

Understanding Your Water Test Results for PFAS from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Laboratory for PFOMS

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) developed this guide to help you understand your water test results for the group of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The table below shows an example of how water test results are reported. Your results will include more PFAS than those listed in the example. Learn more about what each column in the results table means below.

CAS #	Analyte	Result	RL	Units	Dilution	Analyzed Date	ISTD % Rec	ISTD Limits	Qualifier	Analyst ID
375-22-4	PFBA	ND	2.00	ng/L	1	03/31/2020	115%	50-150%		SSY
2706-90-3	PFPeA	ND	2.00	ng/L	1	03/31/2020	104 %	50-150%		SSY
307-24-4	PFHxA	7.1	2.00	ng/L	1	03/31/2020	95%	50-150%		SSY

This example is based on **MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories** reports. Other laboratories (labs) may show results in a different way or with different measurement units.

CAS

The CAS # is a unique number that identifies the specific PFAS.

Analyte

Your water sample was tested for the PFAS shown in this column. For some PFAS, there are two forms: branched (Br) and linear (L).

Result

- **If the result listed is a number**, the lab found that amount of that specific PFAS in your water sample.
- **If the result listed is non-detect "ND,"** the amount of that PFAS in your water sample was not detected, or found, at or above the amount the lab can reliably report.
- For PFAS with both branched (Br) and linear (L) forms, results will be reported separately for each form and for the total of both forms added together (Total).

Reporting Limit (RL)

This number is the smallest amount of that PFAS the lab can reliably detect in the volume of water provided in your sample.

Units

The PFAS were measured in nanograms per liter (ng/L). One ng/L is equal to one part per trillion (ppt).

Dilution

- If a number larger than "1" appears, the lab needed to dilute, or thin down, your water for testing.
- If a "1" appears, the lab did not dilute your water sample during testing.

The value in the "Result" column is always the amount of that PFAS in your sample, not the dilution.

Qualifier

This column may contain one or more letters if the lab needs to share more information about the sample you provided. Look below your results table for an explanation of what each letter means.

Other Columns

- **Internal Standard Percent Recovered (ISTD % Rec)** and **Internal Standard Limits (ISTD Limits)** are used for the lab's quality assurance reporting to ensure that the analysis is accurately measuring the PFAS in samples.
- **Analyzed Date** and **Analyst ID** include information used by the lab to track samples.

