

Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
Division of Water; Drinking Water Branch
Laboratory Certification Program
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FACTSHEET

EPA's Method Detection Limit Study – Revision 2

Requirement for Kentucky Certified Drinking Water and Wastewater Laboratories

EPA published the Clean Water Act Method Update Rule 2017 (MUR) in the Federal Register on August 28, 2017¹. This update includes EPA's Method Detection Limit (MDL) Revision 2 procedure, which is utilized by wastewater and drinking water laboratories. The EPA MDL Revision 2 became effective on September 27, 2017 and is referenced below, along with a link to the procedure².

Kentucky Division of Water (DOW) Laboratory Certification Section has adopted the EPA's Method Detection Limit (MDL) Study Revision 2 as of January 1, 2019. The EPA MDL procedure was published in the Federal Register on August 28, 2017. The MDL Revision 2 procedure applies to all Kentucky certified drinking water and wastewater laboratories. The implementation schedule is provided below.

Phase	Criteria	Calculation Term	Schedule
Initial (new methods)	7 spikes (over 3 days, prep & analysis may be on the same day);	MDL _s	Must be completed by September 30, 2019
	7 blanks (obtained using routine results)	MDL _b	
On-going	8 spikes (2/quarter);	MDL _s	Beginning January 1, 2020
	0 blanks (use routine results*)	MDL _b	

* Method blank results must be taken from the last 24 months for the MDL_b calculation.

* The laboratory has the option to use only the last six months of method blank data or the fifty most recent method blanks, whichever criteria yields the greater number of method blanks.

Electronic MDL Programs and Calculators

Kentucky certified wastewater and drinking water laboratories may utilize computer generated results for determining an analytical methods MDL, using the new procedure. There are several Microsoft Excel worksheets that are also available on the internet. DOW has an MDL Revision 2 Calculator using Microsoft Excel – visit the Kentucky Laboratory Certification Program's webpage; [Link](#).

¹ Federal Register / Vol. 82, No. 165 / Monday, August 28, 2017; [Document Link](#)

² EPA Webpage; includes Methods Update Rule 2017; MDL Procedure; and MDL FAQ; [EPA Webpage Link](#)