

PFAS SAMPLE COLLECTION PROTOCOL FOR IMPORTED BOTTLED WATER SYSTEMS

Note: *Collect PFAS samples first before any other sampling parameter due to potential contamination from other types of sample bottles.*

The following sampling procedure shall be followed in conjunction with ensuring none of the prohibited items identified in Table 1 (page 2) are present during sample collection:

- 1.** The sampler shall wash their hands before sampling and wear new powderless nitrile gloves while filling and sealing each set of sample bottles.
- 2.** Turn on the tap (with the aerator removed) and flush until the water temperature stabilizes (approximately 5 minutes). Reduce flow to avoid splashing. Do not sample from a garden hose, analyzer tubing, or irrigation devices. Use only cold water for sampling.
- 3.** Fill sample bottles such that sample preservation reagent is not flushed out. It is acceptable for the sample bottle to have headspace.
- 4.** After collecting the sample, cap the bottle and agitate by hand until the preservative is dissolved.
- 5.** Label the bottle with the associated sampling location and indicate product and package size, sample location, and WSID on laboratory sample intake forms (i.e., chain of custody).
- 6.** Keep the sample sealed from the time of collection until delivered to the laboratory, and inside sealable polyethylene bags (provided by the laboratory).
- 7.** Chill samples during shipment; samples shall not exceed 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit) until received by the laboratory. Do not allow the samples to freeze.

In order to determine whether PFAS may have been introduced during sample collection and handling, a field reagent blank shall also be collected from each sampling site and at the same time of sampling. Empty bottles for preparation of field reagent blanks should not contain preservatives if the laboratory provided reagent water is already in a preserved container.

Trip blanks shall be prepared by the laboratory in advance and follow the sample bottles and same shipping containers as the samples and returned to the laboratory. Trip blanks must not be opened.

Field blanks shall be prepared as follows:

- a) Open the Field Reagent Blank at the location of the sampling site and pour the reagent water into the empty (unpreserved) sample bottle that came with the Field Reagent Blank.
- b) Seal the sample bottle.
- c) Label the sample bottle as the Field Reagent Blank for the associated sampling site and ship it back to the laboratory along with the sample for each sample location.

Table 1. (Captured and edited from ASDWA – PFAS Lab Testing Primer Version 2)

Category	Prohibited Items/Actions that could introduce PFAS Sample Contamination	Allowable Items
Pumps and Tubing	Teflon® and other fluoropolymer containing materials	High-density polyethylene (HDPE), stainless steel tubing, silicone tubing
Sample Container Storage	Containers should not come into contact with carpeting or upholstery inside buildings or vehicles	Containers should be stored in a sealable polyethylene bag (i.e., Ziploc bag) and transported in coolers
Stacked Glassware	Foil should not be used as a layer between stacked glassware	Plain Paper
Field Documentation	Waterproof/treated paper or field books, plastic clipboards, permanent markers, Post-It® and other adhesive paper products	Plain Paper, metal clipboard, ball-point pens
Clothing	Clothing or boots made of treated with Gore-Tex® or other synthetic water resistant and/or stain resistant materials like ScotchGuard® or Tyvek® material	Synthetic or cotton material, previously laundered clothing (preferably previously washed greater than six times) without the use of fabric softeners
Personal Care Products (for day of sample collection)	Cosmetics, moisturizers, hand cream and other related products	<p><u>Sunscreens:</u> Alba Organics Natural Yes to Cucumbers Aubrey Organics Jason Natural Sun Block Kiss My Face Baby-safe sunscreens ('free' or 'natural')</p> <p><u>Insect Repellents:</u> Jason Natural Quit Bugging Me Repel Lemon Eucalyptus Herbal Armor California Baby Natural bug spray Babyganics</p> <p><u>Sunscreen and Insect Repellents:</u> Avon Skin So Soft Bug Guard-SPF 30</p>
Food and Beverage	Pre-packaged food, fast food wrappers or containers	Do not eat or drink while collecting samples