

PFAS Lab FAQs

1. What analytes are laboratories required to report?

The **six mandatory-reporting analytes** are: HFPO-DA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS.

ODW prefers results for all analytes to be reported using EPA 533, EPA 537.1.V2, or EPA 537.1

2. What are the PFAS analytes and analyte codes that may be reported, and what methods can be used for each analyte?

Analyte Code	Analyte Name	EPA 533	EPA 537.1 or V2
2801	PERFLUOROBUTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFBS)	X	X
2802	PERFLUOROHEPTANOIC ACID (PFHPA)	X	X
2803	PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID (PFHxS)	X	X
2804	PERFLUORONONANOIC ACID (PFNA)	X	X
2805	PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID (PFOS)	X	X
2806	PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID (PFOA)	X	X
2807	PERFLUORODECANOIC ACID (PFDA)	X	X
2808	PERFLUORODODECANOIC ACID (PFDOA)	X	X
2809	PERFLUOROHEXANOIC ACID (PFHXA)	X	X
2810	PERFLUOROTETRADECANOIC ACID (PFTA)		X
2811	PERFLUOROTRIDECANOIC ACID (PFTRDA)		X
2812	PERFLUOROUNDECANOIC ACID (PFUNA)	X	X
2813	11CL-PF3OUDS	X	X
2814	9CL-PF3ONS	X	X
2815	ADONA	X	X
2816	HFPO-DA	X	X
2817	NETFOSAA		X
2818	NMEFOSAA		X
2819	PERFLUOROBUTANOIC ACID (PFBA)	X	
2820	PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID 6:2 FTS	X	
2821	PERFLUOROHEXANE SULFONIC ACID 4:2 FTS	X	
2822	PERFLUORODECANE SULFONIC ACID 8:2 FTS	X	
2823	PERFLUORO PFMPA	X	
2824	PERFLUOROPENTANOIC ACID (PFPEA)	X	
2825	PERFLUORO PFMBA	X	
2826	PERFLUORO PFEESA	X	
2827	NONAFLUORO NFDHA	X	
2828	PERFLUOROPENTANESULFONIC ACID (PFPEs)	X	
2829	PERFLUOROHEPTANESULFONIC ACID (PFHPS)	X	

Mandatory-reporting analytes in **bold**

3. What CMDP method codes do we use to report?

In CMDP, use one of the following method codes, as appropriate:

EPA 533
EPA 537.1.V2
EPA 537.1

If analysis was performed with a different method, please contact labadmin@vdh.virginia.gov

4. What sample type do we use to report sample results?

Routine

5. What reporting limits do we use?

Concentrations must be reported for results **at or above** these reporting limits:

PFAS Reporting Limits	
Analyte	Nanograms per liter (ng/L)
HFPO-DA	5
PFHxS	5
PFNA	5
PFOA	2.0
PFOS	2.0
PFBS	3

Results **below** these reporting limits may be reported as **non-detect**.

You may use a lower reporting limit. Refer to the method for determining your Minimum Reporting Limit (MRL).

For other PFAS analytes, ODW does not require a specific reporting limit.

6. Does a field reagent blank need to be collected?

Yes. Both EPA 533 and EPA 537.1 require at least one Field Reagent Blank (FRB) be collected at each sample site. ODW recommends at least one FRB per sample.

7. When do we need to analyze the FRB?

If a drinking water result is at or above the reporting limit, EPA 533 and EPA 537.1 require the field reagent blank (FRB) be analyzed.

If all results are below the reporting limits, the field reagent blank does not need to be analyzed.

8. When does an FRB invalidate a sample result?

If one of the six mandatory-reporting analytes is found in the FRB at more than 1/3 the reporting limit, EPA 533 invalidates the sample result for that specific analyte. In that same circumstance, EPA 537.1 invalidates the whole sample.

9. What do we report for an analyte invalidated due to FRB contamination?

Do not report results for that analyte. If the invalidated analyte is one of the six mandatory-reporting analytes, advise waterworks to recollect.

10. Do we have to report FRB results?

If any of the six mandatory-reporting analytes are at or above reporting limits, please report the FRB results. These will be reported as the Sample Type “Field Blank” or “FB”.

If the six mandatory-reporting analytes are below reporting limits, FRB results are not required.

11. Is ODW’s guidance likely to change?

The EPA released guidance on how ODW’s data systems are to be used to support the PFAS Rule, but the guidance and software does not wholly implement the published [PFAS Rule](#). As we work to understand these new requirements, these instructions may change. We will let you know. Thank you for working with us!

Revision History:	
1/30/2026	Revised to reflect PFAS Rule requirements for reporting limits. Added response to question about when an FRB invalidates a result. Noted that EPA has released SDWIS and Data Reporting Instructions, but not capable of implementing whole PFAS Rule. Noted that EPA 537.1.V2 is an editorial revision to EPA 537.1.
2025	Initial Release

12. I have a question that wasn’t answered here, where can I find answers?

For CMDP support, training, or to sign up for CMDP, please contact Leslie Fleury at Leslie.Holt@vdh.virginia.gov.

For questions about PFAS lab analysis and certification, contact DCLS at 804-648-4480.

For questions about ODW’s policies and guidance on PFAS, please email: LabAdmin@vdh.virginia.gov.