

# **Appendix E – Data Qualifiers**

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Code	Definition	Description and Usage
A	Not Analyzed	This code has been used in the past in datasets where not all parameters in a standard suite were reported. This code is not currently in use.
AA	Value above AWRL	The value reported is above the minimum analytical sensitivity required by the program (documented in the SWQM QAPP).
AQ	Value above quantitation range	The analysis returned a value statistically unreliable based on the capability of the instrument.
B	Bactericidal Effect Indicated	Elements of the sample or preservative are known or have been observed to have an effect on certain or all bacteria present. This qualifier alerts data users that bacteria values may reflect this impact.
BK	Field Blank Precision Failure	The result from a Field Blank (field blank, instrument blank, trip blank, etc.) fell outside the project-specific acceptance limits, and possible cause(s) for the failure must be provided in the comments field.
BL	Blank did not meet SWQM QA criteria	If the blank sample associated with this measurement did not meet SWQM QA criteria, this qualifier marks the data point for exclusion from 305(b) assessment analysis.
BN	Biological specimen not vouchered	Biological specimen not vouchered.
BQ	Analyte detected below quantitation limits	The analyte was detected at a level statistically unreliable based on the capability of the instrument.
C	Chlorine Present	Chlorine present in the sample or during analysis may have affected this result.
CU	Value deemed unreasonable by collector	Collector deems value unreasonable for waterbody, although value not an outlier and parameter passed all QC.
D	Did Not Pass All Q.C. Criteria	This qualifier may aid in decisions regarding data usability, in combination with details that may be in the sample notes describing which criteria were not met.
DU	Duplicate Data	If duplicate data are accidentally loaded into SWQMIS, this qualifier is used to alert the user that certain data points may weight analysis.
E	Lab Error	This qualifier may be used if several errors apply or if a description of the specific error would not aid in data usability decisions.
ES	Estimated Value	A simple alert to the data user that this is not an analytically derived value.
F	No Preserved Sample	An unpreserved sample may still yield some useable data; this code is used to qualify the parameters within that sample that are negatively impacted by lack of preservatives.

Code	Definition	Description and Usage
G	No Sample Submitted	This code has been used in the past for samples where expected/scheduled analyses could not be performed. This code is not currently in use.
H	Hold Time Exceeded	This qualifier may aid in decisions regarding data usability, in combination with information about length of time exceedance that may be in the sample notes.
I	Interference	Interference occurred during analysis; this result is questionable. Any available details should be included in the sample notes.
IO	Incomplete & Unofficial	An alert to the data user that this value is associated with a sample missing required information such as sample depth or sample time. Any available details should be included in the sample notes.
J	All Samples Preserved	Analytes usually quantified from unpreserved samples may be reported even if all samples arrived at the lab preserved.
K	Statistically Unreliable	Collector or analyst review revealed this result to be unreliable or unreasonable. See also code OQ, which may be applicable.
L	Call Lab	This qualifier may be used if several errors apply or if the error requires more explanation than is practical to include in the sample notes. Information from the lab is necessary to make a decision about data usability for parameters with this qualifier.
M	Instrument Failure	Instrument failure occurred during analysis; this result is questionable. Any available details should be included in the sample notes.
ME	Method Not Appropriate for SWQM Assessment	This qualifier may indicate that the value was obtained using alternative or experimental methods. These methods are documented in their specific QAPP but not approved for SWQM 305(b)/303(d) assessment.
N	Container Leaking	A sample container arrived at the lab leaking. Effect on the sample and the resulting data is unknown or unquantifiable. Any available details should be included in the sample notes.
ND	Material Specifically Analyzed For But Not Detected	This qualifier is a value-added remark, usually used when a result value of "less than" the analytical limit is reported. It indicates that while the reported value is correct, the material was not detected at all.
NO	Data Not Collected Under Approved Agency QAPP	These data may be acquired from outside sources without the complete verification and validation against the SWQM QAPP. They may also be data associated with a TCEQ project collected outside its QAPP effective period.
O	Shipping Error	The sample was received with a deficiency incurred during shipping. It may indicate such circumstances as an open or damaged shipping container. See also code N, which may be applicable.

Code	Definition	Description and Usage
OQ	Outlier value deemed questionable by collector	Values outside the SWQMIS minimum/maximum screening levels for that parameter are examined by the data collector. Those that are reasonable for the conditions at the sample location (usually based on the professional expertise of the collector) are verified. Those that are not reasonable are qualified with this code to indicate that some unknown error may have occurred to impact the result.
OR	Results Based on Colony Count Outside Acceptable	Bacteria colony counts outside the proscribed range were used to derive this result; the result is questionable.
P	Total Does Not Warrant TCLP	This informative remark does not indicate that the result is questionable. It is simply a notation to alert the data user that a result value from a fraction analysis is not high enough to necessitate a Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure. The result from fraction analysis is sufficient to make a determination of compliance or toxicity.
PE	Presumptive Evidence of Presence of Material	A simple alert to the data user that this may not be an analytically derived value. This qualifier may also be used to mark an analytical value when the presence of that parameter suggests that another material not specifically analyzed for may be present. Any available details should be included in the sample notes.
PV	Presence of Material Verified But Not Quantified	This code has been used in the past for samples where the analyte quantity was above the limit of detection but below the limit of quantitation. Values with this qualifier are not suitable for use in quantitative data analysis. This code is not currently in use.
Q	Quantity Not Sufficient	This code has been used in the past for samples where expected/scheduled analyses could not be performed due to insufficient sample volume. This code is not currently in use.
R	Improperly Collected Sample	This qualifier alerts the data user that the value is questionable due to a sample collection error. Any available details should be included in the sample notes.
RP	RPD outside accepted recovery limits	This qualifier may aid in decisions regarding data usability, in combination with details that may be in the sample notes describing the actual RPD value associated with the QC sample.
S	Container Broken in Shipment	This code has been used in the past for samples where expected/scheduled analyses could not be performed due to loss or contamination of the sample. This code is not currently in use.
SL	Field Split of Field Duplicate Precision Failure	This qualifier is used when precision between a sample and its Field Split or Field Duplicate exceed project-specific acceptance limits. The precision measurement, criteria, and possible cause(s) for the failure must be provided in the comments field.
SP	Split did not meet SWQM QA criteria	The split sample criteria documented in the SWQM QAPP were not met for this parameter. Any available details about which criteria were not met should be included in the sample notes.

Code	Definition	Description and Usage
SR	Spike recovery outside accepted recovery limits	This qualifier may aid in decisions regarding data usability, in combination with details that may be in the sample notes describing the actual spike recovery value associated with the QC sample.
T	Exceeded Preservation Temperature	The temperature of the sample was beyond the specified preservation limit at time of analysis.
U	Reported Values Less Than Detection Limit	The analysis returned a value statistically unreliable based on the capability of the instrument.
UR	Value deemed unreasonable by DM&A	Values clearly unreasonable but without sufficient documentation (or resources) to cite a more specific error may be flagged with this qualifier.