

November 19, 2003

Issues with the proper analysis of 2-chloroethyl vinyl ether have been brought to our attention by SC DHEC. Documentation provided by the EPA indicate that this analyte rapidly decomposes in the presence of acid, even in dilute amounts of preservative, and adversely effects the recovery of this analyte from preserved samples.

To insure the proper analysis and acquisition of useful data for 2-chloroethyl vinyl ether it is required to collect an unpreserved water sample and analyze it within a holding time of seven days. If more analytes are requested for that site, both preserved and unpreserved samples should be collected at that time. Therefore, two analyses will be conducted and additional costs may apply.

It is our goal to provide you with quality testing. Should 2-chloroethyl vinyl ether be an analyte of interest in your testing needs, you must request the additional non-preserved sample containers. Otherwise, a qualifier will follow on your report for this compound, indicating non-reportable data for this analyte.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Laboratory Certification will specifically address this and other issues concerning the applicability of 2-chloroethyl vinyl ether and EPA method 8260B in an upcoming issue of "The Update." They will also review other compounds of interest and how the commercial laboratories must begin adapting new policies and procedures when preparing to test for these compounds.

Some of the EPA SW-846 methodologies, in which a number of these compounds are listed, have not been updated since 1996 and do not account for the adverse effects of preservatives on many target analytes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your Project Manager at (803) 561-0331.