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**PROTOCOL FOR EQUIPMENT VERIFICATION TESTING  
OF DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSOR REMOVAL  
BY PACKAGED AND/OR MODULAR DRINKING WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS  
FOR SMALL PUBLIC OR PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES**

Draft as of December 20, 1996

Prepared by:  
NSF International  
3475 Plymouth Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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19980224 017

## INTERNET DOCUMENT INFORMATION FORM

**A . Report Title:** Protocol for Equipment Verification Testing of Disinfection by-Product Precursor Removal by Packaged and/or Modular Drinking Water Treatment Systems for Small Public or Private Water Supplies

**B. DATE Report Downloaded From the Internet** 2/21 /98

**C. Report's Point of Contact: (Name, Organization, Address, Office Symbol, & Ph #):** U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**D. Currently Applicable Classification Level:** Unclassified

**E. Distribution Statement A:** Approved for Public Release

**F. The foregoing information was compiled and provided by:**  
**DTIC-OCA, Initials:** JM **Preparation Date:** 2/21/98

The foregoing information should exactly correspond to the Title, Report Number, and the Date on the accompanying report document. If there are mismatches, or other questions, contact the above OCA Representative for resolution.

1                   **PROTOCOL FOR EQUIPMENT VERIFICATION TESTING**  
2                   **OF DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCT PRECURSOR REMOVAL**  
3                   **BY PACKAGED AND/OR MODULAR**  
4                   **DRINKING WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS**

5  
6                   **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

7  
8                   This document is the study protocol to be used for verification testing of equipment designed to  
9                   achieve removal of precursors to disinfection by-products (DBPs). In order to participate in the  
10                  equipment verification process, the equipment Manufacturer must adhere to the requirements of this  
11                  study protocol in developing a Manufacturer Field Operations Document (FOD). The final  
12                  submission of the Manufacturer FOD shall:

- 13  
14                  •           include the information requested in this protocol;  
15                  •           conform to the format identified herein; and  
16                  •           conform to the specific NSF International (NSF) Equipment Verification Testing Plan or  
17                  Plans related to the statement or statements of capabilities that are to be verified.

18  
19                  The Manufacturer FOD may include more than one Testing Plan. Equipment testing might be  
20                  undertaken to verify performance of a packaged plant systems employing processes that may include  
21                  but are not limited to coagulation/clarification, oxidation or mixed oxidation processes, adsorption,  
22                  biological filtration or membrane filtration for removal of DBP precursors.

23  
24                  This protocol document is presented in two fonts. The non-italicized font provides background  
25                  information that the Manufacturer may find useful in preparation of the Manufacturer FOD. *The*  
26                  *italicized text indicates specific study protocol deliverables that are required of the Manufacturer*  
27                  *and that must be incorporated in the Manufacturer FOD.*

28  
29                  The following glossary terms are presented here for subsequent reference in this protocol:

- 30  
31                  •           Certification - the attestation that a piece of equipment and/or a device has met all  
32                  applicable requirements, e.g., standard performance criteria and policies, and continues to  
33                  meet all applicable requirements.  
34                  •           Distribution System - a system of conduits by which a primary water supply is conveyed to  
35                  consumers, typically by a network of pipelines.  
36                  •           Manufacturer - a business that assembles and/or sells package plant equipment and/or  
37                  modular systems. The role of the Manufacturer is to provide the package plant and/or  
38                  modular system and technical support during the Verification Testing Program. The  
39                  Manufacturer is also responsible for providing assistance to the third party testing

1 organization during operation and monitoring of the package plant or modular system in  
2 the Verification Testing Program.

- 3 • Manufacturer Field Operations Document (FOD) - a document of field testing operations  
4 and procedures. The document will be prepared by Manufacturer or by third party on  
5 behalf of Manufacturer and will include the specific details of the experimental approach in  
6 the section titled Field Operations Procedures.
- 7 • Modular System - A functional assembly of components for use in a drinking water  
8 treatment system or packaged plant, each part of which provides a limited form of  
9 treatment of the feed water(s). Treated waters may be discharged to another packaged  
10 plant module or to the distribution system if the modular system includes the final step of  
11 treatment.
- 12 • NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plan - a specific testing plan for each packaged plant  
13 technology application, such as systems employing coagulation/clarification, oxidation or  
14 mixed oxidation processes, adsorption, biological filtration or membrane filtration, and  
15 other processes for removal of DBP precursors. This plan will be developed by NSF for  
16 the Manufacturer to assist in development of the Manufacturer FOD for the Verification  
17 Testing Program.
- 18 • Plant Operator - the person working for a small water system who is responsible for  
19 operating packaged water treatment equipment to produce treated drinking water. This  
20 person may also collect samples, record data and attend to the daily operations of  
21 equipment throughout the testing periods.
- 22 • Packaged plant - a complete water treatment system including all components from  
23 connection to the feed water(s) through discharge to the distribution system.
- 24 • Study Protocol for Equipment Verification Testing - this document. Protocol will be used  
25 for reference during Manufacturer participation in Verification Testing Program.
- 26 • Testing Organization - an organization qualified to perform studies and testing of package  
27 or modular systems. The role of the testing organization is to ensure that there is skilled  
28 operation of a package plant during the intense periods of testing and that all of the tasks  
29 required by the Study Protocol for Equipment Verification Testing are performed  
30 properly. The Testing Organization is responsible for:
  - 31 ⇒ managing, evaluating, interpreting and reporting on the data produced by the  
32 verification testing and study;
  - 33 ⇒ providing logistical support, scheduling and coordinating the activities of all  
34 participants in the verification testing and study, i.e., establishing a communications  
35 network;
  - 36 ⇒ advising the Manufacturer on feed water quality and test site selection, such that  
37 the locations selected for the verification testing and study have feed water quality  
38 consistent with the objectives of the Study Protocol for Equipment Verification Testing.

- 1 • Verification - to establish the evidence on the range of performance of equipment and/or  
2 device under specific conditions following a predetermined study protocol.
- 3 • Water System - the water system that operates using packaged water treatment equipment  
4 to provide treated water to its customers.

## 5 6 **1.1 Background**

7  
8 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has partnered with NSF, a nonprofit testing and  
9 certification organization, to verify performance of small packaged drinking water systems that serve  
10 small communities. It is expected that both the domestic and international markets for such systems  
11 are substantial. EPA and NSF have formed an oversight stakeholders group composed of buyers,  
12 sellers, and state permittees, to assist in formulating consensus testing protocols. A goal of  
13 verification testing is to enhance and facilitate the acceptance of small packaged drinking water  
14 treatment equipment by state drinking water regulatory engineers and consulting engineers while  
15 reducing the need for testing of equipment at each location where the equipment use is contemplated.

16  
17 NSF will meet this goal by working with equipment Manufacturers and other agencies in planning  
18 and conducting Equipment Verification Testing Programs, evaluating data generated by such testing  
19 and managing and disseminating information. The Manufacturer is expected to secure the appropriate  
20 resources to support their part of the equipment verification process, including provision of  
21 equipment and technical support.

22  
23 The verification process established by EPA and NSF is intended to serve as a template for  
24 conducting water treatment verification tests that will generate high quality data for verification of  
25 equipment performance. The verification process is a model process that can help in moving small  
26 packaged and/or modular drinking water treatment equipment into routine use more quickly. The  
27 verification of an equipment's performance involves five sequential steps :

- 28 1. Development of a verification/Manufacturer FOD;
- 29 2. Execution of verification testing;
- 30 3. Data reduction, analysis, and reporting;
- 31 4. Performance and cost (labor, chemicals, energy) verification;
- 32 5. Report preparation and information transfer.

