



EPA Method 1633 – PFAS Sampling Laboratory Selection Checklist

Questions Every Florida Utility Should Ask Before Selecting Laboratories for Method 1633

Verley Environmental: PFAS Sampling Laboratory Selection Checklist

Utility/Facility: _____

Project: _____

Considered Laboratory: _____

Laboratory Qualifications

- Is the laboratory accredited to perform EPA Method 1633 analyses?
 - Does the laboratory routinely analyze PFAS samples?
 - Does the laboratory have documented experience analyzing wastewater and biosolids?
 - Does the laboratory provide PFAS-specific sampling instructions?
 - Is the laboratory able to provide an estimated turnaround time which meets your needs?
 - Has the laboratory identified a technical contact for questions?
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Sample Collection

- Does the laboratory offer lab-sampling of PFAS?
 - Does the laboratory offer sampling kits for PFAS?
 - Does the laboratory provide sampling instructions if they can't sample for your utility?
 - Does the laboratory's Chain of Custody form contain all the info necessary for your utility?
 - Have required field blanks or equipment blanks been discussed?
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Preventing PFAS Cross-Contamination

Before collecting samples, confirm that sampling personnel understand contamination risks.

- Does the laboratory maintain an inventory of what equipment will be used for sampling, and whether materials known to contain PFAS are being used in the sampling, and what cleaning products which may contain PFAS will be used on the sampling equipment?
- Does the laboratory avoid waterproof notebooks, waterproof clothing, or stain-resistant materials when practical?
- Does the laboratory avoid cosmetics, lotions, sunscreen, insect repellent, and similar products that may contain PFAS when practical?
- Does the laboratory store sampling equipment away from food wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, and fast-food packaging which may contain PFAS?
- Does the laboratory use nitrile gloves or similar which are vetted to contain as little PFAS as possible?
- Does the laboratory use containers demonstrated to be PFAS-free or below the laboratory's MDLs for target analytes?

PLEASE NOTE – PTFE-LINED CAPS ARE EXPRESSELY PROHIBITED BY EPA FOR METHOD 1633. CHECK WITH YOUR LAB TO DETERMINE WHAT SAMPLE CAPS ARE USED PRIOR TO SAMPLING.

- Does the laboratory keep sample containers isolated and sealed until immediately before collection?

Analytical Method

- EPA Method 1633 has been confirmed.
- Laboratory reporting limits meet project requirements.
- Laboratory analyzes all required PFAS compounds.
- QA/QC procedures follow Method 1633 requirements.
- Laboratory provides electronic and PDF reports.

Quality Assurance / Quality Control

Request confirmation that the laboratory includes:

- Method Blank(s)
 - Laboratory Control Sample (LCS)
 - Matrix Spike (MS)
 - Matrix Spike Duplicate (MSD)
 - Laboratory Duplicate
 - Surrogate Recoveries
 - Internal Standards
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Reporting

- Laboratory reports concentrations for all analyzed PFAS compounds
 - Units are clearly identified
 - Detection limits are reported
 - Reporting limits are reported
 - Laboratory case narrative is included
 - Electronic deliverable format confirmed
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Questions to Ask Your Laboratory

- Do you routinely perform EPA Method 1633?
 - How many Method 1633 projects has your laboratory completed?
 - Do you subcontract any portion of the analysis?
 - What is your current turnaround time?
 - Can expedited analysis be requested?
 - What matrices do you routinely analyze?
 - Have you experienced common causes of rejected PFAS samples?
 - Do you provide sampling kits?
 - Do you provide technical support during sampling?
 - Are there any special shipping requirements?
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Utility Planning

- Sampling dates scheduled.
 - Laboratory capacity confirmed.
 - Budget approved.
 - Sampling personnel trained.
 - Internal chain of custody established.
 - Required reporting deadlines identified.
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Notes

Verley Environmental Best Practices

Before collecting PFAS samples:

- Review the laboratory's sampling instructions in full and have your QA/QC officer or sampling lead [cross reference with Method 1633](#).
- Coordinate sampling dates with laboratory capacity and regulatory deadlines.
- Aggressively minimize opportunities for cross-contamination.
- Do not sample while raining – rain can contain measurable quantities of PFAS.
- Retain copies of all chain-of-custody documentation and samples results indefinitely rather than 5-year standard retention times.
- Review analytical reports promptly upon receipt and discuss unexpected results with your laboratory before submitting them if clarification is needed.

Disclaimer:

This checklist is provided as an educational planning tool and does not replace applicable federal, state, laboratory, permit, or regulatory requirements. Utilities should follow all instructions provided by their selected laboratory unless in conflict with Method 1633 instructions and comply with current FDEP, EPA, and permit-specific sampling requirements.

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