STANDARD METHODS
FOR THE
EXAMINATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER
JOINT EDITORIAL BOARD

MEMORANDUM

Sponsors

Andrew Eaton

To: *Standard Methods* Users
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

From: Andrew Eaton
Joint Editorial Board

Re: BOD Multiple Dilution Water Blanks **Date: August 1, 2014**

This memo is in response to questions about how to determine acceptance criteria when multiple Dilution Water Blanks are performed in the *Standard Methods* 5210B – 2011 method.

The method states in section 5210B.6.c: "With each batch of samples incubate one or more bottles of dilution water that contains nutrient, mineral and buffer solutions but no seed or nitrification inhibitor. This dilution water blank serves as a check on quality of unseeded dilution water and cleanliness of incubation bottles. Determine initial and final DO as in 5210B.5g and i. The DO uptake in 5 d must not be more than 0.20 mg/L and preferably not more than 0.10 mg/L, before making seed corrections. If the dilution water blank exceeds 0.20 mg/L, discard all data for tests using this dilution water or clearly identify such samples in data records."

The method does not specifically address how to handle multiple dilution water blanks.

After JEB discussion with the Part Coordinator and Joint Task Group chair for Section 5210, it has been determined that multiple Dilution Water Blanks in the same batch using the same dilution water are to be treated as replicates and averaged. The average of the dilution water blanks in a batch must not be more than 0.20 mg/L. We will include this information in the next published version of the method.

cc: Robin Parnell (Part Coordinator – Part 5000)