Sample Acceptance Policy

Samples for which the laboratory is not suitably equipped and which pose a potential health and/or safety threat to laboratory staff (such as radioactive material, phosgene, vinyl chloride monomer, etc.) will not be accepted. These samples will be returned or, pending client instruction, forwarded to a different facility.

Samples requiring legal or evidentiary custody will not be accepted due to the required specialized handling, storage, and documentary procedures.

Samples received without a chain-of-custody or with an incomplete chain-of-custody will be retained but not accepted until the missing information has been obtained. Upon receipt of the completed chain-of-custody, samples will be accepted.

The laboratory will accept samples received outside of normal EPA sampling guidelines for hold time, preservation, and/or container type. However, samples will not be processed until the anomaly has been resolved via contact between the client and the project manager.

The laboratory will provide multiple containers for collection of specified Quality Control (QC) samples, strongly recommends their use, and cautions that failure to provide sufficient QC volume may jeopardize data validation in the event of regulatory review and/or litigation. In the event that insufficient sample volume is submitted, the laboratory will process samples as requested but will not assume liability for any missing and/or incomplete QC criteria resulting from insufficient sample volume. The laboratory will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the required QC samples are processed and analyzed.

Samples with composite requirements will be accepted and processed according to the guidelines documented in the laboratory’s procedures for container subsampling, HS-QS008.

Acceptance is defined as assuming custodial responsibility for sample submittals. Retained is defined as holding submittals in a secure facility without assuming custodial responsibility.

ALS reserves the right to refuse any samples.

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