

Lead Testing

Frequently Asked Laboratory Questions on Lead Testing

to Comply with PA 099-0922 (SB 0550):

- **Does the laboratory I use need to be certified?** Yes, in accordance with the new law (PA 099-0922). Samples must be submitted to an IEPA (NELAC) certified laboratory. You can find a list of certified labs at: <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/Assets/iepa/citizens/IL%20Certified%20Labs%20Analysis%20of%20Lead%20in%20Drinking%20Water%202-2-17.pdf>
- **What laboratory test method should be used?** The lab must use a US EPA approved method for the analysis of lead in drinking water listed in the table found at: <https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=P100PHGZ.txt> Specifically; US EPA Methods 200.5, 200.8 or 200.9, ASTM Method D3559-03, -08 D, Method 1001, or Standard Methods 3113 B.
- **What reporting level should be used?** The lab must use a minimum reporting level (MRL) of 2.0 parts per billion (PPB) or ug/L for lead analyzed in drinking water for schools and child care centers.
- **What significant figures are required?**–For data values less than ten (ug/L), two significant figures should be used for reporting element concentrations. For data values greater than or equal to ten, three significant figures should be used.
- **What type of container is required?** Plastic 250mL sample containers will be provided by the lab for sample collection. The container must be certified clean. The method does not require a sterile container. The lab must provide sample collection instructions. The volume of the sample container received (example: 250 mL) must be recorded on the final report.
- **What are the reporting requirements?** Section 35.5 requires that schools report test results to the IDPH and to parents and guardians of students. When any individual sample test result exceeds 5.0 ppb, schools are required to provide individual notification to parents and guardians. IDPH requires the final lab report to include **Time Last Used** for sampled plumbing system to verify the sampling complied with the mandated stagnation period of 8 to 18 hours.
- **Does an Action Level or Maximum Contaminant Level need to be on the final report?** No, labs should only report the results of the lead analysis and MRL. Do not include any deterministic statements indicating compliance or alert levels.
- **How many samples should be analyzed per sample location?** Two samples per location should be collected – 1st draw after water is standing in the plumbing for 8-18 hours and 2nd draw after a 30-second flush following the 1st draw sample collection. The sample ID should be clearly marked on the collection bottle.
- **How should the laboratory advise their customers about sample collection procedures, notification and reporting requirement to comply with this new law in Illinois?** Go to <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/lead-in-water> for links to Protocols for sampling drinking water in schools. For this testing only collect cold water.
- **What is the holding time for these lead samples?** The drinking water lead samples must be chemically preserved within 14 days with Nitric Acid, to lower the pH to less than 2. Preservation can be performed in the laboratory. Sample analysis cannot begin for 16 hours after preservation. The preserved samples must be analyzed within 6 months.