STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR SAMPLING POROUS SURFACES FOR POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs)

The Office of Environmental Measurement and Evaluation
EPA New England – Region 1
11 Technology Dr.
North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Prepared by: Dan Granz, Environmental Engineer — Date: 9/16/08

Reviewed by: Kim Tisa, TSCA PCB Coordinator — Date: 10/14/2008

Reviewed by: Jerry Keefe – EIA Team Leader — Date: 10/21/2008

Approved by: Ernest Waterman, EIA Manager — Date: 10/21/2008

Disclaimer: The controlled version of this document is the electronic version viewed on-line only. If this is a printed copy of the document, it is an uncontrolled version and may or may not be the version.

This document contains direction developed solely to provide internal guidance to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) personnel. EPA retains the discretion to adopt approaches that differ from these procedures on a case by case basis. The procedures set forth do not create any rights, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party to litigation with EPA or the United States.

Revision Page

Date	Rev#	Summary of Changes	Sections
12/97	1	Initial Approval, draft	
3/20/08	2	Major update, only for PCBs, added TSCA sampling	All sections
7/22/08	3	Disposal of dust filter and decon of vac hose	11.0 and 14.0

Table of Contents

1.0 Scope and Application 4

2.0 Summary of Method 4

3.0 Definitions 4

4.0 Health and Safety Warnings 5

5.0 Interferences 6

6.0 Personnel Qualifications 6

7.0 Equipment and Supplies 6

8.0 Sampling Design 7

9.0 Sample Collection 7

10.0 Sample Handling, Preservation, and Storage 9

11.0 Decontamination 9

12.0 Data and Record Management 9

13.0 Quality Control and Quality Assurance 9

14.0 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention 10

15.0 References 10

Attachments:

Example of Custody Seal and Sample Label
Example of Chain of Custody Form

1.0 Scope and Application

1.1 This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is suitable for collection of a porous matrix sample for analysis of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs).

1.2 This SOP describes sampling techniques for both hard and soft porous surfaces.

1.2.1 Hard surfaces, and most soft surfaces, can be sampled using an impact hammer drill to generate a uniform, finely ground, powder to be extracted and analyzed for PCBs. This procedure is primarily geared at providing enough sample quantity for two analyses. Hard porous surfaces include concrete, brick, asphalt, cement, sandstone, limestone, unglazed ceramics, and other possible PCB suspected material. This procedure may also be used on other softer porous surfaces, such as wood.

1.2.2 Soft surfaces can be sampled using a chisel or sharp knife to generate a representative sample to be extracted and analyzed for PCBs. Soft porous surfaces include wood, wall plasterboard, low density plastics, rubber, caulking, and other PCB suspected material.

1.3 This SOP provides for collection of surface samples (0 – 0.5 inches) and delineation of PCB contamination throughout the core of the porous surface. The procedure can be used to sample the porous surface at distinctly different depth zones.

2.0 Method Summary

A one-inch or other sized diameter carbide drill bit is used in a rotary impact hammer drill to generate a fine powder, or other representative sample, suitable for extraction and analysis of PCBs from porous surfaces. This method also allows the use of chisels or knives for the collection of samples from soft porous surfaces for PCB analysis.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 Field/Bottle Blank: A sample container of the same lot as the containers used for the environmental samples. This evaluates PCB contamination introduced from the sample container(s) from a common lot.

3.2 Equipment/Rinse/Rinsate Blanks: A sample that is collected by pouring hexane over the sample collection equipment after decontamination and before sample collection. The sample is collected in the appropriate sample container identical to the sample containers. This represents background contamination resulting from the field equipment, sampling procedure, sample container, and shipment.

3.3 Field Replicates/Duplicates: Two or more samples collected at the same sampling location. Field replicates should be samples collected side by side. Field replicates represent the precision of the whole method, site heterogeneity, field sampling, and the laboratory analysis.

3.4 Field Split Samples: Two or more representative subsamples taken from one environmental sample in the field. Prior to splitting, the environmental sample is homogenized to correct for sample heterogeneity that would adversely impact data comparability. Field split samples are usually analyzed by different laboratories (interlaboratory comparison) or by the same laboratory (intralaboratory comparison). Field splits are used to assess sample handling procedures from field to laboratory and laboratory comparability.

3.5 Laboratory Quality Samples: Additional samples that will be collected for the laboratory's quality control program: matrix spike, matrix spike duplicate, laboratory duplicates, etc.

3.6 Proficiency Testing (PT)/Performance Evaluation (PE) Sample: A sample, the composition of which is unknown to the laboratory or analyst, provided to the analyst or laboratory to assess the capability to produce results within acceptable criteria. This is optional depending on the data quality objectives. If possible, it is recommended that the PE sample be of similar matrix as the porous surface(s) being sampled.

