



October 15, 2004

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2005.01

Subject: Field Methods—Changes/Updates to the National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data

This is to alert users of the NFM (*National Field Manual for the Collection of Water-Quality Data*, <http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/>) to recent changes that have been made to the NFM and to Office of Water Quality Web pages, as well as other changes that are in process. Please communicate this information to users who might miss this or other notices. Also note that all past and current changes to the NFM, and changes that are in the staging area, are recorded on the NFM "Comments and Errata" page (<http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/mastererrata.html>).

- 1) **NEW!** Corrections have been made in NFM Chapter A7.1 (Fecal Indicator Bacteria) on pages 55-56, steps 3 d and 3 e.
- 2) **NEW!** Corrections that have been made in NFM Chapter A5 (FYI, this chapter is being revised in FY 2005, and your suggestions are welcome):
 - 5.1.1 (page 23), last sentence.
 - 5.1.1 (page 26), Technical Note (10-L churn changed to 8-L churn).
 - 5.4.2 (page 93), step 5 c.
- 3) **NEW!** The updated version of NFM Chapter A3 (version 2.0) is now accessible as a 508-compliant pdf file and can be accessed at http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/chapter3/Ch3_contents.html.
- 4) **NEW!** The latest version of the new protocol for turbidity determination is now available at http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/Chapter6/6.7_contents.html.
 - Included are links to (1) an Excel spreadsheet containing up-to-date turbidity parameter and method codes, (2) the new tech memo that explains the changes to units, parameter and method codes, and instrument selection and calibration, (3) an information sheet, appropriate as a handout, that provides a synopsis of the new turbidity units and protocols, and (4) information about accessing software that will facilitate moving data into new parameter codes (internal access only).
- 5) **NEW!** The PowerPoint presentation that was used for the cyber training on the new turbidity protocol (9/22 and 9/28, 2004) is posted on the OWQ internal web site under "Training" (<http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/training.html>).
- 6) In process:
 - Update NFM text that references the source(s) of field supplies and equipment (to reflect the closing of OWQRL/Ocala laboratory). The new source is the National Field Supply Service which is operated by the USGS National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL).
 - NFM Chapter A5, Section 5.6.4.B, "Low-level mercury." This section is undergoing minor modifications and is being finalized as a 508-compliant file.

- Updated zip file of all the NFM chapters. The zip file is meant to facilitate downloading and printing of the various NFM chapters. You will receive notification via a WaQI Note as soon as the zip file can be accessed.

7) In preparation during FY 2005:

- Revision of NFM Chapter A6, Section 6.2 "Dissolved Oxygen."
- Addition to NFM Chapter A6 of a new section on multi-parameter instruments.
- Revision of NFM Chapter A5 to update current information and incorporate new sections.

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*WaQI Notes are archived on the Office of Water Quality internal web site,
<http://water.usgs.gov/usgs/owq/WaQI/index.html>*