



A Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

Low Level Hexavalent Chromium

**Providing Expert
Environmental
Testing Solutions**



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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that all U.S. drinking water utilities begin voluntarily monitoring for hexavalent chromium, or Chromium 6 (Cr+6), after a report issued by an environmental group generated a flurry of media coverage.

In February, 2011, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson suggested Cr+6 was on the fast track for regulation, while the U.S. Congress moved forward with legislation to force the issue. In March, as part of EPA's third unregulated contaminant monitoring rule (UCMR3), EPA requested comments on whether to include Cr+6 in that monitoring program, scheduled to begin in 2013.

The quick action by EPA demonstrates how media publicity can motivate regulators and lawmakers into action and underscores the importance for utilities to proactively assess their monitoring programs to anticipate future regulatory action. This article offers a review of considerations for Cr+6 analysis and monitoring to evaluate the "state-of-the-art in testing."

How frequently should samples be collected?

EPA recommends that water systems with surface water sources collect samples quarterly to capture the variation that may occur in the levels of chromium-6 in source waters. EPA recommends that ground water systems be sampled semi-annually. EPA recommends that systems collect samples from each of the locations listed above on the same day.

How can I find a laboratory to measure chromium-6?

EPA is requesting sample analysis using a modified version of EPA Method 218.6, "Determination of Dissolved Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water, Groundwater and Industrial Wastewater Effluents by Ion Chromatography". With these modifications, laboratories are capable of attaining a detection limit as low as 0.02 µg/L (ppb) and can support a reporting limit of 0.06 µg/L (ppb). The analytical instrumentation required for EPA Method 218.6 is not uncommon in drinking water laboratories: however, many laboratories may not be "set-up" to offer this analysis. The EPA states, "Laboratories that have the necessary equipment and are certified by an accrediting authority to conduct an approved ion chromatography method (e.g., EPA Method 300.0, SM 4110B, ASTM D4327) should be given preferential consideration to provide this analytical support."

EMT, Inc. will provide Low Level Hexavalent Chromium analysis as well as the proper sampling protocols.

EMT, Inc. NELAC's accreditation includes:

EPA Method 300

"Determination of Inorganic Anions in Drinking Water by Ion Chromatography"



EMT, Inc provides Low Level Hexavalent Chromium analysis by:

EPA Method 218.6, "Determination of Dissolved Hexavalent Chromium in Drinking Water, Groundwater and Industrial Wastewater Effluents by Ion Chromatography"

For more information, please contact us at info@emt