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COMMON ISSUES AND MISCONCEPTIONS AROUND PERSONAL AIR MONITORING BADGES AND HOW BETTER TO USE THEM

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WHAT CHEMICAL ARE YOU SAMPLING FOR?



Common Misconception: All organic vapors can be sampled on the same badge

HOW LONG WILL YOU BE SAMPLING FOR?

- STEL 15 mins
- Full work shift: 8-12 hrs
- Something in between
- \geq 24 hrs Indoor air quality

• Sampling time may impact which badge you need to choose for your sampling event

E.G Acetone

- Manufacturer recommends the badge with a 19 hole sampling grid due to high volatility and high PEL of acetone **GOOD FOR FULL WORK SHIFT MONITORING**

- Manufacturer recommends their badge with a faster sampling rate if doing STEL monitoring for acetone **WILL ALLOW FOR A LOWER REPORTING LIMIT IF USING A HIGHER SAMPLING RATE BADGE**

Common Misconception: Reporting limit and sampling time are not related
 NOT TRUE

WHAT BADGE SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

- Research on manufacturer's website for more details
 - Capacity
 - Reporting limit
 - Lab for analysis
 - Recommended hold time

PSA – READ ALL TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS BEFORE SAMPLING EVENT



- NO

Common Misconception: Badges must be OSHA approved

WHERE WILL YOU BE SAMPLING?

- On a person
 In a room
 within 12" breathing zone
 In a room
 need adequate air movement
 - Manufacturer's Recommend Air Velocity:
 - Can find this in technical documents
 - 15 150 cm/sec

Common Misconception: Monitoring under any conditions is fine NOT TRUE



THE SAMPLING EVENT

• You need a good workflow BEFORE sampling



PSA – Fill out all relevant fields of the lab request form

Common Misconception: Don't need to do prep work before sampling because its so easy

 NOT TRUE

SENDING SAMPLE OUT FOR ANALYSIS

- Where is decided during What Badge to Choose? step
- Normally, 2 options
 - Purchase the badge with lab analysis Lab is pre-selected
 - Purchase the badge and choose a lab to send it to



- Be familiar with method lab will use before submission of badge for analysis
- Common Misconception: Lab method needs to be OSHA/NIOSH/ASTM approved

RECEIVING THE RESULTS

- Receiving results via email
- Lab report will contain:
 - Results as mg/M3 and/or ppm
 - Sample details sample id, sampling time
 - Additional notes
- What to do if there is an error on the lab report?
 - Contact the lab: Can issue a revised report
- Not all lab reports are equal

Do changes need to be implemented after sampling?

Common Misconception: The lab assigns a pass/fail to results according to regulatory limits



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Do your research before your sampling event
- Read manufacturers technical documents
- Have a good workflow established before sampling event
- Fill out entire lab request form
- Up to CIH to interpret lab results
- If you need additional help: Contact lab/manufacturer with questions.

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