## 33 34 35 **1.2 Objectives**

36  
37 The specific objectives of the Equipment Verification Testing Program may be different for each  
38 Manufacturer, depending upon the statement of capabilities of the specific equipment to be tested.  
39 The objectives developed by each Manufacturer will be defined and described in detail in the  
40 Manufacturer FOD developed for each piece of equipment. The objectives of the Equipment

1 Verification Testing Program may include:

- 2
- 3 • Generation of field data appropriate for verifying the performance of the equipment;
- 4 • Generation of field data in support of meeting current or anticipated water quality
- 5 regulations;
- 6 • Evaluation of new advances in equipment and equipment design.
- 7

8 An important aspect in the development of verification testing is to describe the procedures that will  
9 be used to verify the statement of performance capabilities made for water treatment equipment. A  
10 verification testing plan document shall incorporate the QA/QC elements needed to provide data of  
11 appropriate quality sufficient to reach a defensible position regarding the equipment performance.  
12 Verification testing conducted at a single site may not represent every environmental situation which  
13 may be acceptable for the equipment tested, but it will provide data of sufficient quality to make a  
14 judgment about the application of the equipment under conditions similar to those encountered in the  
15 verification testing.

16  
17 It is important to note that verification of the equipment does not mean that the equipment is  
18 "certified" by NSF or EPA. Rather, it recognizes that the performance of the equipment has been  
19 determined and verified by these organizations.

### 20 21 22 **1.3 Scope**

23  
24 This protocol outlines the verification process for equipment designed to achieve removal of  
25 precursors to DBPs. The scope of this protocol includes testing plans for packaged and/or modular  
26 drinking water treatment systems designed to achieve removal of DBP precursors. This protocol is  
27 not an NSF or third-party consensus standard and it does not endorse the packaged plants or  
28 technologies described herein.

29  
30 An overview of the equipment verification process and the elements of the Manufacturer FOD to be  
31 developed by the Manufacturer are described in this protocol document. Specifically, the  
32 Manufacturer FOD shall define the following elements of the verification testing:

- 33
- 34 • Roles and responsibilities of verification testing participants;
- 35 • Procedures governing verification testing activities such as equipment operation and
- 36 process monitoring; sample collection, preservation, and analysis; and data collection and
- 37 interpretation;
- 38 • Experimental design of the Field Operations Procedures;
- 39 • Quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) procedures for conducting the

1 verification testing and for assessing the quality of the data generated from the verification  
2 testing; and,

- 3 • Health and safety measures relating to biohazard, electrical, mechanical and other safety  
4 codes.

5  
6 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document:**

7  
8 *The structure of the Manufacturer FOD must conform to the outline below: The required*  
9 *components of the Document will be described in greater detail in the sections below.*

- 10  
11 • *TITLE PAGE*
- 12 • *FOREWORD*
- 13 • *TABLE OF CONTENTS - The Table of Contents for the Manufacturer FOD should*  
14 *include the headings provided in this document although they may be modified as*  
15 *appropriate for a particular type of equipment to be tested.*
- 16 • *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - The Executive Summary describes the contents of the*  
17 *Manufacturer FOD (not to exceed two pages). A general description of the equipment*  
18 *and the statement of performance capabilities which will be verified during testing shall*  
19 *be included, as well as the testing locations, a schedule, and a list of participants.*
- 20 • *ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS - A list of the abbreviations and acronyms used in*  
21 *the Manufacturer Field Operations Document should be provided.*
- 22 • *EQUIPMENT VERIFICATION TESTING RESPONSIBILITIES (described in the sections*  
23 *below)*
- 24 • *EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES AND DESCRIPTION (described in the sections below)*
- 25 • *EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN (described in the sections below)*
- 26 • *FIELD OPERATIONS PROCEDURES (described in the section below)*
- 27 • *QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING PLAN (described in the section below)*
- 28 • *DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS (described in the section below)*
- 29 • *SAFETY PLAN (described in the section below)*

30  
31 **Manufacturer Responsibilities:**

32  
33 *Preparation of a Manufacturer Field Operations Document that includes the information requested*  
34 *and conforms to the requirements stipulated in this protocol document, and the applicable NS*  
35 *Equipment Verification Testing Plan or Plans.*

## 2.0 EQUIPMENT VERIFICATION TESTING RESPONSIBILITIES

### 2.1 Verification Testing Organization and Participants

This Verification Testing Program is being conducted by NSF International with participation of manufacturers, under the sponsorship of the EPA Office of Research and Development, National Risk Management Research Laboratory, Water Supply and Water Resources Division (WSWRD) - Cincinnati, Ohio. The WSWRD and NSF jointly are administering the Equipment Verification Testing Program. The NSF's role is to provide technical and administrative leadership and support in conducting the testing.

The specific responsibilities of each participant are discussed in Section 2.4. The required content of the Manufacturer FOD and the Manufacturer Responsibilities are listed at the end of each section. In the development of a Manufacturer FOD, Manufacturers shall provide a table including the name, affiliation, and mailing address of each participant, a point of contact, description of participant's role, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address.

### 2.2 Verification Testing Agreement

After equipment has been accepted by NSF into the Environmental Technology Verification Program, a letter agreement will be signed between the Manufacturer and the NSF. The purpose of the agreement is to specify a framework of responsibilities for conducting the Equipment Verification Testing Program.

It is important to note that the entire Manufacturer FOD, including a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), must be approved by the Manufacturer and the NSF before the verification testing can proceed.

### 2.3 Organization

The organizational structure for the verification testing showing lines of communication shall be provided by the Manufacturer.

### 2.4 Verification Testing Site Name and Location

This section discusses background information on the verification testing site(s), with emphasis on the quality of the feed water, which in some cases may be the source water at the site. The Manufacturer FOD must provide the site names and locations at which the equipment will be tested. In most cases, the equipment will be demonstrated at more than one site. In all cases the equipment should be tested under different conditions of feed water quality (or source water quality) and a range of seasonal climate and weather conditions.

## 2.5 Site Characteristics

The Manufacturer FOD must include a description of the test site. This shall include a description of where the equipment will be located. If the feed water to the packaged plant equipment is the source water for an existing water treatment plant, describe the raw water intake, the opportunity to obtain raw water without the addition of any chemicals, and the operational pattern of raw water pumping at the full-scale facility (is it continuous or intermittent?). The source water characteristics shall be described and documented. The Manufacturer FOD shall also describe facilities to be used for handling the treated water and wastes (i.e., residuals) produced during the Verification Testing Program. Can the required water flows and waste flows produced be dealt with in an acceptable way? Are water pollution discharge permits needed?

## 2.6 Responsibilities

This section identifies the organizations involved in the testing and describes the primary responsibilities of each organization. The responsibilities of the Manufacturer will vary depending on the type of verification testing. Multiple Manufacturer testing for removal of DBP precursors may be conducted concurrently, and be fully in compliance with the NSF Equipment Verification Testing Program.

NSF and the equipment testing organization shall be responsible for:

- Providing needed logistical support, establishing a communication network, and scheduling and coordinating the activities of all verification testing participants;
- Advising the Manufacturer on feed water quality and test site selection, such that the locations selected as test sites have feed water quality consistent with the objectives of the verification testing (Manufacturer may recommend a verification testing site(s));
- Managing, evaluating, interpreting, and reporting on data generated by the verification testing;
- Evaluating and reporting on the performance of the DBP precursor removal technologies.

The Manufacturer shall be responsible for provision of the equipment to be evaluated. See additional Manufacturer responsibilities listed below.

