DRAFT Data Qualifier Code Table

Qualifier Code	Type	Qualifier Statement	Additional Instructions[i]
Accreditation Status & Subcontracted Results			
	Accreditation Status	[Laboratory Name Here] does not hold accreditation from the PA-DEP for this field of accreditation.	
	Subcontracted Results	This test was subcontracted to [DEP Laboratory ID# here].	
Sample Acceptance[ii] (Holding Time, Collection, Preservation, Storage, Transport, Chain of Custody)			
	Preservation	Sample received without proper chemical preservation. Sample preservation required within 15 minutes of collection.	Include specific details.
	Preservation	Sample received chemically preserved. Valid sample analysis requires an unpreserved sample.	
	Preservation	Sample was received above required temperature, and was not received on ice (< 8 hours since collection).	
	Preservation	Sample was received above required temperature (> 8 hours since collection).	
	Collection	Sample contained residual chlorine. Sample was from a non-chlorinated source.	
	Preservation	Sample contained residual chlorine. Sample was not properly de-chlorinated.	
	Collection	Sample was not collected in the required container.	
	Holding Time	Sample was received after the expiration of the holding time.	
	Collection	Sample contains headspace, and valid sample collection requires no headspace.	
	Chain of Custody	Sample description on COC does not match sample received at the laboratory.	Include specific details.
	Collection	Sample collection time listed on COC is after sample receipt at the laboratory.	
	Collection	Collection information does not meet all sample acceptance criteria.	Include specific details.
	Transport	Sample was compromised during transit.	Include specific details.
	Storage	Refrigerator did not maintain the required temperature for sample storage prior to sample preparation and/or analysis.	
Physical Facilities (Incubators, Water Baths, Ovens)			
	Incubation Time	Sample was incubated **longer** than the acceptable time range. Results are estimated.	
	Incubation Time	Sample was incubated **shorter** than the acceptable time range. Results may be biased low.	
	Temperature Limits	Incubator temperature was outside the acceptable temperature range.	
	Temperature Limits	Water bath temperature was outside the acceptable temperature range.	
	Temperature Limits	Oven temperature was outside the acceptable temperature range.	
Analytical & Batch Quality Control (Calibration, Verification, Instrument Performance, Blanks, Laboratory Control Samples)			

DRAFT Data Qualifier Code Table

Qualifier Code	Type	Qualifier Statement	Additional Instructions[i]
	Mass Spectrometer Tuning	The MS tune check did not meet the acceptance criteria.	
	Instrument Performance	One of the instrument performance checks (%BD, PGF, tailing, sensitivity, resolution) did not meet the acceptance criteria.	
	Initial Calibration	Results obtained from an initial calibration that does not meet acceptance criteria. Results are estimated.	
	Initial Calibration Verification	ICV recovery was **above** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased high.	
	Initial Calibration Verification	ICV recovery was **below** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased low.	
	Blank	Target analyte was measured in the laboratory blank at or above the quantitation limit.	
	Blank	Target analyte found in trip/field blank.	
	Blank	The method-required trip/field blank was not submitted.	
	Laboratory Control Sample	The LCS recovery was **above** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased high.	
	Laboratory Control Sample	The LCS recovery was **below** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased low.	
	Continuing Calibration Verification	The CCV recovery was **above** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased high.	
	Continuing Calibration Verification	The CCV recovery was **below** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased low.	
Sample-Specific Quality Control (Holding Time, Matrix Spikes, Duplicates/Replicates, Check Standards, Surrogates, Internal Standards, Confirmation, DO Depletion)			
	Holding Time	Sample was prepared outside the required holding time. Results may be biased low.	
	Holding Time	Sample was analyzed outside the required holding time. Results may be biased low.	
	Replicate	Replicate sample analyses did not meet the method acceptance limits for reproducibility. Results are estimated.	
	Matrix Spike	The MS recovery was **above** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased high.	
	Matrix Spike	The MS recovery was **below** the acceptance limits. Results may be biased low.	
	Duplicate	The duplicate RPD was outside the acceptance limits. Results are estimated.	
	Surrogate	The associated surrogate recovery was **above** method acceptance limits. Results may be biased high.	
	Surrogate	The associated surrogate recovery was **below** method acceptance limits. Results may be biased low.	
	Internal Standards	The associated internal standard recovery was **above** method acceptance limits. Results are estimated.	

DRAFT Data Qualifier Code Table

Qualifier Code	Type	Qualifier Statement	Additional Instructions[i]
	Internal Standards	The associated internal standard recovery was **below** method acceptance limits. Results are estimated.	
	Confirmation	Confirmation analysis by another detector or chromatographic column was not performed.	
	MRL Check	The MRL check recovery was **greater than** 150% and samples were <5 times the MRL**.** Results may be biased high.	
	MRL Check	The MRL check recovery was **less than** 50% and samples were <5 times the MRL. Results may be biased low.	
	DO Depletion	The BOD analysis did not meet the minimum DO depletion of at least 2 mg/L.	Report results as "<" calculated value
	Residual DO	The BOD analysis did not meet the minimum residual DO of at least 1 mg/L.	Report results as ">" calculated value
Estimated Values (Quantitation Range, Detection Limits, Matrix Interference)			
	Detectable Results	The results are below the lower limit of quantitation but above the detection limit. Results are estimated.	
	Over Calibration	The result exceeds the upper limit of quantitation. Results are estimated.	
	Microbiology Estimates	Plate count was **above** the target range of positive organisms. Results are estimated.	Includes TNTC results.
	Microbiology Estimates	Plate count was **below** the target range of positive organisms. Results are estimated.	
	Matrix Interference	The sample matrix interfered with the analytical equipment or test result. Results are estimated.	Include specific details.

[i] Where the Department has indicated "Include Specific Details" in this table, add additional narrative to the data qualifier statement provided under the header "Qualifier" to more clearly describe the specific situation resulting in the need for this qualifier.

[ii] An acceptable sample for compliance testing includes verification of adherence to all sample collection, handling, preservation, and transport requirements of the method, regulation, standard, or permit. The laboratory must verify that all samples are acceptable for compliance. Verification includes, but may not be limited to:

- Sample container
- Holding time
- Proper sample preservation – both thermal and chemical preservation and verification that samples were not improperly preserved, such as addition of acid, base, or chlorine when these preservations are not required or would interfere with obtaining a valid analytical test result.
- Transport – including trip blanks or field blanks
- Sufficient sample size
- Appropriate sample identification linking the sample received in the laboratory to the documentation relating to sample collection (ex: accurate chain of custody)
- Sample storage conditions within the laboratory before analysis – including refrigeration or segregated storage away from potential contaminants