

Water Matrix Classification

We are implementing important changes to the way we receive water samples to identify the water matrix type.

In order to ensure accurate scheduling and analysis, and that accreditation requirements are met, we must clearly identify the type of water received. If the water type is not specified or if we cannot confidently identify the sample's matrix, it will be classified as a non-accredited matrix, and the results will be reported as such.

As a result, we have updated our chain of custody forms to now include specific codes for different water types. It is essential that these sections are completed correctly when submitting samples to prevent any delays.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your cooperation in helping us maintain the highest standards in our testing process.

Code	Matrix	Definition	Examples
GW	Groundwater	Water that does not run off, and is not taken up by plants, but soaks down beneath the ground surface into soil pore spaces and ultimately into the fractures of rock formations (called an aquifer when it can yield a usable quantity of water). The term is not applied to water that is percolating or held in the top layers of the soil, but to that below the water table and is generally restricted to water that has been drawn up from aquifers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well water Borehole water (see also Landfill Leachate) Spring water
SW	Surface Water	Water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff. Water that runs across the top of soil or bedrock without infiltrating through either material. Generally, it is accepted to be water collected on the surface of the earth for example in rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs or wetlands. N.B Does not include saline water sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River water Lake Reservoir
PW	Potable (non-regulatory) Water	Tap water. Accreditation does not cover DWTS (Drinking Water Testing specification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tap water
PrW	Process Water (heating / cooling)	Water that serves in any level of an industrial/ manufacturing process, with the difference from Trade Effluents being that they are not discharged to a wastewater system. Notes/Exceptions: Process waters can come from a number of different sources but are used during industrial / manufacturing processes (e.g. cutting fluid, cooling waters, make-up water, ultra-pure water (non-healthcare) and so on). The scope of this water type category is broad, and accredited laboratories may define process water types further. Laboratory holds accreditation for heating/cooling system type process waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heating / cooling closed system water
DI PrW	Process Water (DI/RO)	As PrW Laboratory holds accreditation for ultrapure type process waters (distilled water / reverse osmosis water).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deionized water Reverse osmosis water Ultra-pure water
FSE	Final Sewage Effluent	Liquid sewage that has been remediated prior to discharge, using any of a large number of processes (aeration, reed beds) to reduce its environmental impact and generally in order to meet consented discharge levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final sewage effluent
LL	Landfill Leachate	Water draining from landfill sites or which has percolated through contaminated land. Include borehole and runoff samples from landfill leachate or contaminated land. Landfill leachate is often yellow, brown or black with a characteristic sulfide or mercaptan smell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borehole water from landfill or contaminated land. Landfill runoff