### **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Equipment Verification Testing Responsibilities:**

*The Manufacturer, in consultation with NSF as the technical lead shall be responsible for including*

1 *the following elements in the Manufacturer Field Operations Document:*

- 2
- 3 • *Definition of the roles and responsibilities of appropriate verification testing participants*
- 4 • *A table which includes the name, affiliation, and mailing address of each participant, a*
- 5 *point of contact, description of participant's role, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail*
- 6 *address.*
- 7 • *Organization of operational and analytical support*
- 8 • *List of the site name(s) and location(s).*
- 9 • *Description of the test site(s), the site characteristics and identification of where the*
- 10 *equipment will be located.*

11

12 **Manufacturer Responsibilities:**

- 13
- 14 • *Provision of complete, field-ready equipment for verification testing;*
- 15 • *Provision of logistical, and technical support, as required.*
- 16 • *Provision of technical assistance to the qualified testing organization during operation*
- 17 *and monitoring of the equipment undergoing verification testing.*

18

19

20 **3.0 EQUIPMENT CAPABILITIES AND DESCRIPTION**

21

22 **3.1 Equipment Capabilities**

23

24 The Manufacturer shall identify the water quality objectives to be achieved in the statement of

25 performance capabilities of the equipment to be evaluated in the verification testing. Statements

26 should also be made regarding the applications of the equipment, the known limitations of the

27 equipment and what advantages it provides over existing equipment. The statement of

28 performance capabilities must be specific and verifiable by a statistical analysis of the data. Two

29 examples of satisfactory statements of performance capabilities are provided below:

- 30
- 31 1. "This packaged plant is capable of achieving 40% removal of dissolved organic carbon
  - 32 (DOC) in feed waters with total organic carbon concentrations between 2.0 and 4.0 mg/L and
  - 33 with feed water alkalinities less than 60 mg/L as CaCO<sub>3</sub>."
  - 34 2. "This packaged plant is capable of achieving 40% removal of precursors to trichloroacetic
  - 35 acid (TCA) in feed waters. Removal of TCA precursors will be quantified by comparison of SDS

1 testing results generated for feed and finished water samples. The following equation shall be  
 2 used to determine percent removal of all DBP precursors:"

3

$$4 \quad \% \text{ Removal Precursor Material} = 100 \frac{\text{Feedwater DBP Concentration} - \text{Finished water DBP Concentration}}{\text{Feedwater DBP Concentration}}$$

5 A statement of performance capabilities such as: "This packaged plant will achieve removal of  
 6 DOC in accordance with the Enhanced Coagulation requirement of the Disinfectants/Disinfection  
 7 By-Product Rule (D/DBP Rule) on a consistent and dependable basis," would not be acceptable.

8

9 The Manufacturer shall be responsible for identification of which DBP precursors shall be  
 10 monitored for removal under the statement of performance capabilities. The statement of  
 11 performance capabilities prepared by the Manufacturer shall also indicate the range of water  
 12 quality under which the equipment can be challenged while successfully treating the feed water.  
 13 Statements of performance capabilities that are too easily met may not be of interest to the  
 14 potential user, while performance capabilities that are overstated may not be achievable. The  
 15 statement of performance capabilities forms the basis of the entire Equipment Verification Testing  
 16 Program and must be chosen appropriately. Therefore, the design of the Manufacturer FOD  
 17 should include a sufficient range of feed water quality to permit verification of the statement of  
 18 performance capabilities.

19

20 It should be noted that many of the packaged and/or modular drinking water treatment systems  
 21 participating in the DBP Precursor Removal Verification Testing Program will be capable of  
 22 achieving multiple water treatment objectives. Although this DBP Precursor Protocol and the  
 23 associated Verification Testing Plans are oriented towards removal of DBP precursors, the  
 24 Manufacturer may want to look at the treatment system's removal capabilities for additional water  
 25 quality parameters.

26

27 **3.2 Equipment Description**

28

29 Description of the equipment for the Verification Testing Program shall be provided by the  
 30 Manufacturer. Data plates shall be permanent and securely attached to each production unit. The  
 31 data plate shall be easy to read in English or the language of the intended user, located on the  
 32 equipment where it is readily accessible, and contain at least the following information:

- 33 a. Equipment Name
- 34 b. Model #

- 1 c. Manufacturer's name and address
- 2 d. Electrical requirements - volts, amps, and Hertz
- 3 e. Serial Number
- 4 f. Warning and Caution statements in legible and easily discernible print size
- 5 g. Capacity or output rate (if applicable)

6

7 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Equipment Capabilities**  
8 **and Description:**

9

10 *The Manufacturer shall be responsible for including the following elements in the Manufacturer*  
11 *Field Operations Document:*

- 12
- 13 • *Description of the equipment to be demonstrated;*
- 14 • *Brief introduction and discussion of the engineering and scientific concepts on which the*  
15 *DBP precursor removal capabilities of the water treatment equipment are based;*
- 16 • *Description of the packaged treatment plant and each process included as a component*  
17 *in the modular system;*
- 18 • *Brief description of the physical construction/components of the equipment. Include*  
19 *general environmental requirements and limitations, required consumables; weight,*  
20 *transportability, ruggedness, power and other needed, etc.*
- 21 • *Statement of typical rates of consumption of chemicals, a description of the physical and*  
22 *chemical nature of wastes, and rates of waste (concentrates, residues, etc.);*
- 23 • *Definition of the performance range of the equipment;*
- 24 • *Identification of any special licensing requirements associated with the operation of the*  
25 *equipment;*
- 26 • *Description of the applications of the equipment and the removal capabilities of the*  
27 *treatment system relative to existing equipment. Comparisons shall be provided in such*  
28 *areas as: treatment capabilities, requirements for chemicals and materials, power, labor*  
29 *requirements, suitability for process monitoring and operation from remote locations,*  
30 *ability to be managed by part-time operators;*
- 31 • *Discussion of the known limitations of the equipment. The following operational details*  
32 *shall be included: the range of feed water quality suitable for treatment with the*  
33 *equipment, the upper limits for concentrations of regulated contaminants that can be*  
34 *removed to concentrations below the MCL, level of operator skill required to successfully*

1           *use the equipment.*

## 2 3 4   **4.0    EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN**

5  
6   This section discusses the objectives of the verification testing, factors that must be considered to  
7   meet the performance objectives, and the statistical analysis and other means that the NSF will use  
8   to evaluate the results of the verification testing.

### 9 10   **4.1    Objectives**

11  
12   The objectives of this verification testing are to evaluate equipment in the following areas: 1)  
13   performance relative to the Manufacturer's stated range of equipment capabilities; 2) performance  
14   relative to the DBP precursor removal requirements of enhanced coagulation as part of the proposed  
15   D/DBP Rule and any other specific or anticipated water quality regulation (i.e., Enhanced Surface  
16   Water Treatment Rule); 3) the impacts of variations in feed water quality (such as TOC, DOC,  
17   temperature, turbidity, particle concentration, microbial concentration, pH, alkalinity, etc.) on  
18   equipment performance; 4) the logistical, human, and economic resources necessary to operate the  
19   equipment; and 5) the reliability, ruggedness, cost, range of usefulness, and ease of operation.

20  
21   The Manufacturer shall be responsible for selection of those treatment challenges listed in NSF test  
22   plans that are most appropriate for their equipment. For example, if equipment is only intended for  
23   removal of DBP precursors, there would be no need to conduct testing to evaluate the removal of  
24   hardness ions or metal ion species. However, it should be noted that many of the packaged and/or  
25   modular drinking water treatment systems participating in the DBP Precursor Removal Verification  
26   Testing Program will be capable of achieving multiple water treatment objectives. Although this  
27   protocol for DBP precursor removal and the associated Verification Testing Plans are oriented  
28   towards removal of DBP precursors, the Manufacturer may want to look at the treatment system's  
29   removal capabilities for additional water quality parameters.

