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| **Common Lab Abbreviations and Acronyms** | |
| ASTM | American Society for Testing and Materials |
| BOD | Biochemical Oxygen Demand |
| cBOD | Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand |
| CCV | Continuing Calibration Verification |
| COC | Chain of Custody |
| DATCP | Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection |
| DI | Deionized |
| DNR | Department of Natural Resources |
| DO | Dissolved Oxygen |
| eDMR | electronic Discharge Monitoring Report |
| GGA | Glucose-Glutamic Acid |
| ICV | Initial Calibration Verification |
| ID | Identification |
| IDC | Initial Demonstration of Capability |
| ISE | Ion Selective Electrode |
| LCS | Laboratory Control Sample |
| LOD | Limit of Detection |
| LOQ | Limit of Quantitation |
| MDL | Method Detection Limit |
| NH3 (or NH3-N) | Ammonia |
| NIST | National Institute of Standards and Technology |
| NOAA | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration |
| NR | (Department of) Natural Resources |
| PT | Proficiency Testing |
| QC | Quality Control |
| QCS | Quality Control Standard |
| QM | Quality Manual |
| SM | Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastes |
| SOP | Standard Operating Procedure |
| TP | Total Phosphorus |
| TSS | Total Suspended Solids |
| WET | Whole Effluent Toxicity |
| WPDES | Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| WWTP | Wastewater Treatment Plant |

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| **Common Lab Definitions** | |
| Acceptance Limits | Limits established that are used to determine if the laboratory has analyzed a quality control sample or proficiency testing sample successfully. |
| Accuracy | The closeness of a measured value to an accepted reference value or standard. |
| Analyst | The designated person who performs the hands-on testing and who is responsible for meeting the required laboratory practices. |
| Analyte | Chemical substance, physical property, or organism analyzed in a sample. |
| Batch | A set of samples prepared or analyzed together using the same process, personnel, and lots of reagents. |
| Calibration | The process used to establish an observed relationship between the response of an analytical instrument and a known amount of analyte, or the process used to determine, by measuring or comparison with a reference standard, the correct value of each scale reading in an instrument, meter, or measuring device. |
| Calibration Blank | An aliquot that consists of the same matrix as that used for the calibration standards, but without the analytes. In other words, it is processed using the same procedure as the calibration standards except that no stock standard was added. |
| Calibration Curve | The graphical relationship between the known values, such as concentrations, of a series of calibration standards and their instrument response. |
| Calibration Standard | Solutions used to calibrate the instrument response with respect to analyte concentration. |
| Chain of Custody | Unbroken trail of accountability that ensures the physical security of samples,  data, and records. |
| Continuing Calibration Verification | A standard of known concentration of analyte used to ensure the calibration is still valid throughout the analysis. |
| Control Limits | See acceptance limits. |
| Corrective Action | Any measure taken to eliminate or prevent the recurrence of the causes of problems (nonconformities, defects, or undesirable conditions). |
| Holding Time | The maximum time that samples may be held prior to analysis and still be considered valid. |
| Initial Calibration Verification | A standard of known concentration, prepared using second source standards, analyzed following the initial calibration and prior to measuring any samples to ensure the calibration is accurate. |
| Initial Demonstration of Capability | The process to determine if an analyst is qualified to perform laboratory testing. |
| Instrument Blank | A clean sample (e.g., distilled water) processed through the instrument steps of the measurement process; used to determine instrument contamination. |
| Interference | The combined or individual chemical components of a sample that may or may not cause a false positive measurement by an instrument. |
| Laboratory Control Sample (LCS) | A sample of a matrix without the analytes of interest spiked with a known amount of the analytes of interest. The purpose of an LCS is to determine whether the method process is in control and whether the laboratory can make accurate and precise measurements. |
| Limit of Detection (LOD) | The lowest concentration or amount of analyte that can be identified, measured, and reported with confidence that the concentration is not a false positive value. The DNR considers the LOD to be equivalent to the method detection limit. |
| Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) | The lowest concentration or amount of an analyte for which quantitative results can be obtained. |
| Method Blank | A clean matrix that is treated and processed exactly as a sample including exposure to all glassware, equipment, solvents, and reagents to measure contaminants in the measurement process. |
| Method Detection Limit (MDL) | The minimum measured concentration of a substance that can be reported with 99% confidence that the measured concentration is distinguishable from method blank results. The MDL is generated according to the procedure specified in the latest revision of 40 CFR Part 136, Appendix B. |
| Precision | The degree to which a set of measurements obtained under similar conditions conform to themselves. Precision is usually expressed as the standard deviation, variance, or range, in either absolute or relative terms. |
| Preservation | The refrigeration of and/or reagents added at the time of sample collection to maintain the chemical and/or biological integrity of the sample. |
| Proficiency Testing (PT) | A study where a sample is obtained from an approved proficiency testing sample provider to evaluate the ability of a laboratory to produce an analytical test result meeting the definition of acceptable performance. The concentration of the analyte in the sample is unknown to the laboratory at the time of analysis. |
| Qualify | A written statement accompanying test results to identify anomalies or issues that were encountered in generating the results. |
| Quality Control | The overall system of technical activities designed to measure and control the quality of test results. |
| Raw Data | Any original information from a measurement recorded in any form that allows the reconstruction and evaluation of the activity. Raw data include absorbance, emission counts, abundance, and millivolts. Raw data may be stored in hard copy or electronically. |
| Reagent Water | Water which has been treated to remove any impurities that may affect the quality of an analysis. |
| Sample Matrix | Collective inherent chemical, biological, and physical components and characteristics of a sample. |
| Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) | A written document which details the method of an operation or analysis and which is accepted as the method for performing certain routine or repetitive tasks. |