

Attachment Q  
Marine Acute Toxicity Test Procedure and Protocol

## I. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The permittee shall conduct acceptable acute toxicity tests in accordance with the appropriate test protocols described below:

! Mysid Shrimp (Mysidopsis bahia) definitive 24 hour test.

! Inland Silverside (Menidia beryllina) definitive 24 hour test.

Acute toxicity data shall be reported as outlined in Section VIII.

## II. METHODS

Methods to follow are those recommended by EPA in:

Weber, C.I. et al. Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents to Freshwater and Marine Organisms, Fourth Edition. Environmental Monitoring Systems Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cincinnati, OH. August 1993, EPA/600/4-90/027F.

Any exceptions are stated herein.

## III. SAMPLE COLLECTION

A discharge sample shall be collected. Aliquots shall be split from the sample, containerized and preserved (as per 40 CFR Part 136) for the chemical and physical analyses. The remaining sample shall be dechlorinated (if detected) in the laboratory using sodium thiosulfate for subsequent toxicity testing. (Note that EPA approved test methods require that samples collected for metals analyses be preserved immediately after collection.) Grab samples must be used for pH, temperature, and total residual oxidants (as per 40 CFR Part 122.21).

Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater describes dechlorination of samples (APHA, 1992). Dechlorination can be achieved using a ratio of 6.7 mg/L anhydrous sodium thiosulfate to reduce 1.0 mg/L chlorine. A thiosulfate control (maximum amount of thiosulfate in lab control or receiving water) should also be run.

All samples held overnight shall be refrigerated at 4°C.

## IV. DILUTION WATER

A grab sample of dilution water used for acute toxicity testing shall be collected at a point away from the discharge which is free from toxicity or other sources of contamination. Avoid collecting near areas of obvious road or agricultural runoff, storm sewers or other point source discharges. An additional control (0% effluent) of a standard laboratory water of known quality shall also be tested.

If the receiving water diluent is found to be, or suspected to be toxic or unreliable, an alternate standard dilution water of known quality with a conductivity, salinity, total suspended solids, and pH similar to that of the receiving water may be substituted **AFTER RECEIVING WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE PERMIT ISSUING AGENCY(S)**. Written requests for use of an alternative dilution water should be mailed with supporting documentation to the following address:

Director  
Office of Ecosystem Protection  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-New England

JFK Federal Building (CAA)  
Boston, MA 02203

It may prove beneficial to have the proposed dilution water source screened for suitability prior to toxicity testing. EPA strongly urges that screening be done prior to set up of a full definitive toxicity test any time there is question about the dilution water's ability to support acceptable performance as outlined in the 'test acceptability' section of the protocol.

#### V. TEST CONDITIONS AND TEST ACCEPTABILITY CRITERIA

EPA New England requires tests be performed using four replicates of each control and effluent concentration because the non-parametric statistical tests cannot be used with data from fewer replicates. The following tables summarize the accepted Mysid and Menidia toxicity test conditions and test acceptability criteria:

#### **EPA NEW ENGLAND RECOMMENDED EFFLUENT TOXICITY TEST CONDITIONS FOR THE MYSID, MYSIDOPSIS BAHIA 24 HOUR TEST**<sup>1</sup>

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|  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Test type                                     | Static, non-renewal   |
| 2. Salinity                                      | 25ppt $\pm$ 10 percent for all dilutions by adding dry ocean salts  |
| 3. Temperature ( $^{\circ}$ C)                   | 20 $^{\circ}$ C $\pm$ 1 $^{\circ}$ C or 25 $^{\circ}$ C $\pm$ 1 $^{\circ}$ C  |
| 4. Light quality                                 | Ambient laboratory illumination   |
| 5. Photoperiod                                   | 16 hour light, 8 hour dark  |
| 6. Test chamber size                             | 250 ml  |
| 7. Test solution volume                          | 200 ml  |
| 8. Age of test organisms                         | 1-5 days  |
| 9. No. Mysids per test chamber                   | 10  |
| 10. No. of replicate test chambers per treatment | 4   |
| 11. Total no. Mysids per test concentration      | 40  |
| 12. Feeding regime                               | Light feeding using concentrated <u>Artemia</u> nauplii while holding prior to initiating the test  |
| 13. Aeration <sup>2</sup>                        | None  |
| 14. Dilution water                               | Natural seawater, or deionized water mixed with artificial sea salts  |
| 15. Dilution factor                              | $\geq$ 0.5  |
| 16. Number of dilutions <sup>3</sup>             | 5 plus a control. An additional dilution at the permitted effluent concentration (% effluent) is required if it is not included in the dilution series. |
| 17. Effect measured                              | Mortality - no movement of body appendages on gentle prodding   |
| 18. Test acceptability                           | 90% or greater survival of test organisms in control solution   |

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|----------------------------|---|
| 19. Sampling requirements  | For on-site tests, samples are used within 24 hours of the time that they are removed from the sampling device. For off-site tests, samples must be first used within 36 hours of collection. |
| 20. Sample volume required | Minimum 1 liter for effluents and 2 liters for receiving waters   |
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**Footnotes:**

1. Adapted from EPA/600/4-90/027F.
2. If dissolved oxygen falls below 4.0 mg/L, aerate at rate of less than 100 bubbles/min. Routine D.O. checks are recommended.
3. When receiving water is used for dilution, an additional control made up of standard laboratory dilution water (0% effluent) is required.

