

**Ministry of the Environment**

Safe Drinking Water Branch

Laboratory Licensing and  
Compliance Program

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**Ministère de l'Environnement**

Direction du contrôle de la qualité de l'eau potable

Programme de délivrance des permis et  
de conformité des laboratoires

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January 5, 2012

TO: Licensed/ Eligible Drinking Water Testing Laboratory Managers

RE: Sampling and reporting requirements for alkalinity

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Schedule 15.1 in the Drinking Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03) requires large municipal residential systems; small municipal residential systems; and non-municipal year-round residential systems to test for total alkalinity at distribution locations.

Test results of alkalinity, obtained to fulfill the sampling and testing requirements for Schedule 15.1 of O. Reg. 170/03; or for the additional testing requirements prescribed in a Certificate of Approval, municipal drinking water licence or an order that applies to the drinking water system, **are required to be uploaded to Drinking Water Information System (DWIS), within 28 days after the reporting of the test results is authorized.**

In DWIS, alkalinity has been included as one of core required parameters within the sampling and analysis requirements in the drinking water system (DWS) profile. However, since alkalinity testing can be carried out either at a drinking water system by a person with prescribed qualifications or at a licensed laboratory, in the past many drinking water system owners or operating authorities, were not aware that, if they required testing to be performed at a laboratory, they also needed to submit Laboratory Services Notification (LSN) information for alkalinity to the Ministry in order to allow the laboratories to upload the results for them. As a result, many licensed laboratories have not been able to upload alkalinity results for their clients.

We find it necessary to clarify uploading requirements with licensed laboratories and to allow all laboratories that are licensed for alkalinity to upload results for their clients. LSN information, if it has not been provided by the applicable DWS owner or authorities, will be automatically populated into DWIS through a programming script, based on the specific LSN information given for lead (Pb) for the particular drinking water system. The changes would take place on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Laboratories are not expected to retrospectively submit alkalinity results that were obtained before January 9<sup>th</sup> 2012. We are also in the process of revising the Laboratory Services Notification (LSN) form to include a check box for alkalinity. Starting from Monday January 16<sup>th</sup> 2012, laboratories should be able to upload alkalinity for their clients. The XML templates obtained from DWIS, will also include alkalinity for all applicable drinking water systems granted if the LSN is in place. If issues still arise in uploads, please do not hesitate to contact Jenny Kwong by email at ([Jenny.Kwong@ontario.ca](mailto:Jenny.Kwong@ontario.ca)) or Sonia Coelho-Murphy at ([Sonia.Coelho@ontario.ca](mailto:Sonia.Coelho@ontario.ca)).

If you require further clarifications regarding this email, please contact your lab inspector or Monica Howlett at Drinking Water Programs Branch by email at ([Monica.Howlett@ontario.ca](mailto:Monica.Howlett@ontario.ca))

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Koene', written in a cursive style.

Jennifer Koene  
Laboratory Licensing and Compliance Program Supervisor  
Safe Drinking Water Branch