



August 18, 2009

Office of Water Quality Water-Quality Information Note 2009.11

Subject: Field Methods—Cobalt Detected in Pall Versapor® Capsule Filters, Lot #FQ8545

Routine quality-assurance testing of Lot# FQ8545 of Pall Versapor capsule filters¹ performed by the National Water-Quality Laboratory (NWQL) resulted in detections of cobalt concentrations that exceeded the laboratory reporting level (LRL). Cobalt detections were confirmed at 0.02 to 0.04 µg/L for sixteen of the twenty-four capsule filters tested. The laboratory reporting level (LRL) for cobalt is 0.02 µg/L. Detections of Co for the rest of the filters tested from this lot were confirmed at or below the LRL.

The reported concentration for cobalt on the Certificate of Analysis for Lot # FQ8545 Pall Versapor capsule filter will be “variable,” instead of a numerical reporting limit. **The Office of Water Quality recommends that, when using a Pall Versapor capsule filter from Lot # FQ8545, a laboratory analytical result for cobalt with detection between 0.02 to 0.04 µg/L be reported as < (less than) 0.05 µg/L. Results for cobalt analysis that are less than the LRL should be reported as <0.02 µg/L. The numerical value for cobalt concentrations greater than 0.05 µg/L continue to be reported as the analytical value.** The NWQL Certificate of Analysis for each lot of capsule filters tested by the laboratory can be accessed on the intranet at http://wwwnwql.cr.usgs.gov/USGS/QAS/NFSSQA/Filters/filters_home.html.

A special notice will be added to the header of the Certificate of Analysis for Lot # FQ8545 Pall Versapor capsule filter, to alert users to the cobalt problem. In addition, the note will remind users of the importance of following the rinse instructions outlined in WaQI Note 2009.10 for Versapor capsule filters; namely, the capsule filter must be rinsed with a total of no less than two liters of deionized water or inorganic blank water, as appropriate for the type of sample to be collected, before collecting the filtered sample for nutrient analysis.

If you have questions about this or related WaQI Notes, please contact sski@usgs.gov or fwilde@usgs.gov.

Signed,

The Office of Water Quality
08/18/2009

¹ Pall Versapor capsule filters are available through the One-Stop shop of the NWQL, item number Q398FLD—Pall Versapor® Capsule Filter, 0.45 micron.

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