

Statement of Retracted and Revised Results
September 9, 2022 8:30am CT

On September 7, 2022, the lab became aware of the critical situation regarding the arsenic results produced for the Jacob Riis Houses. The lab immediately began an internal investigation into the original results. Simultaneously the lab retested the original sample, which was still within hold time, using a direct injection without digestion. Following a thorough internal audit on the reported data, the lab found that the results for arsenic reported on August 26, 2022 and September 1, 2022 were incorrect. The retested analysis confirmed this conclusion and revised reports were created and issued on September 8, 2022.

For the avoidance of doubt, the two different testing procedures applied are provided below. The first procedure (Original Testing Method) summarizes the method applied on August 26, 2022 and September 1, 2022 reports. The second procedure (September 8, 2022 Testing Method) summarizes what was applied on September 8, 2022 once the lab became aware of the critical situation regarding the arsenic results produced for the Jacob Riis Houses.

Original Testing Method

1. The samples were prepped by adding 4ml of nitric acid and 1ml of HCL to 40ml of sample.
2. The samples were then placed in the microwave for the digestion process. Following digestion, the samples were cooled.
3. Samples were diluted to a final volume of 50 ml at a 1.25x prep factor.
4. Samples delivered to technician for analysis. Prior to analysis, the samples were run with no bench dilution, but the digestion blank was analyzed at a 5x dilution.
5. After analysis, samples were loaded into the laboratory information management system (LIMS). Due to the dilution of the blank, LIMS raised the MDL and reporting limit to correct for the dilution.

Conclusion: Trace levels of arsenic were introduced to the samples during the digestion process. The dilution of the blank hid the true arsenic level within the blank, which artificially inflated the relative arsenic levels within the samples.

September 8, 2022 Testing Method

1. No addition of acids.
2. No digestion prep.
3. No dilutions.
4. Sample delivered to technician for analysis. No bench dilutions.
5. After analysis, sample was loaded into LIMS. Since there was no dilution, LIMS did not raise the MDL and reporting limit to correct for dilution.

Conclusion: The original testing method for the samples reported on August 26, 2022 included a test for silver, which required digestion and dilutions. As indicated in the Original Testing Method conclusion, these complexities introduced trace levels of arsenic and a dilution factor correction. Without the need for silver testing, the September 8, 2022 testing method was simplified specifically for arsenic, avoiding all potential contamination or factoring issues. The simplified arsenic analysis resulted in detection well below the MCL and supersedes all prior analyses on this sample.

Based on our investigation, we believe any contamination for arsenic found in these specific samples to be at trace levels, well below the Federal MCL of 10PPB.

We retract all arsenic results produced on August 26, 2022 and September 1, 2022. We issued revised reports on September 8, 2022 reflecting these revised results.