

Guidance for Total PCBs Analysis

1. Laboratories shall use one of the following EPA test methods to screen for PCBs (as Aroclors).
 - a. 505 (this method may lack the sensitivity required to detect total PCBs as described in this document)
 - b. 508
 - c. 508.1
 - d. 525.2
2. The Aroclors to be tested include 1016, 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248, 1254 and 1260.
3. Laboratories shall demonstrate and document that the test method used to screen for PCBs has sufficient sensitivity to identify and quantify each Aroclor at the concentration level listed in the table below. The State DLR for total PCBs is 0.5 µg/L as DCB.

Aroclor	Aroclor Conc. (µg/L)	DCB Equivalence Factor^{1,2}	DCB Equivalent (µg/L)
1016	0.26	1.92	0.5
1221	0.19	2.63	0.5
1232	0.23	2.17	0.5
1242	0.26	1.92	0.5
1248	0.30	1.67	0.5
1254	0.33	1.52	0.5
1260	0.36	1.39	0.5

¹ Table 1, EPA method 508A, Revision 1.0 (1989)

² Example: (0.26 µg/L of Aroclor 1016) x 1.92 = 0.5 µg/L of DCB

4. If one or more Aroclors are detected at a concentration level equivalent to the DLR or higher, the laboratory shall identify the Aroclor(s) detected and employ EPA method 508A to quantify and report total PCBs as DCB.
5. If Aroclors are not detected or detected at a concentration level equivalent to less than 0.5 µg/L as DCB, the laboratory shall report < 0.5 µg/L as DCB.
6. ELAP certification requirements for total PCBs analysis:
 - a. The laboratory must successfully participate in a proficiency testing program for Aroclor identification by EPA method 505, 508, 508.1 or 525.2.
 - b. The laboratory must successfully participate in a proficiency testing program for total PCBs quantification by EPA method 508A.
 - c. The laboratory must demonstrate and document that the test method (EPA method 505, 508, 508.1 or 525.2) used to screen for PCBs has sufficient sensitivity to identify and quantify each Aroclor at the respective concentration levels listed in Section 3 above.