

Lab Definitions

Continuing Calibration Check Standard (CCC) / Continuing Calibration Verification (CCV) / Initial Calibration Verification Standard (ICV) / Initial Performance Check (IPC) - is a standard containing one or more of the target analytes that is prepared from the same standards used to calibrate the instrument. This standard is used to verify the calibration curve at the beginning of each analytical sequence, and may also be analyzed throughout and at the end of the sequence. The concentration of continuing standards may be varied, when prescribed by the reference method, so that the range of the calibration curve is verified on a regular basis. CCL, CCM, and CCH are the CCC standards at low, mid, and high concentration levels, respectively.

Internal Standards (IS) - are pure compounds with properties similar to the analytes of interest, which are added to field samples or extracts, calibration standards, and quality control standards at a known concentration. They are used to measure the relative responses of the analytes of interest and surrogates in the sample, calibration standard or quality control standard.

Laboratory Duplicate (LD) - is a field sample aliquot taken from the same sample container in the laboratory and analyzed separately using identical procedures. Analysis of laboratory duplicates provides a measure of the precision of the laboratory procedures.

Laboratory Fortified Blank (LFB) / Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) - is an aliquot of reagent water to which known concentrations of the analytes of interest are added. The LFB is analyzed exactly the same as the field samples. LFBs are used to determine whether the method is in control. FBL, FBM, and FBH are the LFB samples at low, mid, and high concentration levels, respectively.

Laboratory Method Blank (LMB) / Laboratory Reagent Blank (LRB) - is a sample of reagent water included in the sample batch analyzed in the same way as the associated field samples. The LMB is used to determine if method analytes or other background contamination have been introduced during the preparation or analytical procedure. The LMB is analyzed exactly the same as the field samples.

Laboratory Trip Blank (LTB) / Field Reagent Blank (FRB) - is a sample of laboratory reagent water placed in a sample container in the laboratory and treated as a field sample, including storage, preservation, and all analytical procedures. The FRB/LTB container follows the collection bottles to and from the collection site, but the FRB/LTB is not opened at any time during the trip. The FRB/LTB is primarily a travel blank used to verify that the samples were not contaminated during shipment.

Matrix Spike Duplicate Sample (MSD) / Laboratory Fortified Sample Matrix Duplicate (LFSMD) - is a sample aliquot taken from the same field sample source as the Matrix Spike Sample to which known quantities of the analytes of interest are added in the laboratory. The MSD is analyzed exactly the same as the field samples. Analysis of the MSD provides a measure of the precision of the laboratory procedures in a specific matrix. SDL, SDM, and SDH / LFSMDL, LFSMDM, and LFSMDH are the MSD or LFSMD at low, mid, and high concentration levels, respectively.

Matrix Spike Sample (MS) / Laboratory Fortified Sample Matrix (LFSM) - is a sample aliquot taken from field sample source to which known quantities of the analytes of interest are added in the laboratory. The MS is analyzed exactly the same as the field samples. The purpose is to demonstrate recovery of the analytes from a sample matrix to determine if the specific matrix contributes bias to the analytical results. MSL, MSM, and MSH / LFSML, LFSMM, and LFSMH are the MS or LFSM at low, mid, and high concentration levels, respectively.

Quality Control Standard (QCS) / Second Source Calibration Verification (SSCV) - is a solution containing known concentrations of the analytes of interest prepared from a source different from the source of the calibration standards. The solution is obtained from a second manufacturer or lot if the lot can be demonstrated by the manufacturer as prepared independently from other lots. The QCS sample is analyzed using the same procedures as field samples. The QCS is used as a check on the calibration standards used in the method on a routine basis.

Reporting Limit Check (RLC) / Initial Calibration Check Standard (ICCS) - is a procedural standard that is analyzed each day to evaluate instrument performance at or below the minimum reporting limit (MRL).

Surrogate Standard (SS) / Surrogate Analyte (SUR) - is a pure compound with properties similar to the analytes of interest, which is highly unlikely to be found in any field sample, that is added to the field samples, calibration standards, blanks and quality control standards before sample preparation. The SS is used to evaluate the efficiency of the sample preparation process.