

Sample Identification Nomenclature

FSOP 1.4 (April 15, 2010)

Ohio EPA Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization

1.0 Scope and Applicability

- 1.1 This procedure provides a standard nomenclature convention for environmental sample identification. The use of a standard convention facilitates the progress of field sampling activities, reduces the potential for confusion regarding sample identification, and improves the ease of reviewing laboratory analytical results.
- 1.2 Alternative sample identification conventions may be used for the following circumstances:
 - 1.2.1 When the regulatory program under which the sampling work is being performed requires an alternative sample identification convention.
 - 1.2.2 At sites where sampling already has been performed and where use of an existing sample identification convention would promote consistency and help avoid potential confusion.
 - 1.2.3 When soil or sediment samples are collected using incremental or other composite sampling methodologies.
 - 1.2.4 At sites where unique sampling situations exist.
- 1.3 If collecting environmental samples from a site with multiple parcels or multiple areas of contamination (e.g., a Voluntary Action Program (VAP) property with multiple identified areas), qualifiers that identify the sample location (e.g., parcel or VAP identified area) may be added to the sample identification nomenclature. Due to the wide variety of sites and circumstances associated with environmental assessments, such nomenclature is best developed and applied on a site-specific basis.
- 1.4 Anticipated deviations from this procedure should be documented in the site-specific work plan with a brief explanation of the reason(s) for the deviation.
- 1.5 Ohio EPA's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Targeted Brownfield Assessments (TBAs) requires the use of this procedure.

2.0 Definitions

Not applicable

3.0 Health and Safety Warnings

Not applicable

4.0 Procedure Cautions

- 4.1 The geographic location (latitude and longitude) of each sampling location will be determined using Global Positioning System (GPS). Accordingly, sample identification does not need to incorporate information regarding geographic direction, e.g., adding "N" to the identification of a soil sample collected from the north side of an excavation.
- 4.2 Unless specifically required by the regulatory program, soil or sediment duplicates should not be collected for laboratory analysis.
- 4.3 Summa canister serial numbers should not be used for sample identification. However, when collecting air samples using summa canisters, the serial numbers should be written in the "comments" section of the chain-of-custody form for future reference.
- 4.4 Certain regulatory programs (e.g., the U.S. EPA Contract Laboratory Program or CLP) may require the use of sample identification conventions that differ from those prescribed by this procedure.

5.0 Personnel Qualifications

Ohio EPA personnel performing field sampling activities must meet DERR's qualifications for performing work at uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

6.0 Equipment and Supplies

Not applicable

7.0 Procedures

- 7.1 The sample identification consists of an abbreviation for the sample matrix type and a consecutive sample number separated by a hyphen, e.g., **SO-01** (soil sample number one) unless otherwise indicated. Environmental sample matrices and association abbreviations (**bold**) include the following:
 - 7.1.1 Soil samples:
 - 7.1.1.1 **SO** for soil samples collected using manual labor (e.g., by scoop or hand auger) or from excavations; the **SO** abbreviation is followed by a consecutive sampling location number, a hyphen, and the approximate sample depth interval (expressed as tenths of feet) in parentheses, e.g., SO-1(0.5-1.5ft)
 - 7.1.1.2 **SB** for soil samples collected using drilling equipment; the **SB** abbreviation is followed by a consecutive boring location number, a hyphen, and the approximate sample depth interval

(expressed as tenths of feet) in parentheses, e.g., SB-1(0.5-1.5ft)

- 7.1.2 **SE** for sediment samples
 - 7.1.3 **SW** for surface water samples
 - 7.1.4 Ground water samples:
 - 7.1.4.1 **MW** for monitoring well ground water samples
 - 7.1.4.2 **GW** for ground water samples collected from soil borings
 - 7.1.4.3 If multiple ground water samples are collected from a monitoring well or soil boring on the same date (other than duplicate samples, see 4.2.1), add a letter designation at the end of the identification, e.g., **MW-01A**, **MW-01B**, etc., or **GW-01A**, **GW-01B**, etc. If the samples are collected from discrete depth intervals, the depth intervals should be recorded with the ground water sampling documentation. The depth interval (expressed in tenths of feet and in parentheses) may be used in lieu of the letter designation, e.g., **MW-01(10.0-15.0ft)**, **MW-01(20.0-25.0ft)**, etc., or **GW-01(10.0-15.0ft)**, **GW-01(20.0-25.0ft)**, etc.
 - 7.1.4.4 **RW** for ground water samples collected from residential water supply wells
 - 7.1.4.5 **PW** for ground water samples collected from public water supply wells
 - 7.1.4.6 For other types of wells (e.g., remedial extraction wells, non-potable process water wells, irrigation wells) use a sample identification based on the well identification.
 - 7.1.5 **LE** for leachate samples
 - 7.1.6 **IA** for indoor air samples
 - 7.1.7 **AA** for ambient air samples
 - 7.1.8 **SS** for sub-slab vapor samples
 - 7.1.9 **SG** for soil gas samples
 - 7.1.10 **FP** for free product samples
 - 7.1.11 **WA** for solid waste samples
- 7.2 Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) sample and blank identification consist of an abbreviation for the QA/QC sample or blank type and a consecutive

sample/blank number separated by a hyphen, e.g., **FB-01** (field blank number one) unless otherwise noted. QA/QC samples/blanks and association abbreviations (**bold**) include the following:

7.2.1 Duplicate samples

7.2.1.1 **DU** for duplicate samples, unless blind duplicates are required by the regulatory program (see 4.2.1.2). Duplicates may be numbered consecutively without reference to the sample from which the duplicate was split, e.g., **DU-01** for a duplicate split from ground water sample MW-01, or identified by adding the suffix "DU" to the identification of the sample from which the duplicate was split, e.g., **MW-01DU** for a duplicate split from ground water sample MW-01.

7.2.1.2 Blind duplicates are duplicate samples, preferably split from the same container, which are numbered by the same convention as the other samples so that the laboratory does not know they are duplicates.

7.2.2 **FB** for field blanks

7.2.3 **EB** for equipment blanks

7.2.4 **TB** for trip blanks; if available, the date the trip blank was filled by the laboratory may be written in the "comments" section of the chain-of-custody form

8.0 Data and Records Management

Refer to FSOP 1.3, Field Documentation.

9.0 Quality Control and Quality Assurance

Not applicable

10.0 Attachments

None

11.0 References

FSOP 1.3, Field Documentation