



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45268

Regional Drinking Water Certification Officers

01/03/2008

RE: Method 502.2 and 524.2 Modification

Per the terms of the Alternate Test Procedure (ATP) program, the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's Technical Support Center (OGWDW/TSC) has determined that since EPA Method 551.1 does not require the analysis of field blanks when positive results are observed for total trihalomethanes, versions of Methods 502.2 or 524.2 that do not require the analysis of field blanks when positive results are observed for total trihalomethanes are equivalent versions of these methods. Since total trihalomethanes would be expected to be present in nearly all disinfected drinking water samples, field blank analysis is not required when reporting positive results for total trihalomethanes using Methods 502.2 or 524.2. This exception to the analysis of field blanks only applies to the analysis of total trihalomethanes. Positive results for all other chemicals observed using Methods 502.2 or 524.2 must still be accompanied by the analysis of field blanks to confirm that the positive result was not the result of contamination during sample handling or shipment.

We appreciate your interest in the development of environmental monitoring methods. If you have any questions regarding the review of this alternate test procedure decision, please contact Steve Wendelken by e-mail at: wendelken.steve@epa.gov or by telephone at: 513-569-7491.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Wendelken".

Steven C. Wendelken, Ph.D.
ATP Coordinator
Technical Support Center (MS-140)
Office of Ground Water and
Drinking Water