



# Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR 4) Frequently Asked Questions\*



## 1. What is UCMR 4?

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require that once every five years, the EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the occurrence of contaminants in drinking water.

UCMR 4 is the fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule and was published in the Federal Register on December 20, 2016.

## 2. What dates does UCMR 4 apply to?

The EPA specifies that UCMR 4 monitoring occur from 2018 through 2020.

## 3. What contaminants are included in this monitoring?

UCMR 4 includes monitoring for a total of 30 chemical contaminants:

- 10 cyanotoxins including
  - Nine cyanotoxins
  - One cyanotoxin group
- 20 additional contaminants including
  - Two metals
  - Eight pesticides plus one pesticide manufacturing byproduct
  - Three brominated haloacetic acid [HAA] disinfection byproducts groups
  - Three alcohols
  - Three semivolatile organic chemicals [SVOCs]

## 4. Are all public water supplies required to monitor for the 30 chemical contaminants named in UCMR 4?

All large public water supplies serving 10,000 or more people are required to participate. EPA also will randomly select 800 small PWSs (serving <10,000 people) to participate and will pay the costs associated with monitoring for the small systems.

## 5. Does the State Hygienic Laboratory test for contaminants required by UCMR 4?

The State Hygienic Laboratory is seeking EPA approval to perform testing required by UCMR 4, and expects to have the approval in place well before sampling is required to begin in January 2018.

## 6. How can the Hygienic Laboratory help meet the UCMR 4 requirements?

The State Hygienic Laboratory provides complete turnkey services to assist public water systems meet test requirements and report results as required by the EPA. This includes:

- Testing for all 30 chemical contaminants required under UCMR 4
- Uploading all UCMR data automatically into the EPA's Central Data Exchange in accordance with EPA requirements
- Providing customer service and technical assistance associated with testing and reporting results
- Completing test within a rapid turnaround time
- Sending a copy of test results directly to the public water system client either through our secure web portal or through mail

## 7. What methods does the State Hygienic Laboratory use?

As specified for the UCMR 4 program, the State Hygienic Laboratory will perform the following test methods, pending approval:

- Alcohols by EPA 541
- Bromide by EPA 300.0 or 300.01
- Haloacetic Compounds by EPA 552.3
- Metals: Germanium & Manganese by EPA 200.8
- Pesticides & Pesticide Byproducts by EPA 525.3
- Semi-Volatile Compounds by EPA 530
- Total Organic Carbon by SM 5310B
- Total Microcystins by ELISA using EPA 546
- Microcystins by EPA 544 (to be sub-contracted to an EPA-approved laboratory)
- Anatoxin-a & Cylindrospermopsin by EPA 545

### The State Hygienic Laboratory also provides:

- Complete water testing for drinking water compliance as required by the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act;
- Automatic notification of exceedances immediately following second level QC review, before final report generation; and
- 24/7 access to data through a password-protected portal on our website.

\*Sources: United States Environmental Protection Agency "[The Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 4\)](#)" and the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa.

## CONTACT

### Client Services

Sherri Marine

sherri-marine@uiowa.edu

319-335-4500

- Price quotes
- Account setup
- Sample bottles

### Laboratory Services

Lisa Limkemann

lisa-limkemann@uiowa.edu

319-335-4500

- Programmatic and technical questions