equal to the values listed in the applicable table (Tables AA–5 or AA–6). Facilities that achieve average discharge concentrations which are less than or equal to the appropriate cut-off concentration values are not relieved from the pollution prevention plan requirements or any other requirements of the permit.

EPA realizes that if a facility is inactive and unstaffed it may be difficult to collect storm water discharge samples when a qualifying event occurs. Today's final permit has been revised so that inactive, unstaffed facilities can exercise a waiver of the requirement to conduct quarterly chemical sampling.

b. Alternative Certification. Throughout today's permit, EPA has included monitoring requirements for facilities which the Agency believes have the potential for contributing significant levels of pollutants to storm water discharges. The alternative described below is necessary to ensure that monitoring requirements are only imposed on those facilities that do, in fact, have storm water discharges containing pollutants at concentrations of concern. EPA has determined that if materials and activities are not exposed to storm water at the site, then the potential for pollutants to contaminate storm water discharges does not warrant monitoring.

Therefore, a discharger is not subject to the monitoring requirements of this Part provided the discharger makes a certification for a given outfall, or on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis in lieu of monitoring described in Tables AA-5 and AA-6, under penalty of law, signed in accordance with Part VII.G. (Signatory Requirements), that material handling equipment or activities, raw materials, intermediate products, final products, waste materials, by-products, industrial machinery or operations, significant materials from past industrial activity that are located in areas of the facility that are within the drainage area of the outfall are not presently exposed to storm water and will not be exposed to storm water for the certification period. Such certification must be retained in the storm water pollution prevention plan and submitted to EPA. In the case of certifying that a pollutant is not present, the permittee must submit the certification along with the monitoring reports required under paragraph c below. If the permittee cannot certify for an entire period, they must submit the date exposure was eliminated and any monitoring required up until that date. This certification option is not applicable to compliance monitoring requirements associated with effluent

limitations. EPA does not expect facilities to be able to exercise this certification for indicator parameters, such as TSS and BOD.

*c. Reporting Requirements.* Permittees are required to submit all monitoring results obtained during the second and fourth year of permit coverage within 3 months of the conclusion of each year. For each outfall, one signed Discharge Monitoring Report Form must be submitted per storm event sampled. For facilities conducting monitoring beyond the minimum quarterly requirements an additional Discharge Monitoring Report Form must be filed for each analysis.

d. Sample Type. All discharge data shall be reported for grab samples. All such samples shall be collected from the discharge resulting from a storm event that is greater than 0.1 inches in magnitude and that occurs at least 72 hours from the previously measurable (greater than 0.1 inch rainfall) storm event. The required 72-hour storm event interval is waived where the preceding measurable storm event did not result in a measurable discharge from the facility. The required 72-hour storm event interval may also be waived where the permittee documents that less than a 72hour interval is representative for local storm events during the season when sampling is being conducted. The grab sample shall be taken during the first 30 minutes of the discharge. If the collection of a grab sample during the first 30 minutes is impracticable, a grab sample can be taken during the first hour of the discharge, and the discharger shall submit with the monitoring report a description of why a grab sample during the first 30 minutes was impracticable.

If storm water discharges associated with industrial activity commingle with process or non-process water, then where practicable permittees must attempt to sample the storm water discharge before it mixes with the nonstorm water discharge.

e. Representative Discharge. When a facility has two or more outfalls that, based on a consideration of industrial activity, significant materials, and management practices and activities within the area drained by the outfall, the permittee reasonably believes discharge substantially identical effluents, the permittee may test the effluent of one of such outfalls and report that the quantitative data also applies to the substantially identical outfall(s) provided that the permittee includes in the storm water pollution prevention plan a description of the location of the outfalls and explains in detail why the outfalls are expected to discharge substantially identical

effluent. In addition, for each outfall that the permittee believes is representative, an estimate of the size of the drainage area (in square feet) and an estimate of the runoff coefficient of the drainage area [e.g., low (under 40 percent), medium (40 to 65 percent), or high (above 65 percent)] shall be provided in the plan.

f. Quarterly Visual Examination of Storm Water Quality. Quarterly visual examinations of storm water discharges from each outfall are required at fabricated metal products facilities. The examinations must be of a grab sample collected from each storm water outfall. The examination of storm water grab samples shall include any observations of color, odor, clarity, floating solids, settled solids, suspended solids, foam, oil sheen, or other obvious indicators of storm water pollution. The examinations must be conducted in a well lit area. No analytical tests are required to be performed on these samples.

The examination must be made at least once in each of the following periods during daylight, unless there is insufficient rainfall or snow-melt to runoff: January through March; April through June; July through September; and October through December. Where practicable, the same individual should carry out the collection and examination of discharges throughout the life of the permit to ensure the greatest degree of consistency possible. Grab samples shall be collected within the first 30 minutes (or as soon thereafter as practical, but not to exceed 60 minutes) of when the runoff begins discharging. Reports of the visual examination include: the examination date and time, examination personnel, visual quality of the storm water discharge, and probable sources of any observed storm water contamination. The visual examination reports must be maintained onsite with the pollution prevention plan.

When a discharger is unable to collect samples over the course of the visual examination period as a result of adverse climatic conditions, the discharger must document the reason for not performing the visual examination and retain this documentation onsite with the records of the visual examination. Adverse weather conditions which may prohibit the collection of samples include weather conditions that create dangerous conditions for personnel (such as local flooding, high winds, hurricane, tornadoes, electrical storms, etc.) or otherwise make the collection of a sample impracticable (drought, extended frozen conditions, etc.).