

## INFORMATION ON STANDARD METHODS NAMING

*RE: APPROVAL YEAR, EDITORIAL REVISION YEAR, EDITION REFERENCE,  
VELAP NOMENCLATURE FORMATTING, and VELAP CHECKLISTS*

The following examples illustrate how Standard Methods (SM) may be referenced within 40 CFR 136, within published methods available from [www.standardmethods.org](http://www.standardmethods.org), on Virginia Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (VELAP) checklists, and on VELAP-issued certificates.

Method	Approved	Editorial Revision	Editorial Revision
Example: Method approved then editorially revised twice			
SM 2120 B	2001	2011	2021
Checklist	SM 2120 B-2001(2011,2021) - Color		
Scope	SM 2120 B-2021		
Example: Method approved then editorially revised once			
SM 2540 B	2015	2020	
Checklist	SM 2540 B - 2015(2020) - Total Solids		
Scope	SM 2540 B - 2020		
Example: Method approved in most recent (SM24th) edition			
SM 4500-H+ B	2021		
Checklist	SM 4500 H+ B-2021 - pH		
Scope	SM 4500-H+ B-2021		
Example: Method approved and editorially revised; but the editorial revision not listed in current 40CFR136 approvals			
SM 5210 B	2016	2019 (not CFR approved)	
Checklist	SM 5210 B-2016 - Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)/Carbonaceous BOD		
Scope	SM 5210 B-2016		

Note the following:

- SM methods contain a reference to approvals by the SM committee within each specific published method. Refer to a SM method for examples.
- Approval by a SM committee is not synonymous with approval by EPA for use under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act, or any other compliance purpose.
- For Clean Water Act compliance testing, approvals are specified in 40 CFR 136 by year, which may be either the most recent “approved” year as indicated by the SM published method OR the most recent “editorially revised” year as indicated by the by the SM published method.
- For Safe Drinking Water Act compliance testing, approvals are specified in 40 CFR 141 and 143 by “edition” of SM, for example, “23<sup>rd</sup> Edition” or “24<sup>th</sup> Edition”. VELAP does not use “edition references” on issued certificates.
- In some cases, the most recent revision of a SM method, even though editorially revised and not substantially changed, is not approved by 40 CFR 136. An example is BOD/CBOD by SM 5210B.
- When a SM method is purchased online, after the current method has been purchased, earlier revisions of the same method may be downloaded without additional cost. Refer any questions on this matter to SM Online.
- Checklists used by VELAP show the approval year and indicate “editorially revised” years in parentheses, if applicable. This helps assessors and laboratories understand the nature of revisions to methods and how those revisions may impact method assessments.
- Certificates issued by VELAP show one single year reference, consistent at this time with formatting in 40 CFR 136.
- Refer any questions on this matter to [Lab\\_Cert@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:Lab_Cert@dgs.virginia.gov).