytical services means that the monitoring organization is in agreement with the laboratories documented quality system and standard operating procedures. The monitoring organization will be responsible for follow-up with the laboratory on any data quality questions they have with their analyzed samples.

Question: When will this service be available?

Answer: The current national contract is available for 5 years - 9/21/2015-9/20/2020.

Question: How do State/local, Tribal Agencies access this contract?

Answer: S/L/T agencies should work through their Regional Grant Coordinator to request sample analysis services as associated program support needs. Be sure to specify the line item number and the number of samples required.

Question: How do the Regions access this contract?

Answer: If funds were identified as associated program support at the beginning of the fiscal year and OAQPS already has the funds in-house, the Regions should send an email to Laurie Trinca (trinca.laurie@epa.gov) requesting the number of samples required by the S/L/T agency.

If funds were not identified up front, the Region should send an email (as described above) and also work with their Regional Budget Staff to prepare a reprogramming request to have the funds sent to OAQPS.

Question: What are the sample costs?

Answer: Please contact your Regional Grant Coordinator for pricing information.