### 30 31   **4.2    Equipment Characteristics**

32  
33   This section discusses factors that will be considered in the design and implementation of the  
34   Equipment Verification Testing Program. These factors include ease of operation, degree of operator  
35   attention required, response of equipment and treatment process to changes in feed water quality,  
36   electrical requirements, system reliability features including redundancy of components, feed flow  
37   requirements, discharge requirements, spatial requirements of the equipment (footprint), unit  
38   processes included in treatment train and chemicals needed.

39  
40   Verification testing procedures shall simulate routine conditions as much as possible and in most cases  
41   testing may be done in the field. Under such circumstances, simulation of field conditions would not

1 be necessary.  
2

#### 3 **4.2.1 Qualitative Factors** 4

5 Some factors, while important, are difficult or impossible to quantify. These are considered  
6 qualitative factors. Important factors that cannot easily be quantified are the modular nature of the  
7 equipment, the safety of the equipment, the portability of equipment, and the logistical requirements  
8 necessary for using it.  
9

10 Typical qualitative factors to be discussed are listed below, and others may be added. The  
11 Manufacturer FOD shall discuss those factors that are appropriate to the test equipment.  
12

- 13 • Reliability or susceptibility to environmental conditions
- 14 • Equipment safety
- 15 • Effect of operator experience on results.

#### 16 **4.2.2 Quantitative Factors** 17

18  
19 Many factors of the equipment characteristics can be quantified by various means in this Verification  
20 Testing Program. Some can be measured while others cannot be controlled. Typical quantitative  
21 factors to be discussed are listed below, and others may be added. The Manufacturer FOD shall  
22 discuss those factors that are appropriate to the test equipment.  
23

- 24 • Power and consumable supply (such as chemical and materials) requirements
- 25 • Cost of operation, expendables, and waste disposal
- 26 • Hydrodynamics of packaged plant system
- 27 • Length of operating cycle.

28  
29 These quantitative factors will be used as an initial benchmark to assess equipment performance.  
30

### 31 **4.3 Water Quality Considerations** 32

33 The primary treatment goal of the equipment employed in this Verification Testing Program is to  
34 achieve removal of DBP precursors found in feed waters (or raw waters) such that product waters  
35 are of acceptable water quality (with limited presence of allogenic contaminants). The driving force  
36 for the goal of precursor removal is to achieve compliance with the proposed  
37 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Product (D/DBP) Rule and the proposed Groundwater Disinfection Rule  
38 under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The experimental design in the Manufacturer FODs shall be

1 developed so the relevant questions about water treatment equipment capabilities can be answered.

2  
3 Manufacturers should carefully consider the capabilities and limitations of their equipment and  
4 prepare Manufacturer FODs that sufficiently challenge their equipment. The Manufacturer should  
5 adopt an experimental approach to verification testing that would provide a broad market for their  
6 products, while recognizing the limitations of the equipment, and not conducting precursor removal  
7 testing that would be beyond the capabilities of the equipment. A wide range of contaminants or  
8 water quality problems that can be addressed by water treatment equipment varies, and some  
9 packaged treatment equipment can address a broader range of problems than other types.  
10 Manufacturers shall use NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plans as the basis for the specific  
11 Manufacturer FODs.

#### 12 13 **4.3.1 Feed Water Quality**

14  
15 One of the key aspects related to demonstration of equipment performance in the Verification Testing  
16 Program is the range of feed water quality that can be treated successfully. The Manufacturer should  
17 consider the influence of feed water quality on the quality of treated waters produced by the  
18 packaged plant, such that product waters meet the stated water quality goals (in terms of disinfection  
19 by-product concentrations) or regulatory requirements for precursor removals. As the range of feed  
20 water quality that can be treated by the equipment becomes broader, the potential applications for  
21 treatment equipment with verified performance capabilities may also increase. Characteristics of feed  
22 water quality that can be important for treatment equipment intended to remove DBP precursors are:

- 23  
24 • dissolved organic carbon (DOC), total organic carbon (TOC), or UV-254 absorbance  
25 • biological dissolved organic carbon (BDOC) or assimilable organic carbon (AOC)  
26 • turbidity, particle concentration  
27 • pH and alkalinity  
28 • temperature, with temperatures near freezing having potential for the most difficult treatment  
29 conditions  
30 • total dissolved solids (TDS), and other individual inorganic parameters  
31 • presence of background microbial populations including algae, bacteria, viruses and protozoa  
32 and other organisms  
33 • Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), ammonia nitrogen

34  
35 One of the questions often asked by regulatory engineers in approval of packaged water treatment  
36 equipment is: "Has it been shown to work on the water where you propose to put it?" By covering  
37 a large range of water qualities the verification testing is more likely to provide an affirmative answer  
38 to that question.

### 4.3.2 Treated Water Quality

Production of treated water of a high quality, with low concentrations of precursors to DBPs shall be the primary goal of the packaged and/or modular water treatment systems included in this Equipment Verification Testing Program. If a Manufacturer states that water treatment equipment can be used to treat water to meet specified regulatory requirements for removal of DBP precursors, the verification testing must provide data that support such a statement of capabilities, as appropriate. The statement of capabilities provided by the Manufacturer shall be related to the enhanced coagulation requirements of the proposed D/DBP Rule or the proposed Stage 1 DBP maximum contaminant levels. The Manufacturer shall be responsible for identification of the specific DBPs that shall be monitored during the Equipment Verification Testing Program. Water quality analysis for the specific DBPs identified by the Manufacturer shall be performed by an NSF-qualified laboratory. This issue shall be discussed further in Section 5.2

In addition, the Manufacturer may wish to make a statement about performance capabilities of the equipment for removal of other regulated contaminants under the SDWA that are not directly related to DBP precursor removal. For example, some water treatment equipment can be used to meet aesthetic goals that are not included as regulatory requirements of the SDWA. Removal goals for some of these parameters may also be presented in the Manufacturer's statement of capabilities. A number of water quality parameters that may be useful for assessing equipment performance of packaged and/or modular treatment systems are listed below.

- particle count or concentration
- biological dissolved organic carbon (BDOC) or assimilable organic carbon (AOC)
- heterotrophic plate count bacteria (HPC)
- color, taste and odor
- total dissolved solids
- hardness ions
- iron and manganese

### 4.4 Disinfection By-Product Formation Testing

For evaluation of the DBP precursor concentrations, the standardized ICR approach of the Uniform Formation Conditions (UFC) shall be employed in this Verification Testing Program. Selected samples shall be prepared for THM and HAA analysis using the following procedure which will provide the standardized set of representative chlorination conditions:

- Incubation time: 24 +/- 1 hours

- 1 • Incubation temperature: 20.0 +/- 1.0 °C
- 2 • Buffered pH: 8.0 +/- 0.2
- 3 • 24-hour Chlorine Residual: 1.0 +/- 0.4 mg Cl<sub>2</sub>/L

4  
5 For these conditions, the chlorine dose required to achieve the target chlorine residual can be  
6 determined by first conducting a demand study with the water sample. Since the TOC and DOC  
7 concentrations of a water can vary over the course of a test run, the chlorine demand of a given water  
8 may also vary. The chlorine dose must therefore be varied according to the chlorine demand of the  
9 water. Frequency of sampling and SDSDBP analysis shall be specified by the individual test plans  
10 used for the Equipment Verification Testing Program and shall also be stipulated in the Manufacturer  
11 FOD.

