



2025 Lab Refresher for Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring

HAB Season is the first full week of June through the first full week of December (6.2.2025 - 12.13.2025)

Analysis Methods:

- **Total Microcystins:** Ohio EPA Total Microcystins- ADDA by ELISA 701.0 V2.4
 - **NEW for 2025!** "Samples treated with chlorine: Check samples for residual chlorine. Any raw or drinking water samples not sufficiently quenched (< 0.1 mg/L Cl) must not be analyzed. Unquenched water samples must be recollected and appropriately quenched immediately after collection."
- **Cyanoacteria Screening (qPCR):** Ohio EPA quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) 705.0 V1.0

Analysis Timeframes (OAC 3745-90):

3745-81-01: Defines monitor as the sampling of public drinking water, the submittal of samples to a laboratory certified for the appropriate analysis, and the analysis for the contaminants or characteristics of the water.

3745-89-08: Defines analysis to include quality control.

- **Total Microcystins:** Certified laboratories must complete analysis, including quality control, for microcystins **within five days of collection.**
- **Cyanobacteria Screening:** Analysis, including quality control, for cyanobacteria screening must be completed **within seven days of collection.**

Reporting Timeframes (OAC 3745-89):

Result	Timeframe for Reporting (OAC 3745-89)
Non-Detect/ Below Reporting Limit	10th day following analysis
Detection of microcystins in raw water	End of the next business day after the analysis is completed
Detection of microcystins in finished water	End of the next business day after the analysis is completed
Results of microcystins samples collected in response to an exceedance of the microcystins action level	End of the next business day after the analysis is completed
Results of cyanobacteria screening that indicate the potential for cyanotoxins.	End of the next business day after the analysis is completed

General Guidelines:

- Notice of violation (NOV) information will come directly from Ohio EPA to the Public Water System (PWS). Follow-up sampling requests will come directly from Ohio EPA to the PWS.
- Ohio EPA will contact the lab to confirm timeframes for any sampling event that requires 24 hours sampling/analysis (i.e. finished water ALE). If there are any analysis/reporting issues, Ohio EPA may ask for the following:
 - Sample collection date/time
 - Chain of custody dates/times
 - Freeze/thaw times
 - Analysis start time
 - QC time
- If problems are encountered with sample hold time, laboratory equipment, etc., please notify Ohio EPA at the contact information below.

Useful Links:

Public Water System (PWS) HAB Wepage:



HAB Rule OAC 3745-90:



Laboratory Reporting Tips:



Laboratory Certification OAC 3745-89:



Questions? Please Contact us:

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