

DMRQA

Study 28

Desk Reference Guide

Let APG work for you!

We will guide you through to successfully
meet your requirements.

APG | The Measure of Quality
Analytical Products Group
www.APGQA.com (800) 272-4442

DMRQA Study 28

In the 308 letter this year the US EPA announced that the DMRQA study will begin on **May 1, 2008** - a month earlier than past studies. Permittees and contract laboratories are required to purchase PT samples by the study open date. The study closes August 29, 2008, which allows you additional time to complete your requirements.

APG is accredited by A2LA (Certification Code 2430.01) for all the chemistry and microbiological analytes included in Study 28. For the chemical and microbiological tests under DMR-QA, you are responsible only for those analytes that are both in your permit and included in Study 28.



Flexible Study Schedule

APG offers you (3) WP studies and (1) DMR-QA Specific Study to meet your reporting needs. Schedule the sample when you prefer to run them.

Month	Opens	Close
May 2008 WP	5/5/2008	6/18/2008
June 2008 WP	6/2/2008	7/16/2008
July 2008 WP	7/1/2008	8/14/2008
DMRQA Study 28	5/1/2008	8/29/2008

WP studies will also meet state and NELAC requirements.

Your success is our #1 goal.

DMRQA is a mandatory US EPA program. Success is crucial to your facility. APG has over 26 years of experience running PT studies. We have worked with thousands of laboratories all over the world. We have the experience you need as a DMRQA partner.

Our staff members are specially trained to answer your DMRQA questions. APG will help ensure your success in this program.

We will help you with ordering, testing, reporting your data, understanding your evaluation, and completing any remediation that might be necessary. We will be available to you until you feel like you completed the study successfully.

Let APG work for you!

Choose APG as your PT provider for DMRQA Study 28.

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Analyte Checklist

NPDES Testing Required	Analyte Test	APG Proficiency Test	APG Quality Control
<input type="checkbox"/>	Microbiology	6260 \$95.00	6262 \$93.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	E.Coli, MF or MPN	included with 6260	included with 6262
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fecal Coliform, MF or MPN	included with 6260	included with 6262
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Coliform, MF or MPN	included with 6260	included with 6262
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trace Metals	6070 \$114.00	6072 \$92.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aluminum	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Antimony	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Arsenic	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barium	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beryllium	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cadmium	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chromium, total	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chromium, Hexavalent	6250 \$47.00	6252 \$45.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cobalt	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copper	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Iron	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lead	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manganese	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mercury	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Molybdenum	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nickel	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Selenium	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Thallium	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vanadium	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zinc	included with 6070	included with 6072
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demands	6010 \$72.00	6012 \$57.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-day BOD	included with 6010	included with 6012
<input type="checkbox"/>	5-day Carbonaceous BOD	included with 6010	included with 6012
<input type="checkbox"/>	COD	included with 6010	included with 6012
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOC	included with 6010	included with 6012
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minerals	6200 \$76.00	6202 \$71.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alkalinity, total (CaCO ₃)	included with 6200	included with 6202
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chloride	included with 6200	included with 6202
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fluoride	6210 \$44.00	6212 \$44.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hardness, total (CaCO ₃)	included with 6200	included with 6202
<input type="checkbox"/>	Specific Conductance (25 C)	included with 6200	included with 6202
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sulfate	included with 6200	included with 6202
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Dissolved Solids (180 C)	included with 6200	included with 6202
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nutrients	6020 \$57.00	6022 \$57.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ammonia as N	included with 6020	included with 6022
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nitrate as N	included with 6020	included with 6022
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nitrite as N	6240 \$60.00	6242 \$57.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Orthophosphate as P	included with 6020	included with 6022
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Kjeldahl-Nitrogen as N	included with 6020	included with 6022
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Phosphorus as P	included with 6020	included with 6022
<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. Analytes		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Filterable Residual (TSS)	6030 \$72.00	6032 \$57.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Oil and Grease	6120 \$62.00	6122 \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	pH	6060 \$50.00	6062 \$47.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Cyanide	6090 \$61.00	6092 \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Phenolics (4-AAP)	6080 \$51.00	6082 \$46.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Total Residual Chlorine	6100 \$57.00	6102 \$46.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Settleable Solids	6230 \$60.00	6232 \$61.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Turbidity	6220 \$60.00	6222 \$58.00

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who should perform my DMR-QA testing?