#### 12 13 **4.5 Recording data**

14  
15 For all DBP precursor experiments, data should be maintained on the pH, temperature and other  
16 water quality parameters listed in Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 above. The following items of information  
17 shall also be maintained for each experiment:

- 18 • Type of chemical addition, dose and chemical combination, where applicable (e.g., alum,  
19 cationic polymer, anionic polymer, ozone, monochloramine, scale inhibitor, etc.);
- 20 • Water type (raw water, pretreated feed water, product water, waste water);
- 21 • Experimental run (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> run, 2<sup>nd</sup> run, 3<sup>rd</sup> run, etc.);

#### 22 23 24 **4.6 Recording Statistical Uncertainty**

25  
26 For the analytical data obtained during verification testing, 95% confidence intervals shall be  
27 calculated by the field testing organization for selected water quality parameters. The specific testing  
28 plans shall specify which water quality parameters shall be subjected to the requirements of  
29 confidence interval calculation. As the name implies, a confidence interval describes a population  
30 range in which any individual population measurement may exist with a specified percent confidence.  
31 The following formula shall be employed for confidence interval calculation:

$$32$$

$$33 \text{ Confidence Interval} = \bar{X} \pm t_{n-1, 1-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \left( \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}} \right)$$

34 where: X is the sample mean;

35 S is the sample standard deviation;

36 n is the number of independent measurements included in the data set; and

37 t is the Student's t distribution value with n-1 degrees of freedom;

38  $\alpha$  is the significance level, defined for 95% confidence as:  $1 - 0.95 = 0.05$ .

1 According to the 95% confidence interval approach, the  $\alpha$  term is defined to have the value of 0.05,  
 2 thus simplifying the equation for the 95% confidence interval in the following manner:

$$95\% \text{ confidence interval } = \bar{X} \pm t_{n-1, 0.975} \frac{S}{\sqrt{n}}$$

3  
 4 With input of the analytical results for pertinent water quality parameters into the 95% confidence  
 5 interval equation, the output will appear as the sample mean value plus or minus the second term.  
 6 The results of this statistical calculation may also be presented as a range of values falling within the  
 7 95% confidence interval. For example, the results of the confidence interval calculation may provide  
 8 the following information: 520 +/- 38.4 mg/L, with a 95% confidence interval range described as  
 9 (481.6, 558.4).

10  
 11 Calculation of confidence intervals shall not be required for equipment performance results (e.g., filter  
 12 run length, cleaning efficiency, in-line turbidity or in-line particle counts, etc.) obtained during the  
 13 equipment testing verification program. However, as specified by the Manufacturer, calculation of  
 14 confidence intervals may be required for such analytical parameters as TOC, DOC, grab samples of  
 15 turbidity, THMs, HAAs. In order to provide sufficient analytical data for statistical analysis, the Field  
 16 Testing Organization shall collect three discrete water samples at one set of operational conditions  
 17 for each of the specified water quality parameters during a designated testing period. The procedures  
 18 and sampling requirements shall be provided in detail in the Verification Testing Plan.

#### 19 20 **4.7 Verification Testing Schedule**

21  
 22 Verification testing activities include equipment set-up, initial operation, verification operation, and  
 23 sampling and analysis. Initial operations are intended to be conducted so that Manufacturers can test  
 24 their equipment and be sure it is functioning as intended. If feed water (or source water) quality  
 25 influences operation and performance of equipment being tested, the initial operations period serves  
 26 as the shake-down period for determining appropriate operating parameters.

27  
 28 For water treatment equipment involving removal of DBP precursors, an initial period of bench-scale  
 29 testing of feed water followed by treatment equipment operation may be needed to determine the  
 30 appropriate operational parameters for testing equipment. A number of operational may require  
 31 adjustment to achieve successful functioning of the process train; these parameters may include but  
 32 are not limited to: process rates, feed water pH, chemical dosages, chemical types where appropriate  
 33 and equipment operations procedures that will result in successful functioning of the process train.

34  
 35 The timing for verification testing shall be designated on the basis of four annual testing episodes in  
 36 order to cover a range of water quality conditions experienced in an annual period. For example,  
 37 climatic changes between rainy and dry seasons may produce substantial variability in feed water  
 38 turbidity. Cold weather operations will be an important component of seasonal water quality testing  
 39 because of the impact of cold temperatures (1 °C to 5 °C) on water viscosity, diffusional processes  
 40 and characteristics of raw water DBP precursor materials.

1  
2 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Experimental Design:**  
3

4 *The Manufacturer shall be responsible for including the following elements in the Manufacture*  
5 *Field Operations Document:*  
6

- 7 • *Identification of the qualitative and quantitative factors of equipment operation to be*  
8 *addressed in the Verification Testing Program.*
- 9 • *Identification and discussion of the particular water treatment issues and dissolved*  
10 *organic carbon concentrations that the equipment is designed to address, how the*  
11 *equipment will solve the problem, and who would be the potential users of the equipment.*
- 12 • *Identification of the range of key water quality parameters, given in applicable NSF*  
13 *Testing Plans, which the equipment is intended to address and for which the equipment is*  
14 *applicable.*
- 15 • *Identification of the key parameters of treated water quality and analytical methods that*  
16 *will be used for evaluation of equipment performance during the removal of DBP*  
17 *precursors. Parameters of significance for treated water quality were listed above in*  
18 *Sections 4.3.2 and 4.3.2. and in applicable NSF Testing Plans.*
- 19 • *Description of data recording protocol for equipment operation, feed water quality*  
20 *parameters, and treated water quality parameters.*
- 21 • *Description of the confidence interval calculation procedure for selected water quality*  
22 *parameters.*
- 23 • *Detailed outline of the verification testing schedule, with regard to annual testing periods*  
24 *that will cover an appropriate range of annual climatic conditions. (i.e., different*  
25 *temperature conditions, seasonal differences between rainy and dry conditions).*

## 1   **5.0    FIELD OPERATIONS PROCEDURES**

### 3   **5.1    Equipment Operations and Design**

4  
5   The NSF Verification Testing Plan specifies procedures that shall be used to ensure the accurate  
6   documentation of both equipment performance and treated water quality. Careful adherence to  
7   these procedures will result in definition of verifiable performance of equipment. (Note that this  
8   protocol may be associated with a number of different NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plans  
9   for different types of process equipment capable of achieving removal of DBP precursors).

10  
11   Design aspects of water treatment process equipment often provide a basis for approval by state  
12   regulatory engineers and can be used to ascertain if process equipment intended for larger or  
13   smaller flows than that evaluated in the Verification Testing Program actually involves the same  
14   operating parameters that were relevant to the verification testing. Specific design aspects to be  
15   included in the Manufacturer FOD are provided in detail, in the Manufacturer Responsibilities  
16   section below.

17  
18   Initial operations of the precursor removal equipment will allow equipment Manufacturers to  
19   refine their operating procedures and to make operational adjustments as needed to successfully  
20   treat the feed water. Information generated through this period of operation may be used to  
21   revise the Manufacturer FOD, if necessary. A failure at this point in the verification testing could  
22   indicate a lack of capability of the process equipment and the verification testing might be  
23   canceled.

