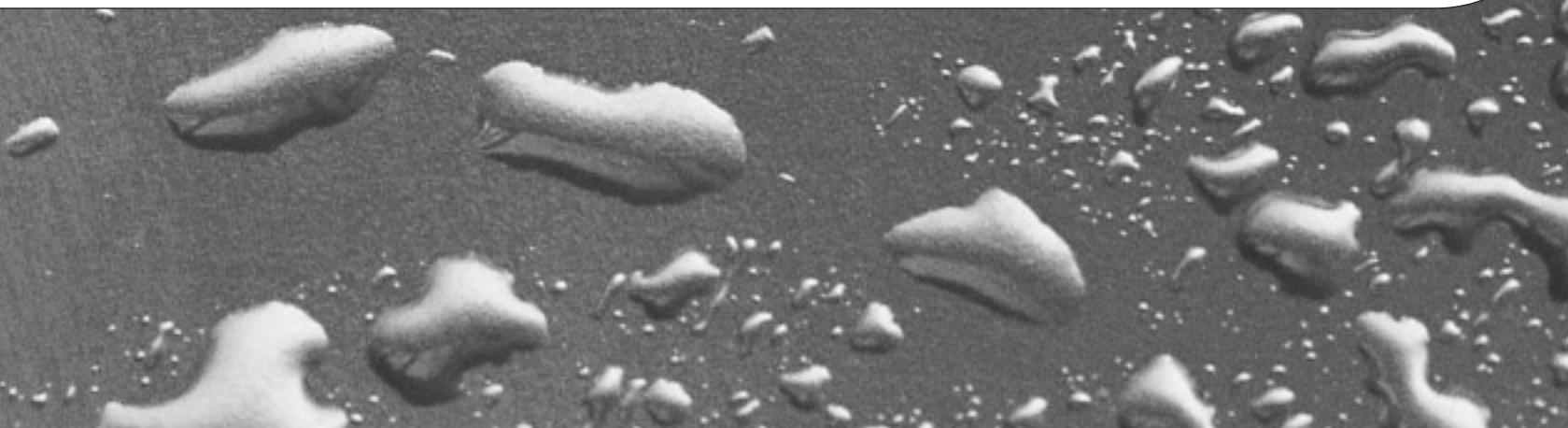


# Guide for Submitting Water Samples to DAL for Analysis

1st Edition August 2003



---

**Division of Analytical Laboratories**  
Weeroona Rd (off Joseph St), LIDCOMBE NSW 2141  
Telephone: (02) 9646 0222 ♦ Facsimile: (02) 9646 0333

Document Version: 2003-01

Authorised by: Dr Ross Vining, Deputy Director, ICPMR

Last Updated: August 2003

© Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research 2003.  
No commercial usage or sale is permitted.

---

<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>Abbreviations</b>	4
<b>Section 1 Quick Reference Guide</b>	
◆ How do I collect a microbiology sample?	5
◆ How do I collect a chemistry sample?	6
◆ How do I collect a pesticide sample?	7
◆ Submitting samples: Label or Form?	8
◆ How do I contact the laboratories?	9
◆ Where do I send the samples?	10
◆ How will I receive my DWMP results?	11
<b>Section 2 Sampling</b>	
<b>2.1</b> Sample Containers	13
<b>2.2</b> Sample Collection	14
<b>2.3</b> Transportation of Samples to the Laboratory	16
<b>2.4</b> Samples Unable to be Analysed	17
<b>Section 3 NSW Health / DAL Sampling Programs</b>	
<b>3.1</b> Drinking Water Monitoring Program - Microbiology, Chemistry	19
<b>3.2</b> Targeted Pesticide Program	26
<b>3.3</b> Public Health Investigations - All Analysis Types	28
<b>3.4</b> PHU Allocated Samples	29
<b>3.5</b> Surveys / Projects - All Analysis Types	30
<b>3.6</b> Private Supplies Serving the Public	31
<b>3.7</b> Other Private Samples	31

### **Section 4 Analyses Available for Water Samples**

<b>4.1</b>	Microbiology	33
<b>4.2</b>	Chemical Analysis	34
<b>4.3</b>	Pesticide Analysis	36
<b>4.4</b>	Disinfection By-Products	41

### **Section 5 Summary of the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines**

<b>5.1</b>	Microbiology	43
<b>5.2</b>	Physical Characteristics	43
<b>5.3</b>	Inorganic Chemicals	44
<b>5.4</b>	Pesticides	45
<b>5.5</b>	Trihalomethanes	48

### **Section 6 Forms**

◆	Water Analysis Sample Submission Form	49
◆	Request for Project Specific Sample Allocations	50
◆	Information Required to Complete Analysis	51
◆	Sample Unable to be Analysed	52
◆	Urgent Notification of Noncompliant Result	53

The “**Guide for Submitting Water Samples to DAL for Analysis**” has been prepared for easy reference when sampling water and submitting the samples to the ICPMR/ Division of Analytical Laboratories (DAL) for analysis. It also sets out the reporting mechanisms used by DAL for the different categories of water samples.

The protocols have been jointly prepared by DAL and the NSW Health Water Unit. They are designed for use by Water Supply Authorities (WSAs) and Public Health Units (PHUs) and apply only to samples submitted to DAL. Samples may be submitted for microbiological, chemical (trace inorganics) and/or pesticide analysis.

At the start of the document a quick reference section summarises the detailed information set out in the protocols.

The information contained in the protocols is up to date at the time of printing. It is intended that the content will be periodically reviewed and updated as required.

A reference copy is available for download from the NSW Health Water Unit website:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health/ehb/water/index.html>

All general enquiries regarding the protocols should be directed to the DAL Water Project Manager. Specific enquiries should be directed to the appropriate laboratory manager (refer to Section 1).



## Abbreviations

<b>ADWG</b>	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (1996)
<b>°C</b>	degrees Celsius
<b>cfu</b>	colony forming units
<b>DAL</b>	The ICPMR Division of Analytical Laboratories
<b>Database</b>	NSW Drinking Water Database
<b>DWMP</b>	NSW Health Drinking Water Monitoring Program
<b>L</b>	litre
<b>mg/L</b>	milligrams per litre
<b>mL</b>	millilitres
<b>NATA</b>	National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
<b>PHU</b>	Public Health Unit
<b>Water Unit</b>	A unit of the NSW Health Environmental Health Branch
<b>WSA</b>	Water Supply Authority / Water Utility
<b>µg/L</b>	micrograms per litre