

62-160.700 Tables.**Effective 12-3-08**

The following table has been referenced in this chapter and is identified by this title:

Table 1: Data Qualifier Codes.

Table 1
DATA QUALIFIER CODES

The following codes shall be used by laboratories and/or field organizations when reporting data values that either meet the specified description outlined below or do not meet the quality control criteria of the laboratory:

SYMBOL MEANING

A	Value reported is the arithmetic mean (average) of two or more determinations. This code shall be used if the reported value is the average of results for two or more discrete and separate samples. These samples shall have been processed and analyzed independently. Do not use this code if the data are the result of replicate analysis on the same sample aliquot, extract or digestate.
B	Results based upon colony counts outside the acceptable range. This code applies to microbiological tests and specifically to membrane filter colony counts. The code is to be used if the colony count is generated from a plate in which the total number of coliform colonies is outside the method indicated ideal range. This code is not to be used if a 100 mL sample has been filtered and the colony count is less than the lower value of the ideal range.
F	When reporting species: F indicates the female sex.
H	Value based on field kit determination; results may not be accurate. This code shall be used if a field screening test (i.e., field gas chromatograph data, immunoassay, vendor-supplied field kit, etc.) was used to generate the value and the field kit or method has not been recognized by the Department as equivalent to laboratory methods.
I	The reported value is greater than or equal to the laboratory method detection limit but less than the laboratory practical quantitation limit.

J	Estimated value. A “J” value shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation to justify the reason(s) for designating the value as estimated. Where possible, the organization shall report whether the actual value is estimated to be less than or greater than the reported value. A “J” value shall not be used as a substitute for K, L, M, T, V, or Y, however, if additional reasons exist for identifying the value as an estimate (e.g., matrix spiked failed to meet acceptance criteria), the “J” code may be added to a K, L, M, T, V, or Y. Examples of situations in which a “J” code must be reported include: instances where a quality control item associated with the reported value failed to meet the established quality control criteria (the specific failure must be identified); instances when the sample matrix interfered with the ability to make any accurate determination; instances when data are questionable because of improper laboratory or field protocols (e.g., composite sample was collected instead of a grab sample); instances when the analyte was detected at or above the method detection limit in a blank other than the method blank (such as calibration blank or field-generated blanks and the value of 10 times the blank value was equal to or greater than the associated sample value); or instances when the field or laboratory calibrations or calibration verifications did not meet calibration acceptance criteria.
K	Off-scale low. Actual value is known to be less than the value given. This code shall be used if: 1. The value is less than the lowest calibration standard and the calibration curve is known to be non-linear; or 2. The value is known to be less than the reported value based on sample size, dilution. This code shall not be used to report values that are less than the laboratory practical quantitation limit or laboratory method detection limit.
L	Off-scale high. Actual value is known to be greater than value given. To be used when the concentration of the analyte is above the acceptable level for quantitation (exceeds the linear range or highest calibration standard) and the calibration curve is known to exhibit a negative deflection.
M	When reporting chemical analyses: presence of material is verified but not quantified; the actual value is less than the value given. The reported value shall be the laboratory practical quantitation limit. This code shall be used if the level is too low to permit accurate quantification, but the estimated concentration is greater than or equal to the method detection limit. If the value is less than the method detection limit use “T” below.
N	Presumptive evidence of presence of material. This qualifier shall be used if: 1. The component has been tentatively identified based on mass spectral library search; or 2. There is an indication that the analyte is present, but quality control requirements for confirmation were not met (i.e., presence of analyte was not confirmed by alternative procedures).
O	Sampled, but analysis lost or not performed.
Q	Sample held beyond the accepted holding time. This code shall be used if the value is derived from a sample that was prepared or analyzed after the approved holding time restrictions for sample preparation or

	analysis.
T	Value reported is less than the laboratory method detection limit. The value is reported for informational purposes only and shall not be used in statistical analysis.
U	Indicates that the compound was analyzed for but not detected. This symbol shall be used to indicate that the specified component was not detected. The value associated with the qualifier shall be the laboratory method detection limit. Unless requested by the client, less than the method detection limit values shall not be reported (see “T” above).
V	Indicates that the analyte was detected at or above the method detection limit in both the sample and the associated method blank and the value of 10 times the blank value was equal to or greater than the associated sample value. Note: unless specified by the method, the value in the blank shall not be subtracted from associated samples.
X	Indicates, when reporting results from a Stream Condition Index Analysis (LT 7200 and FS 7420), that insufficient individuals were present in the sample to achieve a minimum of 280 organisms for identification (the method calls for two aliquots of 140-160 organisms), suggesting either extreme environmental stress or a sampling error.
Y	The laboratory analysis was from an improperly preserved sample. The data may not be accurate.
Z	Too many colonies were present for accurate counting. Historically, this condition has been reported as “too numerous to count” (TNTC). The “Z” qualifier code shall be reported when the total number of colonies of all types is more than 200 in all dilutions of the sample. When applicable to the observed test results, a numeric value for the colony count for the microorganism tested shall be estimated from the highest dilution factor (smallest sample volume) used for the test and reported with the qualifier code.
?	Data are rejected and should not be used. Some or all of the quality control data for the analyte were outside criteria, and the presence or absence of the analyte cannot be determined from the data.
*	Not reported due to interference.

The following codes deal with certain aspects of field activities. The codes shall be used if the laboratory has knowledge of the specific sampling event. The codes shall be added by the organization collecting samples if they apply:

SYMBOL MEANING

D	Measurement was made in the field (i.e., in situ). This code applies to any value (except field measurements of pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, temperature, total residual chlorine, transparency, turbidity or salinity) that was obtained under field conditions using approved analytical
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	methods. If the parameter code specifies a field measurement (e.g., "Field pH"), this code is not required.
E	Indicates that extra samples were taken at composite stations.
R	Significant rain in the past 48 hours. (Significant rain typically involves rain in excess of 1/2 inch within the past 48 hours.) This code shall be used when the rainfall might contribute to a lower than normal value.
!	Data deviate from historically established concentration ranges.

Specific Authority 403.061, 403.0623 FS. Law Implemented 373.026, 373.309, 373.409, 373.413, 373.414, 373.416, 373.4592, 376.303, 376.305, 376.3071, 403.0623, 403.0625, 403.087, 403.088, 403.0881, 403.504, 403.704, 403.707, 403.722, 403.853 FS. History—New 1-1-91, Amended 2-4-93, 2-27-94, Formerly 17-160.700, Amended 3-24-96, 4-9-02, 6-8-04, 12-3-08.

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