



Laboratory data reports may seem challenging to read and interpret at first. Each laboratory may present the required information in differing ways. In general, each laboratory report must include a cover page, a list defining abbreviations used in the report, a summary of issues that the laboratory may have had during sample analysis, a report of sample results including dates and times of sample collection, sample receipt, sample preparation and analysis, a summary of laboratory quality control measures, data qualifiers, and a copy of the chain of custody form and related sample receipt documentation.

SAMPLE REPORT EXAMPLE:

Result = The concentration of the compound detected

Parameter	Result	Unit	Qualifier	RL	MDL	Dilution Factor
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)	21.2	ng/L*		1.95	0.230	1
Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS)	ND	ng/L	U	1.95	0.491	1

ND = Non-Detect

ND means the compound was not detected at a level high enough for the laboratory equipment to detect.

RL = Reporting Limit

The RL is the limit to which the laboratory can reliably report under standard laboratory conditions.

MDL = Method Detection Limit

The MDL is the lowest concentration at which the laboratory test equipment can detect a contaminant.

*Note: ng/L = Nanograms per liter or parts per trillion (ppt)

QUALITY CONTROL

A testing laboratory is required to implement a series of practices to ensure that results generated during the testing of samples are accurate and complete. Each laboratory report will report demographics, results, and quality control related information in its own format. If you need assistance interpreting your report, the Environmental Quality Chemistry Laboratory is available to help.