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# United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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## NATIONAL WATER QUALITY LABORATORY TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 1999.06

July 7, 1999

Subject: Change in the Parameter Code Used to Report Results for Chloramben Herbicide

Effective Date

of Change: August 1, 1999

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### Purpose

The National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) analyzes filtered water samples for chloramben using laboratory schedules 2050 and 2051. The method actually determines the methyl ester of chloramben, but data have been reported as the acid form of chloramben. The NWQL will begin reporting chloramben, by using the parameter code for the methyl ester, beginning on the effective date of this memorandum. Personnel from the National Water Information System (NWIS) group will write a computer program that will correct the erroneous parameter codes currently (1999) listed in the database.

### Scope

The NWQL began determining chloramben methyl ester by using laboratory schedules 2050 and 2051 during spring 1993 (Werner and others, 1996). The parameter code published was 49307. Although the method report (Werner and others, 1996) indicates that the methyl ester is the selected compound, the parameter code and Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) number for the acid form of chloramben was incorrectly applied. Therefore, on the effective date of this memorandum, the parameter code used to report results for chloramben methyl ester will be 61188A for schedule 2050 and 61188B for schedule 2051.

Chloramben is applied to the agricultural field in the acid, sodium salt, or methyl ester form. Both the sodium salt and methyl ester convert to the acid form in the environment, so the predominant form is the acid. In fact, provisional data from the first 20 study units of the U.S. Geological Survey's National Water Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) demonstrated that the chloramben methyl ester was neither detected in surface water nor in ground water (U.S. Geological Survey, 1999).

The method used for schedules 2050 and 2051 will not properly evaluate the acid form of chloramben and neither will any other method currently (1999) used at NWQL.

## **Impact on Data Base**

All chloramben data entered prior to the effective date of these memorandum are associated with the wrong parameter code. Any report that uses the improper information should be qualified or corrected. NWIS personnel will write a computer program to correct the erroneous parameter codes currently (1999) in the data base. The program will be included in the NWIS 4.1 release, expected in November 1999. All parameter code 49307, method code A will become parameter code 61188, method code A. All parameter code 49307, method code B will become parameter code 61888, method code B.

## **References**

U.S. Geological Survey, 1999, Pesticides in surface ground water of the United States Summary of results of the National Water-Quality Assessment Program: National Synthesis Project, accessed June 4, 1999, at URL <http://water.wr.usgs.gov/pnsp/allsum/#streams>.

Werner, S.L., Burkhardt, M.R., and DeRusseau, S.N., 1996, Methods of analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Quality Laboratory -- Determination of pesticides in water by Carbopak-B solid-phase extraction and high-performance liquid chromatography: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 96-216.

/Signed/

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