

Direction for Collecting and Shipping Pb-Performance Evaluation Program Glass Fiber Filters for State, Local and Tribal Agencies

As a part of the Pb-PEP quality assurance program, 40 CFR Part 58, Appendix A, requires each PQAO to collect 4 or 6 of these filters per year from one or more collocated sites within the PQAO and send them to the Pb-PEP laboratory for independent analysis. These extra collocated runs should be conducted quarterly. PQAOs that host 5 or fewer sites will provide 4 sample filters and those with more than 5 will provide 6 sample filters. The filters are to be collected on days that samples for precision measurements by the collocated sampler are not taken, but presumably one of the other typical 1 in 3 or 1 in 6 national sampling days. The resulting ambient concentration from each sample collected for the PEP will be paired against the result from the SLTs primary sampler that ran on the same day and which was reported to AQS by the monitoring agency to determine bias.

All samples of Pb in PM₁₀ collected on glass fiber filters for the Pb-PEP program will be sent to the EPA Region 9 Laboratory for analysis.

The high volume Pb sample filters for the Pb-PEP are to be collected as you ordinarily collect routine and precision filters.

Procedure:

1. Combined COC and field data sheet forms for these filters should be printed from the AIRQA website <https://www.sdas.battelle.org/airqa/>. Complete the form in the field and sign.
2. **Upon arrival back to the field office, complete the online version of the form.** The online COC/FDS form **must** be completed to assure that EPA can pair the lab and field data, validate the data, and post it to AQS.
3. Prepare the filter for shipping by folding it length-wise, placing it in a protective envelope, and pack it in a box for shipping. Place the hard copy of the COC/FDS with the filter(s) in the shipment. Filters must be placed in individual envelopes for shipping, but they may all be placed in a single shipping container with their COC/FDS forms. Filters shipped to the PEP lab should be whole, and should not be handled or disturbed in any way once recovered from the sampler and placed in a shipping package.
4. Send an email to r9rscc@epa.gov to inform the laboratory that a shipment is enroute.

5. Use the airbill provided by EPA at the beginning of the calendar year for shipping. This label should reflect the address provided below.

Sample Control
EPA Region 9 Laboratory
1337 South 46th Street; Bldg #201
Richmond, CA 94804
(510) 412-2377
r9rsc@epa.gov

6. Do not ship for weekend delivery.
7. **Verify that the field data has been correctly and completely entered into the AIRQA website.**

Please note these directions do not apply to low-volume 46 mm filters used to collect Pb at required NCore or other sites set up by monitoring agencies. Directions for those filters will be supplied under a separate cover with labels directed to a different analytical laboratory.

If the monitoring agency desires to have a piece of the filter for their own analysis they may request it on the COC form. There is a check-box on the online version. In that case the laboratory in Richmond will send back a portion large enough to provide at least two strips.

If you experience any problems or have any questions, feel free to contact Greg Noah, OAQPS National Pb-PEP Lead, noah.greg@epa.gov, 919-541-2771.