

# DMR-QA

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. How do I know what samples I need to purchase?**

**A.** Each permit holder should be able to provide you with a list of analytes that you are required to report to Phenova for DMR-QA.

**Q. What if my permit holder and I purchase Phenova samples from different studies?**

**A.** No worries. Each laboratory will have to submit the data by the study close date of their respective studies. Just let Phenova know that you wish to report these for your DMR-QA study.

**Q. Can I meet both of my state and DMR-QA requirements with a single study?**

**A.** Yes you can - please contact a Phenova representative for more information.

**Q. What type of studies will meet my DMR-QA requirements?**

**A.** Water Pollution Chemistry and Water Pollution Microbiology studies - please visit [www.phenova.com/DMRQA](http://www.phenova.com/DMRQA) to see which studies are available.

**Q. What can I do if a lab misses the analysis deadline?**

**A.** It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that all required analyses are completed by the deadline. Contact your state or EPA DMR-QA coordinator as soon as possible if you miss a deadline.

**Q. What happens if I forget to submit my study results?**

**A.** Failure to submit your results may subject you to enforcement under the Clean Water Act. EPA is authorized to require this information under Section 308 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1318, in order to carry out its responsibilities for protecting our nation's water from pollution. This requirement is enforced under 33 U.S.C. § 1319. Please don't forget, but if you do please contact your DMR-QA Coordinator as soon as possible.

**Q. What should I do if I do not receive a study package?**

**A.** Immediately notify your state or EPA DMR-QA coordinator to verify your participation in the study.

[List of State Coordinators »](#)

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**Q. What time period does the DMR-QA study cover?**

**A.** The DMR-QA study covers the entire calendar year -  
Study 36 will cover the period January 1 – December 31, 2016.

**Q. Where do I send my Address Verification Form?**

**A.** E-mail your Address Verification Form to your state DMR-QA coordinator.

**Q. Where does a laboratory get a U.S EPA Lab Code?**

**A.** All labs participating in DMR-QA should already have a U.S. EPA Lab Code; you can check your previous DMR-QA reports to find the code. If you need a new U.S. EPA Lab code or need to confirm your old U.S. EPA Lab code please contact your coordinator.

**Q. Who is required to participate in the DMR-QA study?**

**A.** Any major NPDES facility, as well as some minor dischargers selected at a state's request are required to participate. If you have questions as to whether you need to participate in the DMR-QA Study 36, please contact your state DMR-QA coordinator.

[List of State Coordinators »](#)

**Note:** As of January 1, 2012, permittees in California, Kansas, New Jersey, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin have laboratory quality assurance programs approved by EPA as a substitute for DMR-QA.

Louisiana has an approved laboratory quality assurance program for commercial laboratories only.

NPDES permittees in Oklahoma that currently participate in their State laboratory accreditation program are also exempt from DMR-QA Study 36.

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**Q. Who will send my DMR-QA report forms and where are they sent to?**

**A.** Phenova will send the NPDES Permittee Data Report form in addition to all graded results to your State coordinator. You will get a copy of the graded results from your laboratory. Phenova will also send your lab a copy of the graded results.

**Q. What do I do if results are Not Acceptable?**

**A.** Talk to a Phenova representative and we can help determine along with your State or EPA Study Coordinators the corrective actions you must take.

**Q. Where does my laboratory send/report its DMR-QA testing results to be evaluated?**

**A.** Please report your DMR-QA data to your Proficiency Testing provider. You can enter this data online using PT Manage™, Phenova's leading Data Analysis and Reporting tool.

**Q. Why would a laboratory receive a grade of "Not Acceptable"?**

**A.** There are various reasons for receiving a grade of Not Acceptable. These may include, but are not limited to:

1. Submitted analysis results are outside of the acceptable range for the particular analyte
2. The deadline to submit the data package is missed
3. Required analyses are not performed
4. Some or all of the required analyses in the submitted data package are omitted
5. Failure to perform the analyses and submit the data package

**If you happen to have an Not Acceptable grade, contact Phenova, we'll help you get back on track.**