

# FDEP and SRWMD Data Qualifier Codes

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SRWMD uses FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection) SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) which includes their Data Qualifier Codes referenced in DEP-SOP-001/01 FM 1000 Field Planning and Mobilization, Table FM 1000-1 Data Qualifier Codes which can be found at <https://floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance/content/dep-sops>. In addition to the FDEP Qualifier Codes, SRWMD has added other codes specified as a SRWMD Internal Code below.

SYMBOL	MEANING
A	Value reported is the arithmetic mean (average) of two or more determinations. This code shall be used if the reported value is the average of results for two or more discrete and separate samples. These samples shall have been processed and analyzed independently. Do not use this code if the data are the result of replicate analysis on the same sample aliquot, extract or digestate.
B	Results based upon colony counts outside the acceptable range. This code applies to microbiological tests and specifically to membrane filter colony counts. The code is to be used if the colony count is generated from a plate in which the total number of coliform colonies is outside the method indicated ideal range. This code is not to be used if a 100 mL sample has been filtered and the colony count is less than the lower value of the ideal range.
F	When reporting species: F indicates the female sex.
H	Value based on field kit determination; results may not be accurate. This code shall be used if a field screening test (i.e., field gas chromatograph data, immunoassay, vendor-supplied field kit, etc.) was used to generate the value and the field kit or method has not been recognized by the Department as equivalent to laboratory methods.
I	The reported value is greater than or equal to the laboratory method detection limit but less than the laboratory practical quantitation limit.
J	Estimated value. A "J"-qualified sample value shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation to justify the reason(s) for designating the value as estimated. Where possible, the organization shall report whether the actual sample value is estimated to be less than or greater than the reported value, to assist data users in any evaluation of the usability of the sample value. A "J" data qualifier code shall not be used as a substitute for K, L, M, G, S, T, V, or Y, however, if additional reasons exist for identifying the value as an estimate (e.g., laboratory control spike or matrix spiked failed to meet acceptance criteria), the "J" code may be added to a K, L, M, G, S, T, U, V, or Y qualifier. Examples of situations in which a "J" code must be reported include: instances where a quality control item associated with the reported value failed to meet the established quality control criteria (the specific failure must be identified); instances when the sample matrix interfered with the ability to make any accurate determination; instances when data are questionable because of improper laboratory or field protocols (e.g., composite sample was collected instead of a grab sample); instances when the analyte was detected at or above the method detection limit in an analytical laboratory blank other than the method blank (such as a calibration blank and the value of the blank is greater than

SYMBOL	MEANING
	10% of the associated sample value); or, instances when the field or laboratory calibrations or calibration verifications did not meet calibration acceptance criteria, including quantitative or chronological bracketing requirements for field testing data.
K	<p>Off-scale low. Actual value is known to be less than the value given. This code shall not be used for microbiological tests or for biochemical oxygen demand. This code shall not be used for field-testing measurements where quantitative bracketing is required. This code shall be used if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The value is less than the lowest calibration standard and the calibration curve is known to be non-linear; or</li> <li>2. The value is known to be less than the reported value based on sample size, dilution.</li> </ol> <p>This code shall not be used to report values that are less than the laboratory practical quantitation limit or laboratory method detection limit.</p>
L	<p>Off-scale high. Actual value is known to be greater than value given. This code shall not be used for microbiological tests or biochemical oxygen demand. This code shall not be used for field-testing measurements where quantitative bracketing is required. To be used when the concentration of the analyte is above the acceptable level for quantitation (exceeds the linear range or highest calibration standard) and the calibration curve is known to exhibit a negative deflection.</p>
M	<p>When reporting chemical analyses: presence of material is verified but not quantified; the actual value is less than the value given. The reported value shall be the laboratory practical quantitation limit. This code shall be used if the level is too low to permit accurate quantification, but the estimated concentration is greater than or equal to the method detection limit. If the value is less than the method detection limit use "T" below.</p>
N	<p>Presumptive evidence of presence of material. This qualifier shall be used if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The component has been tentatively identified based on mass spectral library search; or</li> <li>2. There is an indication that the analyte is present, but quality control requirements for confirmation were not met (i.e., presence of analyte was not confirmed by alternative procedures).</li> </ol>
O	Sampled, but analysis lost or not performed.
Q	Sample held beyond the accepted holding time. This code shall be used if the value is derived from a sample that was prepared or analyzed after the approved holding time restrictions for sample preparation or analysis.
T	Value reported is less than the laboratory method detection limit. The value is reported for informational purposes only and shall not be used in statistical analysis.
U	Indicates that the compound was analyzed for but not detected. This symbol shall be used to indicate that the specified component was not detected. The value associated with the qualifier shall be the laboratory method detection limit. Unless requested by the client, less than the method detection limit values shall not be reported (see "T" above).
V	A "V"-qualified sample value indicates that the analyte was detected at or above the method detection limit in both the sample and the associated method blank