**EPA NEW ENGLAND RECOMMENDED TOXICITY TEST CONDITIONS FOR THE INLAND SILVERSIDE, MENIDIA BERYLLINA 24 HOUR TEST<sup>1</sup>**

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|---|--|
| 1. Test Type                                    | Static, non-renewal  |
| 2. Salinity                                     | 25 ppt $\pm$ 2 ppt by adding dry ocean salts   |
| 3. Temperature                                  | 20°C $\pm$ 1°C or 25°C $\pm$ 1°C   |
| 4. Light Quality                                | Ambient laboratory illumination  |
| 5. Photoperiod                                  | 16 hr light, 8 hr dark   |
| 6. Size of test vessel                          | 250 mL (minimum)   |
| 7. Volume of test solution                      | 200 mL/replicate (minimum)   |
| 8. Age of fish                                  | 9-14 days; 24 hr age range   |
| 9. No. fish per chamber                         | 10 (not to exceed loading limits)  |
| 10. No. of replicate test vessels per treatment | 4  |
| 11. total no. organisms per concentration       | 40   |
| 12. Feeding regime                              | Light feeding using concentrated <u>Artemia</u> nauplii while holding prior to initiating the test   |
| 13. Aeration <sup>2</sup>                       | None   |
| 14. Dilution water                              | Natural seawater, or deionized water mixed with artificial sea salts.  |
| 15. Dilution factor                             | $\geq$ 0.5   |
| 16. Number of dilutions <sup>3</sup>            | 5 plus a control. An additional dilution at the permitted concentration (% effluent) is required if it is not included in the dilution series. |

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|----------------------------|--|
| 17. Effect measured        | Mortality-no movement on gentle prodding.  |
| 18. Test acceptability     | 90% or greater survival of test organisms in control solution  |
| 19. Sampling requirements  | For on-site tests, samples must be used within 24 hours of the time they are removed from the sampling device. Off-site test samples must be used within 36 hours of collection. |
| 20. Sample volume required | Minimum 1 liter for effluents and 2 liters for receiving waters.   |

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**Footnotes:**

1. Adapted from EPA/600/4-90/027F.
2. If dissolved oxygen falls below 4.0 mg/L, aerate at rate of less than 100 bubbles/min. Routine D.O. checks recommended.
3. When receiving water is used for dilution, an additional control made up of standard laboratory dilution water (0% effluent) is required.

**VI. CHEMICAL ANALYSIS**

At the beginning of the static acute test, pH, specific conductance, salinity, total residual oxidants, and temperature must be measured at the beginning and end of each 24 hour period in each dilution and in the controls. The following chemical analyses shall be performed for each sampling event.

| <u>Parameter</u>                      | <u>Minimum<br/>Quantification<br/>Effluent Diluent Level (mg/L)</u> |   |          |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|----------|
| pH                                    | x   | x | ---      |
| Specific Conductance                  | x   | x | ---      |
| Salinity                              | x   | x | PT(o/oo) |
| Total Residual Oxidants <sup>*1</sup> | x   | x | 0.05     |
| Total Solids and Suspended Solids     | x   | x | ---      |
| Ammonia                               | x   | x | 0.1      |
| Total Organic Carbon                  | x   | x | 0.5      |
| <u>Total Metals</u>                   |   |   |          |
| Cd                                    | x   |   | 0.001    |
| Cr                                    | x   |   | 0.005    |
| Pb                                    | x   | x | 0.005    |
| Cu                                    | x   | x | 0.0025   |

|    |   |   |        |
|----|---|---|--------|
| Zn | x | x | 0.0025 |
| Ni | x | x | 0.004  |
| A1 | x | x | 0.02   |

Superscript:

\*1 Total Residual Oxidants

Either of the following methods from the 18th Edition of the APHA Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater must be used for these analyses:

- Method 4500-Cl E Low Level Amperometric Titration (the preferred method);
- Method 4500-CL G DPD Photometric Method.

or use USEPA Manual of Methods Analysis of Water or Wastes, Method 330.5.

**VII. TOXICITY TEST DATA ANALYSIS**

LC50 Median Lethal Concentration

An estimate of the concentration of effluent or toxicant that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms during the time prescribed by the test method.

Methods of Estimation:

- ! Probit Method
- ! Spearman-Karber
- ! Trimmed Spearman-Karber
- ! Graphical

See flow chart in Figure 6 on page 77 of EPA 600/4-90/027F for appropriate method to use on a given data set.

No Observed Acute Effect Level (NOAEL)

See flow chart in Figure 13 on page 94 of EPA 600/4-90/027F.

**VIII. TOXICITY TEST REPORTING**

The following must be reported:

- ! Description of sample collection procedures, site description;
- ! Names of individuals collecting and transporting samples, times and dates of sample collection and analysis on chain-of-custody; and
- ! General description of tests: age of test organisms, origin, dates and results of standard toxicant tests; light and temperature regime; other information on test conditions if different than procedures recommended. Reference toxicity test data must be included.
- ! Raw data and bench sheets.
- ! All chemical/physical data generated. (Include minimum detection levels and minimum quantification

levels.)

- ! Provide a description of dechlorination procedures (as applicable).
- ! Any other observations or test conditions affecting test outcome.
- ! Statistical tests used to calculate endpoints.