### 24 25   **5.2    Selection of Analytical Laboratory and Field Testing Organization**

26  
27   To assess the performance of the equipment, the quality of the treated water produced using the  
28   equipment shall be determined by analysis at an NSF-qualified analytical laboratory with proven  
29   experience in detection and measurement of total organic carbon, dissolved organic carbon,  
30   trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, bromate, chlorate and other regulated DBPs. In all cases,  
31   current APHA Standard Methods procedures shall be used in analysis of specified water quality  
32   parameters. The NSF may provide a list of qualified laboratories from which Manufacturers can  
33   select for submission of samples for water quality analysis. Because of the variability of  
34   acceptance of laboratories from state to state, use of analytical laboratories certified in a large  
35   number of states is recommended. Furthermore, the selected analytical laboratory must be  
36   certified by the State in which the verification testing is being performed. Laboratories approved

1 for sample analysis for the EPA's Information Collection Rule would have nationally recognized  
2 capabilities. Analytical results from the laboratory are to be provided directly to the NSF to  
3 maintain data integrity.

4  
5 For field testing operations, the Manufacturer shall employ an NSF-qualified Field Testing  
6 Organization; the list of qualified organizations may include engineering consulting firms,  
7 universities, or other qualified scientific organizations with experience operating pilot plant  
8 equipment.

### 9 10 **5.3 Communications, Documentation, Logistics, and Equipment**

11  
12 NSF shall communicate regularly with the verification testing participants to coordinate all field  
13 activities associated with this verification testing and to resolve any logistical, technical, or QA  
14 issues that may arise as the verification testing progresses. The successful implementation of the  
15 verification testing will require detailed coordination and constant communication between all  
16 verification testing participants.

17  
18 All Manufacturer/NSF field activities shall be thoroughly documented. Field documentation will  
19 include field logbooks, photographs, field data sheets, and chain-of-custody forms. The qualified  
20 testing organization shall be responsible for maintaining all field documentation. Field notes shall  
21 be kept in a bound logbook. Each page shall be sequentially numbered and labeled with the  
22 project name and number. Field logbooks shall be used to record all water treatment equipment  
23 operating data. Completed pages shall be signed and dated by the individual responsible for the  
24 entries. Errors shall have one line drawn through them and this line shall be initialed and dated.

25  
26 All photographs shall be logged in the field logbook. These entries shall include the time, date,  
27 direction, subject of the photograph, and the identity of the photographer. Any deviations from  
28 the approved final Manufacturer FOD shall be thoroughly documented in the field logbook and  
29 provided to the NSF.

30  
31 Original field sheets and chain-of-custody forms shall accompany all samples shipped to the  
32 analytical laboratory. Copies of field sheets and chain-of-custody forms for all samples shall be  
33 provided to the NSF.

### 34 35 **5.4 Equipment Operation and Water Quality Sampling for Verification Testing**

1  
2 The qualified testing organization will supervise equipment operation and water quality sampling  
3 and analysis during the verification phase of testing, using the procedures described below and in  
4 the specific Verification Testing Plans. The NSF will oversee or audit these activities. All field  
5 activities shall conform with requirements provided in the Manufacturer FOD that was developed  
6 and NSF-approved for the verification testing being conducted.

7  
8 If unanticipated or unusual situations are encountered that may alter the plans for equipment  
9 operation, water quality sampling, or data quality, the situation must be discussed with the NSF  
10 technical lead. Any deviations from the approved final Manufacturer FOD shall be thoroughly  
11 documented.

12  
13 During routine operation of water treatment equipment, the total number of hours during which  
14 the equipment is operated each day shall be documented. In addition, the number of hours each  
15 day during which the operator was working at the treatment plant performing tasks related to  
16 water treatment and the operation of the treatment equipment shall be documented. Furthermore,  
17 the tasks performed during equipment operation shall be described by the qualified Testing  
18 Organization, the Water System or the Plant Operator.

19  
20 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Field Operations**  
21 **Procedures:**

22  
23 *The Manufacturer shall be responsible for including the following elements in the Manufacturer*  
24 *Field Operations Document:*

- 25  
26 • *A table summary of the proposed time schedule for operating and testing,*  
27 • *Field operating procedures for the equipment and performance testing, based upon the*  
28 *NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plan with listing of operating parameters, ranges*  
29 *for feed water quality, and the sampling and analysis strategy.*

30  
31 **Manufacturer Responsibilities:**

- 32  
33 • *Provision of all equipment needed for field work associated with this verification testing;*  
34 • *Provision of a complete list of all equipment to be used in the verification testing. A table*  
35 *format is suggested;*

- 1 • *Provision of field operating procedures.*

## 2 3 4 **6.0 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN (QAPP)**

5  
6 The QAPP for this verification testing specifies procedures that shall be used to ensure data quality  
7 and integrity. Careful adherence to these procedures will ensure that data generated from the  
8 verification testing will provide sound analytical results that can serve as the basis for performance  
9 verification.

### 10 11 **6.1 Purpose and Scope**

12  
13 The primary purpose of this section is to outline steps that shall be taken by operators of the  
14 equipment and by the analytical laboratory to ensure that data resulting from this verification testing  
15 is of known quality and that a sufficient number of critical measurements are taken.

### 16 17 **6.2 Quality Assurance Responsibilities**

18  
19 The Manufacturer project manager is responsible for coordinating the preparation of the QAPP for  
20 this verification testing and for its approval by the NSF. The qualified testing organization project  
21 manager, with oversight from NSF, shall ensure that the QAPP is implemented during all verification  
22 testing activities.

23  
24 The entire Manufacturer FOD including the QAPP must be approved by the Manufacturer and the  
25 NSF before the verification testing can proceed. The NSF must review and either approve the QAPP  
26 or provide reasons for rejection of the QAPP along with suggestions on how to modify the QAPP  
27 to make it acceptable, provided that the Manufacturer has made a good faith effort to develop an  
28 acceptable QAPP (i.e. the QAPP is 75 to 80% acceptable with only minor changes needed to produce  
29 an acceptable plan. NSF will not write QAPPs for Manufacturers.)

30  
31 A number of individuals may be responsible for monitoring equipment operating parameters and for  
32 sampling and analysis QA/QC throughout the verification testing. Primary responsibility for ensuring  
33 that both equipment operation and sampling and analysis activities comply with the QA/QC  
34 requirements of the Manufacturer FOD (Section 6) shall rest with the qualified testing organization,  
35 with oversight by the NSF. QA/QC activities for the equipment shall include those activities  
36 recommended by Manufacturer and those required by the NSF to assure the verification testing will  
37 provide data of the necessary quality.

38  
39 QA/QC activities for the NSF-certified analytical laboratory that analyzes samples sent off-site shall  
40 be the responsibility of that analytical laboratory's supervisor. If problems arise or any data appear  
41 unusual, they shall be thoroughly documented and corrective actions shall be implemented as specified

1 in this section. The QA/QC measurements made by the off-site analytical laboratory are dependent  
2 on the analytical methods being used.

### 3 4 **6.3 Data Quality Indicators**

5  
6 The data obtained during the verification testing must be of sound quality for conclusions to be drawn  
7 on the equipment. For all measurement and monitoring activities conducted for equipment  
8 verification, the NSF and EPA require that data quality parameters be established based on the  
9 proposed end uses of the data. Data quality parameters include four indicators of data quality:  
10 representativeness, completeness, accuracy, and precision.

11  
12 Treatment results generated by the equipment and by the laboratory analyses must be verifiable for  
13 the purposes of this program to be fulfilled. High quality, well documented analytical laboratory  
14 results are essential for meeting the purpose and objectives of this verification testing. Therefore, the  
15 following indicators of data quality shall be closely evaluated to determine the performance of the  
16 equipment when measured against data generated by the analytical laboratory.