- A. The lab that routinely performs the analysis for your facility, in-house, or contract laboratory.

Q. What type of studies will meet my DMR-QA requirements?

- A. A DMR-QA Specific study will meet your requirements. A WP study may also meet your DMR-QA requirements if the following are true:
 - a. WP study ends after May 1, 2008.
 - b. WP study closes before August 29, 2008.
 - c. The study is offered by an A2LA Accredited Provider. If you choose to use a WP study to meet your DMR-QA requirements, you must meet the WP Study deadline, even if it is sooner than the August 29, 2008 deadline. Also, inform your Provider that you are using the WP study to meet DMR-QA requirements before the data is submitted.

Q. Can I meet both my state and DMR-QA requirements with a single study?

- A. In many cases yes, but contact your state coordinator to determine what studies are acceptable to meet your state certification and DMR-QA requirements.

Q. Do I have to run the new analytes?

- A. If the analytes appear on your permit and are part of Study 28, you are responsible for reporting data for the new analytes.

Q. Can I report more analytes than what is on my permit?

- A. Yes. You can report analytes that are not on your permit by checking the voluntary analyte box on the Provider's data return forms.

Q. Are there other resources that I can use for more information?

- A. Yes. www.DMRQA.com is an excellent resource to obtain more information.

Q. How do I know what samples I need to purchase?

- A. You are required to analyze any analyte listed on your NPDES permit and found on the analyte checklist in the 308 Letter.

Q. What if my contract laboratory and I purchase samples from the same provider, but we have different due dates?

- A. No problem. Simply report your data by your due date, and report your contract laboratory's data by the due date for their study.

Q. Can I report my data online?

- A. Yes. The APGQA.com Online Data Entry System reviews your data for completeness while you are entering it, and the system remembers your information so you never have to re-type it. You also receive important email updates and customized reminders so you never miss a deadline. Finally, it completes your paperwork and emails it to you. The APGQA.com Data Entry System is safe and secure and provides complete assurance that your data has been received.

Features & Benefits of APG

APG is a leader in quality assurance materials manufacturing. APG operates one of the largest DMR-QA Programs. Experience and leadership have taught us how to simplify the DMR-QA process. When choosing your DMR-QA Provider, consider the advantages you have with APG:

- **Desk Reference Guide**

APG provides you with an easy-to-understand instruction booklet that guides you through the DMR-QA process. Visit www.dmrqa.com for all the tools and download the DMRQA reference guide today.

- **Online ordering, reporting, and results**

Register online for your Elite Membership, and place your order. APG's online data entry system is convenient, secure, accurate, and it provides immediate notification that your data has been received. It is also easy to create custom reports and send them electronically. Results will be available online at www.APGQA.com shortly after the study closes.

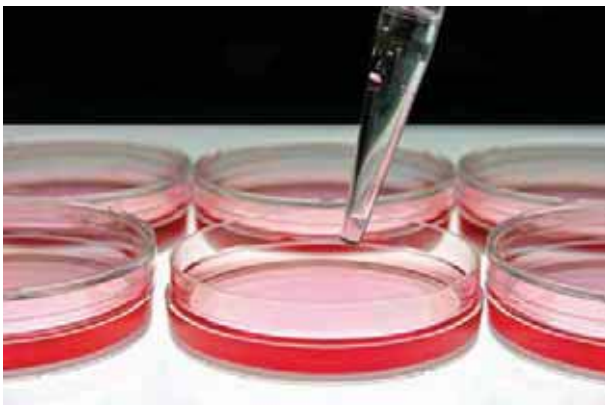
- **Earn your Gold Seal Certificate**

Upon successfully analyzing your DMR-QA samples, APG will send you a personalized DMR-QA Study 28 Certificate with the gold APG seal.

