

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE  
***Procedure for Generating Rinse Blanks***

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**KEY WORDS**

Rinse; decontamination; splitter

**APPROVALS**

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Environmental Monitoring Branch organization and personnel, such as management, senior scientist, quality assurance officer, project leader, etc., are defined and discussed in SOP ADMN002.

## STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE Procedure for Generating Rinse Blanks

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### 1 .0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1 .1 Purpose

Rinse blanks are created to assess the efficacy of equipment decontamination procedures described in SOPs FSWA004 and FSWA005.

#### 1.2 Scope

This document will provide specific instructions for collecting rinse blanks from surface water sampling equipment and/or the water splitting equipment.

### 2.0 MATERIALS

2.1 Deionized water (sufficient to fill sample bottles)

2.2 Sample bottles (same number used for surface water analysis)

2.3 Clean Geotech® Dekaport port splitter

2.4 All containers used to collect or contain samples: e.g. Teflon® bottle, Teflon® spout, stainless steel buckets, milkcan, funnels

2.5 Chain of Custody records

2.6 Latex disposable gloves

2.7 Level

### 3.0 PROCEDURES

Rinse Blanks should be performed at least once every study or after each sample that represents 10% of the total number of samples collected in the study, whichever is more. Enough rinse blanks should be generated to analyze all chemicals analyzed for in a particular study. Rinse blanks should be collected from both sampling and splitting equipment, or both combined if all the equipment is cleaned and split at one location. Below is an example describing the procedure used for generating rinse blanks when both sampling and splitting equipment are used at one location.

#### 3.1 Instructions for Generating Rinse Blanks

3.1.1 After the samples have been collected at the sampling site and the equipment listed in 2.3 and 2.4 above have been completely decontaminated according to SOP#s FSWAO04 and FSWAO05, the rinse blank may be collected.

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3. 1. 2 Place the cleaned **Geotech**<sup>®</sup> Dekaport water splitter on level ground. Make sure all splitter water spouts are level to ensure a fairly even water flow. Place a level across the top of the splitter to ensure that it is level.

3. 1. 3 While wearing disposable gloves, set up the same number of sample bottles as used for surface water analysis, following instructions for splitting procedures in FSWAO04.

3. 1. 4 Pour about 500ml more deionized water than required to fill the rinse blank sample bottles into the first piece of sampling equipment (e.g. Teflon<sup>®</sup> bottle). Swirl the water around and then pour the water into the next piece of sampling equipment (e.g. the milkcan).

3. 1. 5 Continue to pour the water and swirl until the water has rinsed all the sampling equipment. Prior to completely pouring the remainder of the sample water out of the sampling containers swirl the water one last time to ensure that any residual sediment stays with the sample water and not at the bottom or along the sides of the container. Lastly, pour the deionized water through the Dekaport splitter and fill the rinse blank sample bottles. If there are extra splitter spouts, put a clean bucket under the spouts. Pour the water from this bucket back through the splitter. Continue the process until all the bottles are full.

3. 1. 6 Cap all bottles and prepare **COCs** in the same manner as surface water samples. Add the words "Rinse Blank" to the comments section of the Check-In Sheet. If samples need to be acidified, add three drops of 3N HCL. Store samples at 4°C.

3. 1. 7 Cover all containers and the splitter with clean plastic bags.