

B. New Methods

The Agency is today proposing to add 61 new methods to the Third Edition of SW-846 (Table 2). If finalized, these new methods will provide additional flexibility in method selection and also may be used during the analyses of some analytes for which other SW-846 methods may be less than adequate performers. These new methods are available from GPO and NTIS, and are part of the official docket for this rulemaking. The Agency is soliciting comments on all sections of these methods.

EPA's Office of Solid Waste is also considering adopting the Environmental Monitoring Management Council (EMMC) format for use with new SW-846 methods in a future proposed revision (other than Update III) to SW-846. As part of its efforts to promote consolidation and integration between EPA Program Offices, the EMMC developed the consensus format for analytical methods. The Agency plans to consider adopting this format to be consistent with an intra-agency effort to achieve uniformity in analytical method format among all Agency programs. The use of this new format for new methods of SW-846 will be proposed per comment in a future rulemaking. The Agency is not soliciting comment at this time on its plans to adopt the EMMC format.

C. Deletion of Obsolete Methods

The Agency is also proposing today to delete sixteen obsolete methods (Table 3) from the Third Edition of SW-846, for the reasons delineated in the following paragraphs. The Agency is soliciting comments on the removal of the methods from SW-846.

Fourteen packed column gas chromatographic (GC) methods are proposed for deletion from SW-846 because they have been superseded by capillary column methods or other method techniques that provide better resolution, selectivity and sensitivity. Capillary columns have an inherently greater ability to separate analytes than packed columns. A survey performed in 1991 found that few analysts actually use packed columns in their laboratories anymore (Environmental Science and Technology, 26, 1285-1287, 1992). These packed column GC methods are also proposed for deletion to be consistent with other Agency program offices, e.g., the Office of Water, which has withdrawn packed column methods from its list of approved drinking water methods (see 59 FR 62456, December 5, 1994).

Method 9200, the brucine-sulfanilamide method for nitrate determination, is proposed for deletion because it generates unreliable results. It was recently demonstrated to be unreliable by both the Agency's Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory in Cincinnati (EMSL-Ci) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA). The unstable nature of the analytical reagents and excessively tight temperature control requirements were among the factors contributing to the method's unreliability. In fact, on December 15, 1993 (58 FR 65622), the Agency proposed to remove Method 353.1 (EPA 600/4-79-020, "Methods for the Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes") which contains a brucine-sulfanilic acid procedure. Method 419 D, a brucine-sulfanilic acid method, was also removed by the American Water Works Association from the publication "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater", Fifteenth Edition. Therefore, to be consistent with these and any other related Agency actions, the Agency is proposing to remove Method 9200 from SW-846. In the rare cases where nitrate is a target analyte for RCRA-related analyses, the regulated community may use Method 9056—The Determination of Inorganic Anions by Ion Chromatography (currently in SW-846). Another appropriate method may be Method 9210—Nitrate in Aqueous Samples by Ion-Selective Electrode, which is a proposed Update III method and listed in Table 2 of this notice. Alternative methods are also available from other sources, including, but not limited to, the "Annual Book of ASTM Methods" (American Society for Testing and Materials, Philadelphia, PA); "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" (Eighteenth Edition, 1992, American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation, Washington, DC); and the Office of Water methods manual "Methods for the Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes" (EPA, March 1983, NTIS PB84-128677).

Method 9252A—Chloride (Titrimetric, Mercuric Nitrate) is proposed to be deleted from SW-846 as part of the Agency's ongoing efforts to promote pollution prevention measures. Although the method does give reliable results, it can generate a mercury-containing RCRA hazardous waste, which may cause disposal or contamination problems for the laboratory. Several alternative methods for the determination of chloride are available both in SW-846 (e.g., Methods

9250, 9251 and 9253) and from other sources including, but not limited to, the "Annual Book of ASTM Methods" (American Society for Testing and Materials, Philadelphia, PA), "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater" (Eighteenth Edition, 1992, American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation, Washington, DC), and the Office of Water methods manual, "Methods for the Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes" (EPA, March 1983, NTIS PB84-128677).

D. Request for Comment Only on Certain Sections of Method 9095A

Revised Method 9095A ("Paint Filter Liquids Test") contains revisions to sections 6.2, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 that provide direction on how to prepare sorbent materials that do not conform to the shape of the paint filter. This direction is intended to facilitate use of the method for the testing of containerized liquids to which sorbents have been added before land disposal. The Agency adopted Method 9095A for this purpose on November 18, 1992 (see 57 FR 54452, the "Liquids in Landfills" rule). Method 9095A also contains a new section 3.2 which clarifies use of the method during freezing conditions. The Agency is requesting comment only on the sections of Method 9095A listed above, is not requesting comment on other sections of the method (which were not revised), and is also not requesting comment on method appropriateness for free liquid determinations.

E. Deleting References to Method 8240 in §§ 264.1034(d)(iii) and (f), 264.1063(d)(2), 265.1034(d)(1)(iii) and (f), and 265.1063(d)(2)

The Agency is proposing to delete all references to Method 8240 (Volatile Organic Compounds by Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry) of SW-846 found in 40 CFR 264.1034(d)(1)(iii) and (f), 264.1063(d)(2), 265.1034(d)(1)(iii) and (f), and 265.1063(d)(2) of the RCRA regulations. The Agency is proposing this action because a method involving the determination of volatile organic compounds (e.g., Method 8240 or 8260) is not an appropriate method alternative for the total organic carbon analysis addressed by 40 CFR 264.1034(d)(1)(iii) and (f), 264.1063(d)(2), 265.1034(d)(1)(iii) and (f), and 265.1063(d)(2), since it exhibits no direct correlation with analytical results obtained using Method 9060. In addition, Method 8240 is a packed column method and, for the reasons