- **DMRQA Team Dedicated to You**

Our dedicated Inside Sales Representatives, Technical Support Chemists, PT Coordinators, and website experts are trained to assist you with any DMR-QA questions.

Order your micro samples to run anytime throughout the study!



Are you Ready?

Evaluate your laboratory before you run the DMRQA analytes as part of your regular quality assurance program. You have two options to review your performance.

1. Quality Control Samples - run the sample then review the certificate – and evaluate internally how you performed.

2. PT STAT - receive an instant PT STAT – run your analysis, enter your data online, and instantly receive your evaluation. This evaluation will not be submitted to any authority unless you specifically request it to go toward an accreditation. It will, however, reflect the same evaluation you would receive in DMR-QA Study 28.

Call us, and we would be glad to help you select the right option for your facility.

Place your DMR-QA orders online at

www.DMRQA.com

www.APGQA.com

Call and order at

800.272.4442 or 440.899.9452

Fax your order form to

440.899.9453

Go with what works...

We are working for you.

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www.APGQA.com (800) 272-4442

Terms & Definitions

Certifying Official - The person listed on the organization's NPDES permit who validates the data submitted to the PT Provider. This person must sign or electronically approve the Data Return Form. Without this signature, the data cannot be evaluated by the PT Provider; consequently, the PT Provider will not report the results to the State/Regional DMR-QA Coordinator.

Contract Laboratory - A laboratory contracted by a Permittee to provide some or all of the routine testing listed on the permit. Contract laboratories can only be used for DMR-QA testing if the contract laboratory is the entity that routinely performs the Permittee's testing. If an in-house laboratory performs the routine testing, the in-house laboratory must complete the DMR-QA testing. If a Permittee uses a contract laboratory, it is the responsibility of the contract laboratory to provide the Permittee with the completed Laboratory Data Return Form within the time frame specified.

DMR-QA - Discharge Monitoring Report - Quality Assurance study that helps regulatory agencies monitor the quality of the data used by laboratories to ensure the safety of our nation's waters. According to Section 308 (a) of the Clean Water Act, this study is mandatory.

In-house Laboratory - A laboratory that is part of the Permittee's organization. The in-house laboratory must be used to test DMR-QA samples if it routinely tests the normal samples as required by the permit.

Less Than (<) Reporting - The US EPA database cannot handle "text" results such as "BDL", "ND", "Non-Tested", etc. Therefore, to receive credit for testing an analyte and determining a non-detect, you must report a "less than" value using the < symbol. The evaluation will result in an "Acceptable" value if one of the following is true:

- 1) The numeric part of the reported value (i.e. 8 if the Report Value were <8) is less than the upper limit of the EPA acceptance range AND zero (0) is included in the EPA acceptance range.
- 2) OR if you report a "less than" value AND the assigned value is equal to zero (i.e. the analyte was not spiked in the sample).

Any other non-numeric value (e.g. BDL, ND, >10, etc.) cannot be evaluated and will return an evaluation result of "No Evaluation". This method of evaluation is consistent with the US EPA National Standards for Water Proficiency Testing Program Criteria Document (December 30, 1998) and the NVLAP/NIST Handbook 150 document.

Method Description - A 15-character, alpha-numeric string that describes the process used to evaluate the sample. APG can only report 15 characters to the US EPA; therefore, APG will enter the first 15 characters of the reported Method Description (not including blank spaces).

NPDES Permit Number - The identification number on your permit. A valid NPDES Permit Number contains a two-letter state designation and a seven-digit numeric code. If you have any questions, please contact your State/Regional DMR-QA coordinator. The NPDES Permit Number must be recorded on all documentation and correspondence with all organizations involved with the DMR-QA program. This includes your Permittee Data Return Form. Without the NPDES Permit Number, APG cannot process your data return. The NPDES Permit Number is different than the US EPA Lab Code. The US EPA Lab Code is specific to the laboratory (in-house or contract laboratory) executing the actual testing. Both of these numbers are extremely important with respect to reporting.

