



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
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# MEMORANDUM

TO: All Alaska Drinking Water  
Certified Laboratories

DATE: March 26, 2025

FROM: Patryce McKinney, MBA  
Drinking Water Certification Authority

SUBJECT: Drinking Water Chemistry Certified  
Method – EPA 537.1 Version 2

This memo implements the regulated PFAS method requirements. The EPA approved 537.1 Version 2 for drinking water analysis in April 2024 when it began regulating six PFAS compounds (United States *Federal Register*, 2024-07773) for drinking water. On January 16, 2025 (United States *Federal Register*, 2025-00464), the EPA added back method 537.1 Version 1 for initial monitoring data only. Up until now, all versions of 537.1 were notated the same way on Alaska drinking water laboratory scopes. Beginning July 1, 2025, only laboratories using method 537.1 Version 2 will be certified, and have the version included in their Alaska drinking water scope.

Methods 537 and 537.1 (Version 1) were acceptable for drinking water during the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3) phase of federal regulation development. Method 537.1 Version 2, published in 2020, differs from its predecessor by incorporating the Trizma preservative in the field reagent blank during sampling and specifying the required solid phase extraction cartridge sorbent.

In the April 2024 final EPA National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for PFAS, the only approved 537 method was 537.1 Version 2. Alaska's certification renewal had already begun for certification year SFY 2025, so the certification offerings remained unchanged. On January 16, 2025, the EPA added back method 537.1 Version 1 for initial monitoring data only (40 CFR 141.902(b)(1)). The January change will apply only to historic data in Alaska.

**Alaska has decided to only allow PFAS drinking water certification for 537.1 Version 2 or 533 in SFY 2026, beginning July 1, 2025.** Certified laboratories have had enough time to make the changes for compliance to 537.1 Version 2 on the bench and in proficiency test (PT) reporting.

Laboratories must do the following actions before applying for SFY 2026 to continue analyzing for PFAS compounds in Alaska drinking water:

- Examine laboratory practices and SOPs to ensure all requirements for 537.1 Version 2 are followed, including the requirements to include trip blank preparation, SPE cartridge type, and branched/straight isomers for the PFAS analytes included in the reported results;
- In PT reports after July 1, 2024, 537.1 Version 2 or 533 must be specified to count towards SFY 2026 Alaska PFAS certification. If a PT result method is listed incorrectly in an already-issued report, please contact the Alaska LCP to assist;
- When the applications for SFY 2026 are released, laboratories will need to add new rows to the requested methods table to request 537.1 Version 2 analytes. The existing 537.1 rows will be moved to Dropped Status.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ADEC EHL at (907) 375-8200 or [declabcert@alaska.gov](mailto:declabcert@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,

Patryce D. McKinney, M.B.A.  
Certification Authority

CC: Cindy Christian, Alaska Drinking Water Program