SYMBOL	MEANING
	and the blank value was greater than 10% of the associated sample value. The 10% criterion shall not apply to blank results for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) or microbiological tests. For BOD tests, the “V” code shall be used for all sample results where the associated method blank result exceeds the maximum blank DO depletion specified in the analytical method. For microbiological tests, the “V” code shall be used for all samples where the associated method blank indicates growth of the target organism. Note: unless specified by the method, the value in the blank shall not be subtracted from associated samples.
W	<b>SRWMD Internal Code:</b> Value observed is less than lowest value reportable under T code. This code is used when a positive value is not observed or calculated for a result, i.e. the test instrument or calculation is not capable of producing negative values. In these cases, the lowest reportable value, which is the lowest positive value that is observable, is reported with the W.
X	Indicates, when reporting results from a Stream Condition Index Analysis (SCI 1000), that insufficient individuals were present in the sample to achieve a minimum of 280 organisms for identification (the method calls for two aliquots of 140-160 organisms), suggesting either extreme environmental stress or a sampling error.
Y	The laboratory analysis was from an improperly preserved sample. The data may not be accurate.
Z	Too many colonies were present for accurate counting. Historically, this condition has been reported as “too numerous to count” (TNTC). The “Z” qualifier code shall be reported when the total number of colonies of all types is more than 200 in all dilutions of the sample. When applicable to the observed test results, a numeric value for the colony count for the microorganism tested shall be estimated from the highest dilution factor (smallest sample volume) used for the test and reported with the qualifier code. Atypical, non-target, spreading colonies or other interferences may prevent estimation of typical target organism counts.
?	Data are rejected and should not be used. Some or all of the quality control data for the analyte were outside criteria, and the presence or absence of the analyte cannot be determined from the data.
*	Not reported due to interference.
>	<b>SRWMD Internal Code:</b> Field Blank analyte value is high (>2x MDL) and has been confirmed by rerun. The same analyte for all environmental samples associated with the Field Blank (those samples collected by the same sample collection team using the same collection device on the same date of collection) shall be assigned the > code.

The following codes deal with certain aspects of field activities. The codes shall be used if the laboratory has knowledge of the specific sampling event. The codes shall be added by the organization collecting samples if they apply:

SYMBOL	MEANING
D	Measurement was made in the field (i.e., in situ). This code applies to any value (except field measurements of pH, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, temperature, total residual chlorine, transparency, turbidity or salinity) that was obtained under field conditions using approved analytical methods. If the

	parameter code specifies a field measurement (e.g., "Field pH"), this code is not required.
E	Indicates that extra samples were taken at composite stations.
G	A "G"-qualified sample value indicates that the analyte was detected at or above the method detection limit in both the sample and the associated field blank, equipment blank, or trip blank, and the value of the blank is greater than 10% of the associated sample value. The value in the blank shall not be subtracted from associated samples.
R	Significant rain in the past 48 hours. (Significant rain typically involves rain in excess of 1/2 inch within the past 48 hours.) This code shall be used when the rainfall might contribute to a lower or higher than normal value.
S	Secchi disk visible to bottom of waterbody. The value reported is the depth of the waterbody at the location of the Secchi disk measurement.
!	Data deviate from historically established concentration ranges.