

## ATTACHMENT H

### SAMPLE COLLECTION AND HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)  
GENERAL PERMIT FOR STORM WATER DISCHARGES  
ASSOCIATED WITH INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES  
(GENERAL PERMIT)

For more detailed guidance, Dischargers should refer to the US EPA's "Industrial Stormwater Monitoring and Sampling Guide," dated March 2009, available at: [http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/msgp\\_monitoring\\_guide.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/msgp_monitoring_guide.pdf) and the "NPDES Storm Water Sampling Guidance Document," dated July 1992, available at: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/owm0093.pdf>.

1. Identify the sampling parameters required to be tested and the number of storm water discharge points that will be sampled. Request the analytical testing laboratory to provide the appropriate number and type of sample containers, sample container labels, blank chain of custody forms, and sample preservation instructions.
2. Determine how samples will be transported to the laboratory. The testing laboratory should receive samples within 48 hours of the physical sampling (unless otherwise required by the laboratory). The Discharger may either deliver the samples to the laboratory, arrange for the laboratory to pick up the samples, or overnight ship the samples to the laboratory. All sample analysis shall be done in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136. Samples for pH have a holding time of 15 minutes.<sup>1</sup>
3. Qualified Combined Samples (QCS) shall be combined by the laboratory and not by the Discharger. Sample bottles must be appropriately labeled to instruct the laboratory on which samples to combine.
4. Unless the Discharger can provide flow weighted information, all combined samples shall be volume weighted.
5. Use only the sample containers provided by the laboratory to collect and store samples. Use of any other type of containers may contaminate samples.
6. To prevent contamination, do not touch inside of sample container or cap or put anything into the sample containers before collecting storm water samples.
7. Do not overfill sample containers. Overfilling can change the analytical results.

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<sup>1</sup> 40 C.F.R. section 136.3, Table II - Required Containers, Preservation Techniques, and Holding Times.

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8. Tightly screw on the cap of each sample container without stripping the threads of the cap.
9. Complete and attach a label for each sample container. The label shall identify the date and time of sample collection, the person taking the sample, and the sample collection location or discharge point. The label should also identify any sample containers that have been preserved.
10. Carefully pack sample containers into an ice chest or refrigerator to prevent breakage and maintain temperature during shipment. Remember to place frozen ice packs into shipping containers. Samples should be kept as close to 4 degrees Celsius (39 degrees Fahrenheit) as possible until arriving to the laboratory. Do not freeze samples.
11. Complete a Chain of Custody form for each set of samples. The Chain of Custody form shall include the Discharger's name, address, and phone number, identification of each sample container and sample collection point, person collecting the samples, the date and time each sample container was filled, and the analysis that is required for each sample container.
12. Upon shipping/delivering the sample containers, obtain both the signatures of the persons relinquishing and receiving the sample containers.
13. Dischargers shall designate and train personnel to collect, maintain, and ship samples in accordance with the sample protocols and laboratory practices.
14. Refer to Table 1 in the General Permit for test methods, detection limits, and reporting units.
15. All sampling and sample preservation shall be in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136 and the current edition of "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" (American Public Health Association). All monitoring instruments and equipment (including Discharger field instruments for measuring pH or specific conductance if identified as an additional sampling parameter) shall be calibrated and maintained in accordance with manufacturers' specifications to ensure accurate measurements. All laboratory analyses shall be conducted according to approved test procedures under 40 Code of Federal Regulations part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. All metals shall be reported as total metals. Dischargers may conduct their own field analysis of pH (or specific conductance if identified as an additional sampling parameter) if the Discharger has sufficient capability (qualified and trained employees, properly calibrated and maintained field instruments, etc.) to adequately perform the field analysis. With the exception of field analysis conducted by Dischargers for pH (or specific conductance if identified as an

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additional sampling parameter), all analyses shall be sent to and conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the California Department of Public Health. Dischargers are required to report to the Water Board any sampling data collected more frequently than required in this General Permit (Section XXI.J.2)

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