#### 17 18 **6.3.1 Representativeness**

19  
20 Representativeness refers to the degree to which the data accurately and precisely represent the  
21 conditions or characteristics of the parameter represented by the data. In this verification testing,  
22 representativeness will be ensured by maintaining consistent sample collection procedures, including  
23 sample locations, timing of sample collection, sampling procedures, sample preservation, sample  
24 packaging, sample shipping, and sample equipment decontamination (Section 5), and by executing  
25 random DBP spiking procedures. Representativeness also will be ensured by using each method at  
26 its optimum capability to provide results that represent the most accurate and precise measurement  
27 it is capable of achieving. For equipment operating data, representativeness entails collecting a  
28 sufficient quantity of data during operation to be able to detect a change in operations.

#### 29 30 **6.3.2 Completeness**

31  
32 Completeness refers to the amount of data collected from a measurement process compared to the  
33 amount that was expected to be obtained. For this verification testing, completeness refers to the  
34 proportion of valid, acceptable data generated using each method. The completeness objective for  
35 data generated during this verification testing is 85 percent.

#### 36 37 **6.3.3 Accuracy**

38  
39 For water quality analyses, accuracy refers to the difference between a sample result and the reference  
40 or true value for the sample. Loss of accuracy can be caused by such processes as errors in standards  
41 preparation, equipment calibrations, loss of target analyte in the extraction process, interferences, and

1 systematic or carryover contamination from one sample to the next.

2  
3 For equipment operating parameters, accuracy refers to the difference between the reported operating  
4 condition and the actual operating condition. For water flow, accuracy may be the difference  
5 between the reported flow indicated by a flow meter and the flow as actually measured on the basis  
6 of known volumes of water and carefully defined times (bucket and stopwatch technique) as practiced  
7 in hydraulics laboratories or water meter calibration shops. For mixing equipment, accuracy is the  
8 difference between an electronic readout for equipment RPMs and the actual measurement based on  
9 counted revolutions and measured time. Accuracy of head loss measurement can be determined by  
10 using measuring tapes to check the calibration of piezometers for gravity filters or by checking the  
11 calibration of pressure gauges for pressure filters. Meters and gauges must be checked periodically  
12 for accuracy, and when proven to be dependable over time, the time interval between accuracy checks  
13 can be increased.

#### 14 15 **6.3.4 Precision**

16  
17 Precision refers to the degree of mutual agreement among individual measurements and provides an  
18 estimate of random error.

#### 19 20 **6.3.5 Statistical Uncertainty**

21  
22 Statistical uncertainty of the water quality parameters analyzed shall be evaluated through calculation  
23 of the 95% confidence interval around the sample mean. Description of the confidence interval  
24 calculation is provided in Section 4.6 - Recording Statistical Uncertainty.

### 25 26 **6.4 Water Quality and Operational Control Checks**

27  
28 This section describes the QC requirements that apply to both the treatment equipment and the on-  
29 site measurement of water quality parameters. It also contains a discussion of the corrective action  
30 to be taken if the QC parameters fall outside of the evaluation criteria.

31  
32 The quality control checks provide a means of measuring the quality of data produced. The  
33 Manufacturer may not need to use all the ones identified in this section. The selection of the  
34 appropriate quality control checks depends on the equipment, the experimental design and the  
35 performance goals. The selection of quality control checks will be based on discussions among the  
36 Manufacturer and the NSF. Some types of quality control checks applicable to operating water  
37 treatment equipment were described in Section 6.3.4.

#### 38 39 **6.4.1 Quality Control for Equipment Operation**

40  
41 This section will explain the methods to be used to check on the accuracy of equipment operating

1 parameters and the frequency with which these quality control checks will be made. A key aspect of  
2 the Equipment Verification Testing Program is to provide operating results that will be widely  
3 accepted by state regulatory engineers. If the quality of the equipment operating data can not be  
4 verified, then the water quality analytical results may be of no value. Because water can not be  
5 treated if equipment is not operating, obtaining valid equipment operating data is a prime concern for  
6 verification testing.

7  
8 An example of the need for QC for equipment operations is an incident of state rejection of test data  
9 because the treatment equipment had no flow meter to use for determining engineering and operating  
10 parameters related to flow.

## 11 12 **6.4.2 Water Quality Data**

13  
14 After treatment equipment is being operated and water is being treated, the results of the treatment  
15 are interpreted in terms of water quality. Therefore the quality of water sample analytical results is  
16 just as important as the quality of the equipment operating data. Most QA plans emphasize analytical  
17 QA. The important aspects of sampling and analytical QA are given below:

### 18 19 **6.4.2.1 Triplicate Analysis of Selected Water Quality Parameters**

20  
21 Triplicate samples shall be analyzed for selected water quality parameters at specified intervals in  
22 order to determine the precision of analysis. The procedure for determining samples to be analyzed  
23 in triplicate shall be provided in each Verification Testing Plan with the required frequency of analysis  
24 and the approximate number. The triplicate analysis shall be performed according to the requirements  
25 for calculation of 95% confidence intervals, as presented in Section 4.6.

### 26 27 **6.4.2.2 Method Blanks**

28  
29 Method blanks are used for selected water quality parameters to evaluate analytical method-induced  
30 contamination, which may cause false positive results.

### 31 32 **6.4.2.3 Spiked Samples**

33  
34 The use of spiked samples will depend on the testing program, and the contaminants to be removed.  
35 If spiked samples are to be used specify the procedure, frequency, acceptance criteria, and actions  
36 if criteria are not met.

### 37 38 **6.4.2.4 Travel Blanks**

39  
40 Travel blanks for selected water quality parameters shall be provided to the analytical laboratory to  
41 evaluate travel-related contamination.

#### 6.4.2.5 Performance Evaluation Samples for On-Site Water Quality Testing

Performance evaluation (PE) samples are samples whose composition is unknown to the analyst that are used to evaluate analytical performance. Analysis of PE samples shall be conducted for selected water quality parameters before pilot testing is initiated by submission of samples to the analytical laboratory and to the equipment testing organizations, if appropriate. The control limits for the PE samples will be used to evaluate the equipment testing organization's and analytical laboratory's method performance. One kind of PE sample that would be used for on-site QA in most studies done under this protocol would be a turbidity PE sample.

PE samples come with statistics about each sample which have been derived from the analysis of the sample by a number of laboratories using EPA-approved methods. These statistics include a true value of the PE sample, a mean of the laboratory results obtained from the analysis of the PE sample, and an acceptance range for sample values. The analytical laboratory is expected to provide results from the analysis of the PE samples that meet the performance objectives of the verification testing.

### 6.6 Data Reduction, Validation, and Reporting

To maintain good data quality, specific procedures shall be followed during data reduction, validation, and reporting. These procedures are detailed below.

#### 6.6.1 Data Reduction

Data reduction refers to the process of converting the raw results from the equipment into concentration or other data in a form to be used in the comparison. The procedures to be used will be equipment dependent. The purpose of this step is to provide data which will be used to verify the statement of performance capabilities. These data shall be obtained from logbooks, instrument outputs, and computer outputs as appropriate.

#### 6.6.2 Data Validation

The operator shall verify the completeness of the appropriate data forms and the completeness and correctness of data acquisition and reduction. The field team supervisor or another technical person shall review calculations and inspect laboratory logbooks and data sheets to verify accuracy, completeness. Calibration and QC data will be examined by the individual operators and the laboratory supervisor. Laboratory and project managers shall verify that all instrument systems are in control and that QA objectives for accuracy, completeness, and method detection limits have been met.

