



SC DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

05/18/2026

**Memorandum – Re: Use of LEDs for UV Detection for Microbiological Use in Certified Laboratories**

Recently, a new UV technology using LEDs came on the market for fluorescence detection of positive bacterial organisms, such as *E. coli*, in microbiological samples. The EPA has determined that the use of these LED viewers **does not** meet the regulatory requirements of the approved methodology and/or requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Therefore, laboratories must continue to use the longwave fluorescent UV lamps (365-366 nm) for bacterial compliance samples.

Please note that this memo applies to both Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act microbiological testing. We will notify laboratories of any updates to this regulatory determination as they are received.

Feel free to contact us with any questions about this memo by email at [LabCertHelp@des.sc.gov](mailto:LabCertHelp@des.sc.gov) or by phone at 803-896-0970.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie L. Cockerel, Jr.".

Bennie L. Cockerel, Jr., Program Manager  
Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification  
Bureau of Regional & Laboratory Services, SCDES

cc: Micheal Mattocks, Asst. Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Regional & Laboratory Services, SCDES