



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

Memorandum

To: All Entities Reporting Official Residual Chlorine Results to SCDES

From: SCDES Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification

Date: February 22, 2019 (Editorial Revision - 10/28/2025)

Re: Residual Chlorine Requirements

The South Carolina Environmental Laboratory Certification Program is reminding all laboratories, facilities, consultants and other groups that report residual chlorine results to SCDES for official purposes that the laboratory performing this testing must be certified by this Office per South Carolina Regulation 61-81, section C. Residual chlorine samples must be analyzed within 15 minutes of collection for the results to be valid.

It is not acceptable to collect samples for main line clearances, new lines, distribution samples, etc., for which the residual chlorine analysis is either performed by a non-certified entity or the sample is delivered to a contract laboratory for analysis beyond the 15-minute hold time. Any residual chlorine sample not analyzed by a certified laboratory within 15 minutes of collection will cause the result(s) to be invalidated. Lack of a valid residual chlorine result will also invalidate any bacteriological result for that same sample.

If you have any questions, please contact this Office at (803) 896-0970 or labcerthelp@des.sc.gov.

cc: Travis Fuss, Bureau Chief
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