Analytical outlier data are defined as those QC data lying outside a specific QC objective window for

1 precision and accuracy for a given analytical method. Should QC data be outside of control limits,  
2 the analytical laboratory or field team supervisor will investigate the cause of the problem. If the  
3 problem involves an analytical problem, the sample will be reanalyzed. If the problem can be  
4 attributed to the sample matrix, the result will be flagged with a data qualifier. This data qualifier will  
5 be included and explained in the final analytical report.

### 6.6.3 Data Reporting

6  
7  
8  
9 The Field Testing Organization shall provide to the NSF a list of all water quality and equipment  
10 operation data to be reported. At a minimum, the data tabulation shall list the results for feed water  
11 and treated water quality analyses and equipment operating data. All QC information such as  
12 calibrations, blanks and reference samples are to be included in an appendix to the report submitted  
13 to NSF. All raw analytical data shall also be reported in an appendix. All data shall be reported in  
14 hardcopy and electronically in a common spreadsheet or database format.

### 6.7 Calculation of Data Quality Indicators

15  
16  
17  
18 The equations for any data quality indicator calculations employed shall be provided. These include:  
19 precision, relative percent deviation, standard deviation, confidence interval, accuracy, and  
20 completeness.

### 6.8 System Audits

21  
22  
23  
24 On-site system audits for sampling activities, field operations, and laboratories shall be conducted as  
25 specified by the NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plan. These audits will be performed by the  
26 NSF to determine if the NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plan is being implemented as intended.  
27 At a minimum, NSF shall conduct one audit of the sampling activities, field operations program and  
28 laboratories during the Verification Testing Study. The number of audits performed during a study  
29 shall be specified by the pertinent Equipment Verification Testing Plan. Separate audit reports will  
30 be completed after the audits and provided to the participating parties through the NSF.

### 6.9 Reports

#### 6.9.1 Status Reports

31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36 The equipment testing organization shall prepare periodic reports for the NSF project managers.  
37 These reports shall discuss project progress, problems and associated corrective actions, and future  
38 scheduled activities associated with the verification testing. Each report shall include an executive  
39 summary at the beginning of the report to introduce the salient issues of the testing period. When  
40 problems occur, the Manufacturer and equipment testing organization project managers shall discuss  
41 them with the NSF technical lead, estimate the type and degree of impact, and describe the corrective

1 actions taken to mitigate the impact and to prevent a recurrence of the problems. The frequency,  
2 format, and content of these reports shall be outlined in the Manufacturer FOD.

### 3 4 **6.9.2 Audit Reports**

5  
6 Any QA audits or inspections that take place in the field or at the analytical laboratory while the  
7 verification testing is being conducted shall be formally reported by the equipment testing  
8 organizations to the NSF project manager who will forward them to the Manufacturer and NSF QC  
9 Manager for appropriate actions.

### 10 11 **6.10 Corrective Action**

12  
13 Each Manufacturer FOD must incorporate a corrective action plan. This plan must include the  
14 predetermined acceptance limits, the corrective action to be initiated whenever such acceptance  
15 criteria are not met, and the names of the individuals responsible for implementation.

16  
17 Routine corrective action may result from common monitoring activities, such as:

- 18
- 19 • Performance evaluation audits
- 20 • Technical systems audits

### 21 22 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Quality Assurance Project** 23 **Plan:**

24  
25 *The Manufacturer shall be responsible for including the following elements in the Manufacture*  
26 *Field Operations Document:*

- 27
- 28 • *Description of methodology for measurement of accuracy.*
- 29 • *Description of methodology for measurement of precision.*
- 30 • *Description of the methodology for use of blanks, the materials used, the frequency, the*  
31 *criteria for acceptable method blanks and the actions if criteria are not met.*
- 32 • *Description of any specific procedures appropriate to the analysis of the PE samples. It*  
33 *has to be clear how these samples are going to be used in the verification testing. One*  
34 *use of PE samples is in the conduct of a performance audit (see Section 6.7.1).*
- 35 • *Outline of the procedure for determining samples to be analyzed in triplicate, the*  
36 *frequency and approximate number.*
- 37 • *Description of the procedures used to assure that the data are correct.*
- 38 • *Listing of equations used for any necessary data quality indicator calculations . These*

1            *include: precision, relative percent deviation, standard deviation, confidence interval*  
2            *calculation; accuracy, and completeness.*

- 3        •     *Outline of the frequency, format, and content of reports in the Manufacturer Field*  
4            *Operations Document.*
- 5        •     *Development of a corrective action plan in the Manufacturer Field Operations*  
6            *Document.*

### 7        **Manufacturer Responsibilities:**

- 10       •     *Provision of all QC information such as calibrations, blanks and reference samples in an*  
11            *appendix. All raw analytical data shall also be reported in an appendix.*
- 12       •     *Provision of all data in hardcopy and electronic form in a common spreadsheet or*  
13            *database format.*

## 16       **7.0 DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS, AND REPORTING**

### 18       **7.1 Data Management and Analysis**

20       The Manufacturer, the qualified testing organization and the NSF each have distinct responsibilities  
21       for managing and analyzing verification testing data. The equipment testing organization is  
22       responsible for managing all the data and information generated during the verification testing. The  
23       Manufacturer is responsible for furnishing those records generated by the equipment testing  
24       organization. The NSF will be responsible for analysis and verification of the data

26       A variety of data will be generated during a verification testing. Each piece of data or information  
27       identified for collection in the NSF Equipment Verification Testing Plan will need to be provided to  
28       the NSF. The data management section of the Manufacturer FOD shall describe what types of data  
29       and information needs to be collected and managed, and shall also describe how the data will be  
30       reported to the NSF for evaluation.

32       Laboratory Analyses: The raw data and the validated data must be provided to the NSF. These data  
33       shall be provided in hard copy and in electronic format. As with the data generated by the innovative  
34       equipment, the electronic copy of the laboratory data shall be provided in a spreadsheet, and a data  
35       dictionary shall be provided. In addition to the sample results, all QA/QC summary forms must be  
36       provided.

38       Other items that must be provided include:

- 1
- 2 • field notebooks;
- 3 • photographs, slides and videotapes (copies);
- 4 • results from the use of other field analytical methods.

## 5

### 6 **7.2 Report of Equipment Testing**

#### 7

8 The qualified testing organization shall prepare a draft report describing the verification testing that  
9 was carried out and the results of that testing. This report shall include the following topics:

- 10
- 11 • Introduction
- 12 • Executive Summary
- 13 • Description and Identification of Product Tested
- 14 • Procedures and Methods Used in Testing
- 15 • Results and Discussion
- 16 • Conclusions and Recommendations
- 17 • References
- 18 • Appendices
- 19 • Manufacturer FOD
- 20 • QA/AC Results

21

22 The NSF will review the draft report, the results of testing, the QA/QC results, and will prepare a  
23 final report.

24

25

### 26 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Data Management and** 27 **Analysis, and Reporting:**

28

29 *The Manufacturer shall be responsible for including the following elements in the Manufacture*  
30 *Field Operations Document:*

- 31
  - 32 • *Description of what types of data and information needs to be collected and managed.*
  - 33 • *Description of how the data will be reported to the NSF for evaluation.*
- 34

1 **8.0 SAFETY MEASURES**

2  
3 The safety procedures shall address safety considerations, including the following as applicable:

- 4
- 5 • conformance with electrical code
  - 6 • biohazards
  - 7 • ventilation of equipment or of trailers or buildings housing equipment, if gases generated
  - 8 by the equipment could present a safety hazard (one example is ozone).

9

10 **Content of Manufacturer Field Operations Document Regarding Safety:**

11

12 *The Manufacturer Field Operations Document shall address safety considerations that are*  
13 *appropriate for the equipment being tested and for the chemicals employed in the verificatio*  
14 *testing.*

15