

### EPA Method 1633A | PFAS in Aqueous, Solid, and Biological Matrices

#### Overview

Purpose: Quantitative determination of 40 PFAS compounds in the following matrices:

- Aqueous: Groundwater, surface water, wastewater, leachate, AFFF (aqueous film forming foam).
- Solid: Soil, sediment, biosolids, sludge.
- Biological: Tissue, biological samples.

Status: Method 1633A is the latest version (released December 2024), jointly developed by EPA and DoD. It is actively used for regulatory and pre-regulatory programs.

#### What's New in Method 1633A?

This latest version clarifies key definitions (e.g., total suspended solids) and allows laboratories to include additional PFAS analytes when supported by validated standards.

#### When to Use Method 1633A:

- Appropriate for complex matrices (biosolids, tissue, sediment).
- Required for certain Clean Water Act (NPDES) permit programs.
- Recommended for defensible data and standardized national methods.
- Often required or recommended for PFAS monitoring programs in numerous states (e.g., MI, CA, MA, NY, NJ, MN, NC, WA).

#### Sample Collection Quick Facts

Matrix	Containers	Preservative	Hold Time (to Extraction)	Storage Temp
Water/Wastewater	2 x 500 mL HDPE bottles	None	28 days ( $\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 90 days ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	$\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$
Soil/Biosolids	2 x 60 mL HDPE jars or 50 mL centrifuge tubes	None	28 days ( $\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 90 days ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	$\leq 6^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$
Tissue	HDPE jars or polypropylene tubes	None	90 days ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Frozen ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
AFFF Concentrate	125 mL HDPE bottles	None	90 days ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ )	Frozen ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

Important: Use only PFAS-free, lab-provided containers. Avoid all fluoropolymer materials (e.g., Teflon®).

## Required Field Blanks & QC (aqueous matrices only)

- 2 x 500 mL HDPE bottles (PFAS-free water, provided by Metiri Group).
- Additional QC (e.g., equipment blanks, MS/MSD) upon request.
- Follow QAPP or project-specific guidance for frequency.

## Tips for Planning Your Sampling Event

- Start planning at least 2–3 weeks in advance to coordinate containers and logistics.
- Avoid Friday sampling to ensure overnight delivery without delays.
- Contact the lab early if you need rush turnaround or PFAS-free water.

### Turnaround Time & Reporting

- Standard TAT: 10 days (complex matrices may require additional time).
- Rush Options: Available upon request (will incur surcharge).
- Typical Reporting Limits (Non-Potable Water): Most PFAS compounds can be reported at or below 0.4 ng/L (ppt). Some compounds may have higher limits depending on analyte and matrix (e.g., FTCA series or FOSAs). Contact the lab for a full compound list and matrix-specific detection limits.
- Results Format: Includes individual analyte reporting in units of choice.

### Tips for Sampling Success

- Use only lab-certified PFAS-free containers - never Teflon®-lined or unverified materials.
- Keep samples chilled at or below 6°C from collection through lab delivery.
- Adhere strictly to hold times (28 days or 90 days frozen, depending on matrix).
- Include appropriate field QC like equipment blanks and duplicates per your QAPP.
- Avoid contamination: change gloves between samples and never touch inside of bottles or caps.

## Need Help Implementing 1633A? Contact if...

- You're unsure about matrix classification.
- You need PFAS-free water or containers.
- You're planning a large or multi-matrix project.
- You've never used Method 1633 before.

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**Let's make sure  
your project is  
Method 1633A-ready.**