



Laboratory Testing Guidelines for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at Waste Sites

This document summarizes the recommended analytical approaches for analysis for PFAS in samples as part of investigations and characterization that will be submitted to NHDES' Waste Division programs. Please ensure the laboratory utilized can meet these recommendations prior to contracting with the laboratory. Please contact your NHDES Waste Management Division Hazardous Waste Remediation Bureau Project Manager with questions.

Note that the NHDES Water Division has different, separate recommendations for samples submitted to Water Division programs for their review, which are summarized in a [separate guidance document](#).

- **Analytical Methods:** There are several analytical methods available. Confirm that the method selected will meet the project data quality objectives, including considerations for the analyte list and reporting limits. Contact the NHDES site project manager with questions. NHDES' current recommendation is to use an isotope dilution method using LC/MS/MS that targets a broad suite of PFAS target analytes, and we encourage use of the draft USEPA CWA Method 1633 or a method following the protocols for PFAS by LC/MS/MS outlined in Table B-15 of the U.S. Department of Defense Quality Systems Manual 5.4 (or later version). NHDES will accept data for drinking water and groundwater samples analyzed by USEPA Method 533 or USEPA Method 537.1. At this time, NHDES will also accept data for samples analyzed using isotope dilution following methodologies modified from on USEPA Method 533 or USEPA Method 537.1.
- **Reporting Limits:** Analytical methods with reporting limits of at least 5 nanograms per liter should be utilized, or lower, as achievable by the analytical method.
- **Analytes:** Please utilize an analytical method that targets the longest list of PFAS as feasible to better inform the understanding of potential source(s), transport, and fate of PFAS impacts. The PFAS to be included in the requested analysis should include the PFAS reportable by the method used, or more.
- **Laboratory Accreditation:** Several laboratories are accredited for these approaches by the DOD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), and/or the New Hampshire Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NHELAP).

For additional information, see [USEPA PFAS Resources, Data and Tools](#) and the ITRC PFAS Technical and Regulatory Guidance Document [PFAS — Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#), which includes a [summary of methods and analyte lists](#).