3.7 Porous Surface: Any surface that allows PCBs to penetrate or pass into itself including, but not limited to, paint or coating on metal; corroded metal; fibrous glass or glass wool; unglazed ceramics; ceramics with porous glaze; porous building stone such as sandstone, travertine, limestone, or coral rock; low density plastics such as Styrofoam and low density polyethylene; coated (varnished or painted) or uncoated wood; painted or unpainted concrete or cement; plaster; plasterboard; wallboard; rubber; caulking; fiberboard; chipboard; asphalt; or tar paper.

3.8 Shipping Container Temperature Blank: A water sample that is transported to the laboratory to measure the temperature of the samples in the cooler.

4.0 Health and Safety

4.1 Eye, respiratory, and hearing protection are required at all times during sample drilling. A properly fitted respirator is required for hard porous surface sampling. A respirator is recommended whenever there is a risk of inhalation of either particulate or volatilized PCBs during sampling.

4.2 All proper personal protection clothing and equipment must be worn.

4.3 When working with potentially hazardous materials or situations, follow EPA, OSHA, and specific health or safety procedures.

4.4 Care must be exercised when using an electrical drill and sharp cutting objects.

5.0 Interferences and Potential Problems

5.1 This sampling technique produces a finely ground uniform powder, which minimizes the physical matrix effects from variations in the sample consistency (i.e., particle size, uniformity, homogeneity, and surface condition). Matrix spike analysis of a sample is highly recommended to monitor for any matrix related interferences.

5.2 Nitrile gloves are recommended. Latex gloves must not be used due to possible phthalate contamination.

5.3 Interferences may result from using contaminated equipment, solvents, reagents, sample containers, or sampling in a disturbed area. The drill bit must be decontaminated between samples. (see Section 11.0.)

5.4 Cross contamination problems can be eliminated or minimized through the use of dedicated sampling equipment.

6.0 Personnel Qualifications

6.1 All field samplers working at hazardous materials/waste sites are required to take a 40 hour health and safety training course prior to engaging in any field activities. Subsequently, an 8 hour refresher health and safety course is required annually.

6.2 The field sampler should be trained by an experienced sampler before initiating this procedure.

6.3 All personnel shall be responsible for complying with all quality assurance/quality control requirements that pertain to their organizational/technical function.

7.0 Equipment and Supplies

7.1 This list varies with the matrix and if depth profiling is required

Rotary impact hammer variable speed drill
1-inch or other suitable (1/2, 3/4, etc.) diameter carbide tip drill bits
Steel chisel or sharp cutting knife, and hammer
Brush and cloths to clean area
Stainless steel scoopulas

Aluminum foil to collect the powder sample
1 quart Cubitainer with the top cut out to collect the powder sample
Aluminum weighing pans to collect the powder sample
Cleaned glass container (2 oz or 40 mL) with Teflon lined cap
Decontamination supplies: hexane, two small buckets, a scrub brush, detergent, deionized water, hexane squirt bottle, and paper towels
Dedicated vacuum cleaner with a disposable filter or a vacuum pump with a dust filter
Sample tags/labels, custody seals, and Chain-of-Custody form

8.0 Sampling Design

8.1 A sufficient number of samples must be collected to meet the data quality objectives of the project. If the source of the PCB contamination is regulated under the federal TSCA PCB Regulations at 40 CFR Part 761, the sampler should insure that the sampling design is sufficient to meet any investigation or verification sampling requirements. At a minimum, the following is recommended:

8.1.1 Suspected stained area (s) should be sampled.

8.1.2 At each separate location, collect at least 3 samples of each type of porous surface, regardless of the amount of each type of porous surface present.

8.1.3 In areas where PCB equipment was used or where PCBs were stored, samples should be collected at a frequency of 1 sample/100 square feet (ft^2).

9.0 Sample Collection

9.1 Hard Porous Surfaces

9.1.1 Lock a 1-inch or another size diameter carbide drill bit into the impact hammer drill and plug the drill into an appropriate power source. For easy identification, sample locations may be pre-marked using a marker or paint. (Note: the actual drilling point must not be marked.) Remove any debris with a clean brush or cloth prior to drilling. All sampling decisions of this nature should be noted in the sampling logbook.

9.1.2 Use a Cubitainer with the top cut off or aluminum foil to contain the powdered sample. Begin drilling in the designated location. Apply steady even pressure and let the drill do the work. Applying too much pressure will generate excessive heat and dull the drill bit prematurely. The drill will provide a finely ground powder that can be easily collected.

9.1.3 Samples should be collected at 1/2-inch depth intervals. Thus, the initial surface sample should be collected from 0 – 0.5 inches. A 1/2-inch deep hole generates about 10 grams (20 mL) of powder. Multiple holes located closely adjacent to each other, may be needed to generate sufficient sample volumes for a PCB determination. It is strongly recommended that the analytical laboratory be consulted on the minimum sample size needed for PCB extraction and analysis.

