



August 6, 2008

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2008.13

Subject: Field Methods—Discontinue use of Whatman capsule filters for dissolved organic carbon (DOC)

Whatman Capsule filters (Polycap GW; One-Stop item number Q398FLD), beginning with lot number T873, are no longer to be used for filtering samples for analysis of dissolved organic carbon (DOC). Quality-assurance tests run by the Quality-Assurance Section at the National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) showed DOC levels between the long-term method detection level (LT-MDL) and the laboratory reporting level (LRL) after a 1-liter rinse. Levels of 18.2 and 21.1 mg/L of DOC were seen in the first 125 mL of the rinse water. Because DOC levels appear to be increasing in recent capsule filter lots, the decision has been made to discontinue the practice of using capsule filters for processing DOC samples.

In lieu of the Whatman capsule filters, the Pall Aquaprep disc filter (Q460FLD) or the 25-mm baked, glass-fiber filter (Q441FLD) can be used for processing DOC samples. The 25-mm filter must be used with the Teflon DOC-25 filter unit (Q444FLD) or a filter funnel and flask (see National Field Manual (NFM) Ch. 5.2.2.C for equipment information and instructions [<http://water.usgs.gov/owq/FieldManual/chapter5/pdf/chap5.pdf>]. This Note modifies this section of the NFM.

The National Field Supply Service (NFSS) will include the following note with all shipments of affected capsule filters:

Based on recent quality assurance data, capsule filters (Q398FLD) starting with Whatman lot T873, must not be used to filter carbon samples (DOC). Use disc filters (Q460FLD) or 25 mm baked glass fiber filters (Q441FLD) to process carbon samples.

Signed

The Office of Water Quality and the Quality Assurance Section of the NWQL

07/21/08

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