DoD information for EPA Method 533

Date Issued: April 2020

Presently, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has published two analytical methods to assess Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in treated drinking water from public water supplies, EPA Method 537.1 and EPA Method 533. The most significant differences between these two methods are the scheme used for quantitation and the applicable method analyte list. EPA Method 537.1 employs internal standard quantitation to evaluate 18 PFAS, while EPA Method 533 employs isotope dilution quantitation to evaluate 25 PFAS. While there are 14 PFAS included in both methods (https://www.epa.gov/dwanalyticalmethods/comparing-epa-analytical-methods-pfas-drinking-water), EPA Method 537.1 is focused on long-chain PFAS and EPA Method 533 on short-chain PFAS. Method selection should adhere to applicable DoD policies and regulatory requirements, and consider project-specific requirements. DoD ELAP accreditation for EPA Methods 537.1 and 533 is based on the laboratory's ability to meet the requirements of the method; DoD QSM Table B-15 requirements do not apply.