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New VOC Soil Preservation Method Effective March 1, 2006

The CT DEP expects that all soil samples collected in, or for use in, Connecticut for VOCs on or after March 1, 2006, be collected and preserved in accordance with the "Guidance for Collecting & Preserving Soil and Sediment Samples for Laboratory Determinants of Volatile Organic Compounds."

When collecting soil sub-samples for VOCs, up to four types of samples may be required:

- A high concentration level sample
- A low concentration level sample (two samples needed)
- A SPLP/TCLP sample
- A sample for % solids determination

1. High Concentration Sample (2 Options):
 - A. Collect one 10 ± 1 g sample in pre-weighed vial containing 10ml methanol or;
 - B. Use En-Core Type sampler.
2. Low Concentration Sample (4 Options):
 - A. Collect two vials each of 5 ± 1 g into a pre-weighed 40ml vial with 5 ml of water and a magnetic stirrer;
 - B. Collect two vials each of 5 ± 1 g into a pre-weighed 40ml vial with a magnetic stirrer;
 - C. Collect two 5 g En-Core type samples;
 - D. Collect two vials each with 5 ± 1 g sample into a pre-weighed vial containing 5ml sodium bisulfate with a magnetic stirrer.
3. TCLP or SPLP VOCs:
 - A. Collect one 25 g En-Core sample.
4. % Solids:
 - A. A soil jar must be provided for % solids. (Any non-VOC soil jar also can be used).

High concentration Option B, and low concentration options A, B, and C require that samples be frozen or analyzed (or preserved if in an en-core sampler) within 48 hours of collection. TCLP/SPLP must also be frozen or analyzed within 48 hours of collection. **When using these options, if the sample collector does not freeze samples, CET must receive the samples within 30 hours of collection.** High concentration option A and low concentration option D do not require freezing.

This letter only highlights some of the requirements. The guidance document is available at www.epoc.org. Please review this document before March 1st. Sample collection techniques are also addressed, including the need for a balance in the field.

Please call us before your first sampling in March so that we can discuss all available options. You can also call us if you need part numbers to order balances and supplies.

Remember, CET is open on Saturday to accept samples collected on Friday.

Connecticut Laboratory Certification PH 0116
Massachusetts Laboratory Certification M-CT903
Rhode Island Laboratory Certification 199