9.1.4 Wall and Ceiling Sampling: A team of two samplers will be required for wall and ceiling sampling. The second person will hold a clean catch surface (e.g. an aluminum pan) below the drill to collect the falling powder. Alternatively, use the chuck-end of the drill bit and punch a hole through the center of the collection pan. The drill bit is then mounted through the pan and into the drill. For ceilings, the drill may be held at an angle to collect the powder. Thus the driller can be drilling at an angle while the assistant steadies the pan to catch the falling powder. As a precaution, it may be advantageous to tape a piece of plastic around the drill, just below the chuck, to avoid dust contaminating the body of the drill and entering the drill's cooling vents. Caution must be taken to prevent obstruction of the drill's cooling vents.

9.2 Soft Porous Surfaces

9.2.1 The procedure for the hard porous surface may be used for certain soft porous surfaces, such as wood.

9.2.2 Samples should be collected at no more than 1/2-inch depth intervals using a metal chisel or sharp cutting knife. Thus, the initial surface sample should be collected from 0 – 0.5 inches. It is important to collect at least 10 grams for analysis.

9.2.3 For soft porous surfaces, such as caulking and rubber, a representative sample can be collected using a metal chisel or sharp cutting knife.

9.3 Multiple Depth Sampling

9.3.1 Multiple Depth Sampling may not be applicable to certain porous surfaces, such as caulking.

9.3.2 Collect the surface sample as outlined in Section 9.1 or 9.2.

9.3.3 Use the vacuum pump or cleaner to clean out the hole.

9.3.4 To collect multiple depths there are two options.

9.3.4.1 Option one: drill sequentially ½ inch increments with the 1 inch drill.

9.3.4.2 Option two: drill with the 1 inch bit and either make the hole larger or use a smaller bit to take the next 1/2 inch sample.

9.3.5 A stainless steel spoonula will make it easier to collect the sample from the bottom of the hole.

Note: The holes should be vacuumed thoroughly to minimize any cross-contamination between sample depths and the bits should be decontaminated between samples. (See Section 11.0.)

10.0 Sample Handling, Preservation, and Storage

10.1 Samples must be collected in glass containers for PCB analyses. In general, a 2-ounce sample container with a Teflon-lined cap (wide-mouth jars are preferred) will hold sufficient mass for most analyses. A 2-ounce jar can hold roughly 90 grams of sample.

10.2 Samples are to be shipped refrigerated and maintained at $\leq 6°C$ until the time of extraction and analysis.

10.3 The suggested holding time for PCB samples is 14 days to extraction.

11.0 Decontamination

11.1 Assemble two decontamination buckets. The first bucket contains a detergent and potable water solution, and the second bucket is for rinsate. Place all used drill bits, hose for the vacuum cleaner, and utensils in the detergent and water bucket. Scrub each piece thoroughly using the scrub brush. Rinse each piece with water and hexane and place the rinsed pieces on clean paper towels. Individually dry and inspect each piece.

Notes: The powder does cling to the metal surfaces, so care should be taken during decontamination, especially with the twists and curves of the drill bits. Ensure that all equipment is dry prior to reuse.

11.2 Lightly contaminated drill bits and utensils may be wiped with a hexane soaked cloth and hexane rinsed for decontamination.

11.3 All equipment, including the impact hammer, vacuum pump, and/or vacuum cleaner, should be wipe cleaned upon completion of the sampling and prior to leaving the site.

12.0 Data and Record Management

12.1 All data and information collection should follow a Field Data Management SOP or Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

12.2 Follow the chain of custody procedures to release the samples to the laboratory. A copy is kept with the sampling records.

12.3 The field data is stored for at least 3 years.

13.0 Quality Control and Quality Assurance

13.1 Representative samples are required. The sampler will evaluate the site specific conditions to assure the sample will be representative.

13.2 All sampling equipment must be decontaminated prior to use and between each discrete sample.

13.3 All field Quality Control (QC) sample requirements in a Sample and Analysis Plan (SAP) or QAPP must be followed. The SAP or QAPP may involve field blanks, equipment blanks, field duplicates and/or the collection of extra samples for the laboratory's quality control program.

13.4 Field duplicates should be collected at a minimum frequency of 1 per 20 samples or 1 per non-related porous matrix, whichever is greater.

14.0 Waste Management and Pollution Prevention

14.1 During field sampling events there may be PCB and/or hazardous waste produced from the sample collection. The waste must be handled and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. The dust filter, and tubing if a vacuum pump is used, is disposed after each site investigation. This waste will be treated as PCB waste if the samples are positive for PCBs. It may be possible to manage or dispose of the waste produced at the site where the work was performed. If the site does not meet regulatory requirements for these types of activities, the waste must be transported to a facility permitted to manage and/or dispose of the waste.