Reported Value - The test result you report for a specific analyte. Be sure to verify that you are reporting the value in the proper units. It is essential that your data is clearly written and that decimal points are apparent. APG is required to evaluate your data to three significant digits based upon the EPA Acceptance Range per the US EPA National Standards for Water Proficiency Testing Program Criteria Document (December 30, 1998). It is recommended that you limit your reporting of results to three significant digits. See the Less Than (<) Reporting definition for more details pertaining to your Reported Value. If you must make a change to your reported value after you have entered the information on the data return form, please clearly cross out the original entry and write in the new value. Do not use whiteout to cover the original entry.

US EPA Lab Code - A unique identification number assigned to a laboratory by the US EPA. If you are unsure about your US EPA Lab Code, please contact Charles Feldman at 513.569.7671 at the US EPA.

Voluntary Analyte - APG will provide you with an evaluation of these analytes, but the US EPA and State Agencies will not require remediation for these analytes should the APG evaluation result in a "Not Acceptable" evaluation. Analytes can only be considered voluntary if they do not appear on your permit.

Due Dates

Date Due	Completed	Action Item
ASAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lab Code - If you need a U.S. EPA Lab Code please contact: Mr. Charles Feldmann U.S. EPA 26 W. Martin Luther King Drive M/S 140 Cincinnati, OH 45268 Tel: (513) 569-7671 Fax: (513) 569-7191
April 18, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/>	Send the NPDES permittee address verification form (AVF) by postal mail or email. Email address is: dmrqa@epa.gov or mail to Patrick Yellin U.S. EPA OECA MC 2225A Room 5109B 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Washington DC 20460
May 1, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/>	Confirm that in-house and contract laboratories have ordered appropriate test sample(s) from approved Providers. Review the DMR-QA analyte checklist in the 308 Letter or at www.DMRQA.com. Order samples by calling 800.272.4442 or online at www.APGQA.com Study Close date: _____
August 22, 2008 or prior to provider's due date for WP Study	<input type="checkbox"/>	External/contract lab data from DMR-QA studies should be reported and received by the permittee. Verify that all reports are correctly labeled. Date of receipt of contract laboratory data: _____
August 29, 2008 or Provider's due date for WP study	<input type="checkbox"/>	Report results to the Provider. (Complete the forms supplied by the Provider, and include all required fields as outlined in the Provider's instructions.) Data Entry Code: _____ Date Submitted data to PT Provider: _____ Tracking Number for Postal receipt or receipt of Email Confirmation of Online Data: _____ Data Package mailed to the DMR-QA Coordinator: _____
October 24, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/>	PT Provider reports should be sent to permittees and State and/or Regional coordinators. Received PT Evaluation from APG: _____ Review results at www.APGQA.com
December 5, 2008	<input type="checkbox"/>	Submit corrective action reports to NPDES Permit regulatory authority. Mailed Corrective action reports: _____ Ordered any corrective action samples needed: _____



Satisfied Customers

Look at what satisfied clients are saying about APG!

I have never hesitated to call for help from APG Account Executives throughout the years--they have always been so helpful and kind. The DMR-QA Studies seem to be a pain to me and someone at APG always walks me through the process of dealing with data from outside laboratories--I am extremely grateful for the assistance.

— Arkansas DMR-QA client

I like your new On-Line Reporting system. You have incorporated some of the best features from other data-entry systems I've used. It is a user-friendly process. We have been a customer of yours for many years, and I like the improvements you are making.

— North Carolina DMR-QA client

We continue to be quite pleased with the quality of your standards as well as the professionalism of your staff.

— New York DMR-QA client

Choose APG and order today!

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The most comprehensive website for DMR-QA Study 28.

www.DMRQA.com

Whether you are searching for an answer to a tough DMR-QA question or you are just curious about what others may be saying about their study problems, there is no better place to go than www.DMRQA.com. Interesting articles, requirement updates, and the facts - you get it all at www.DMRQA.com.

- Find important due dates
- Examine frequently asked questions
- View and download the US EPA 308 Letter
- Download US EPA forms
- Identify your DMR-QA Coordinator