NWG SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

living water

Deviating Samples / Sample Stability

Our laboratories conduct accredited analysis to both ISO 17025 and MCERTS standards. Based on the requirements of our accreditation body (UKAS) and in line with European wide guidance, it is important that samples are:

- **Collected in the correct bottles / containers**

  Analytical methods require that samples are collected in the correct bottle types as stated on the 'Bottle Requirements' sheet supplied as part of your quotation.

- **Correctly sampled**

  Samples should be taken as directed by the comments on the supplied 'Bottle Requirements' sheet. For example, bottles containing preservatives should not be rinsed out or overfilled. Certain bottles (e.g. VOC vials) should be filled to zero headspace.

- **Correctly documented**

  All samples submitted to our laboratory should be clearly labelled with appropriate sample references and with sampling date and time. All samples should also be accompanied by the sample submission sheet that you received with your quotation. The information on the submission sheet should also match the bottle labels. Further help on completing the sample submission sheet is available in our handy downloadable guide.

- **Correctly stored & transported**

  Unless otherwise stated samples should be stored in chilled conditions (ideally 2°C - 5°C). Check the 'Bottle Requirements' sheet supplied for details.

- **Analysed within the maximum stability time**

  Samples should be submitted to our laboratory as quickly as possible. This maximises the available analytical time and facilitates analysis of samples within the appropriate stability window.

Where a sample does not meet the above criteria it will be classed as 'deviating' which may jeopardise the validity of the reported test result. We notify clients of all deviating samples and seek the client's direction as to whether they wish to resample or would prefer us to proceed with the analysis. If we do proceed then all affected samples will bear an explanatory disclaimer on their analytical reports.

Further guidance on deviating samples can be found on the UKAS website.