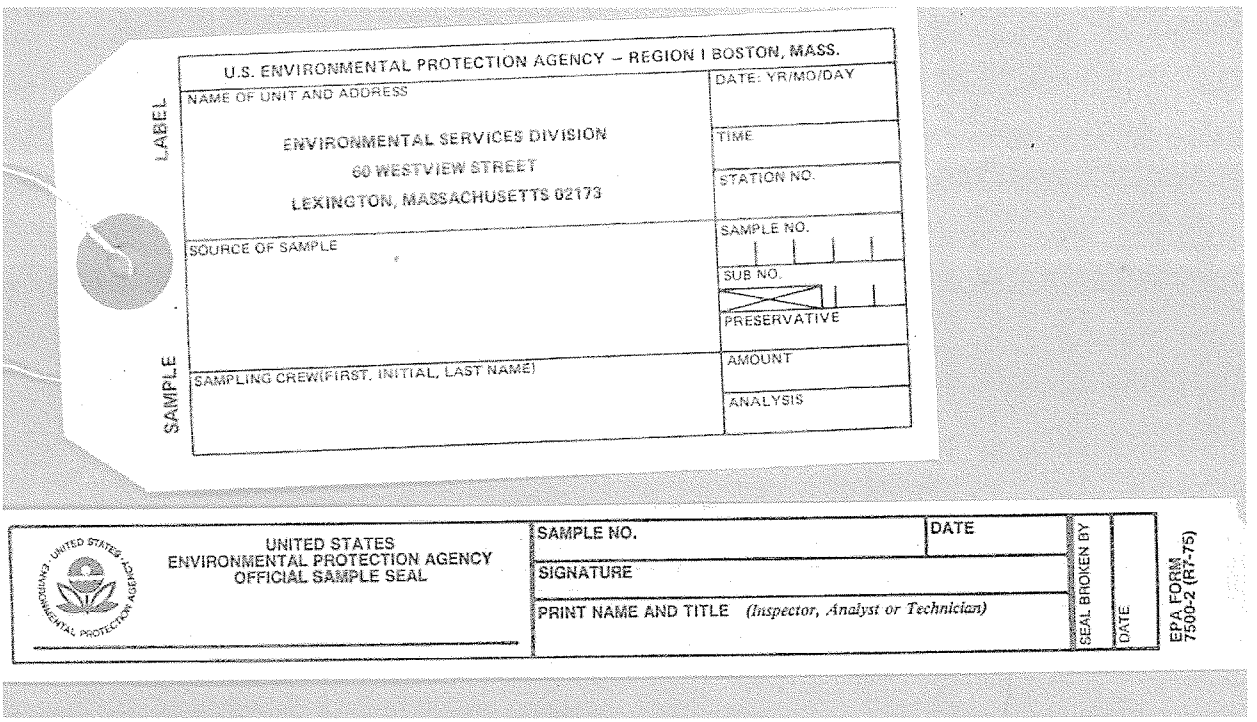
15.0 References

1. Guidance for the Preparation of Standard Operating Procedures for Quality-Related Operations, QA/G-6, EPA/600/R-96/027, November 1995.

2. 40 CFR Part 761 – Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution In Commerce, and Use Prohibitions

3. Sample Container and Holding Time: RCRA SW 846, Chapter 4, Table 4.1, Revision 4, February, 2007.

Example of Sample Label and Custody Seal



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY – REGION I BOSTON, MASS.

LABEL

NAME OF UNIT AND ADDRESS

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION
60 WESTVIEW STREET
LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02173

DATE: YR/MO/DAY

TIME

STATION NO.

SAMPLE NO.

SUB NO.

PRESERVATIVE

AMOUNT

ANALYSIS

SAMPLE

SOURCE OF SAMPLE

SAMPLING CREW(FIRST, INITIAL, LAST NAME)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICIAL SAMPLE SEAL

SAMPLE NO.

DATE

SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME AND TITLE *(Inspector, Analyst or Technician)*

SEAL BROKEN BY

DATE

EPA FORM 7500-2 (R7-75)

Example of Chain of Custody Form

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1

CHAIN OF CUSTODY RECORD

PROJ. NO. | PROJECT NAME | NO. OF CONTAINERS

SAMPLERS: (Signature)

STA. NO.	DATE	TIME	COMP.	GRAB	STATION LOCATION	REMARKS

Relinquished by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Received by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Relinquished by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Received by: (Signature)	Date / Time
Relinquished by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Received by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Relinquished by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Received by: (Signature)	Date / Time
Relinquished by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Received for Laboratory by: (Signature)	Date / Time	Remarks			

Distribution: Original Accompanies Shipment; Copy to Coordinator Field Files

1-16940

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 2004—700-025