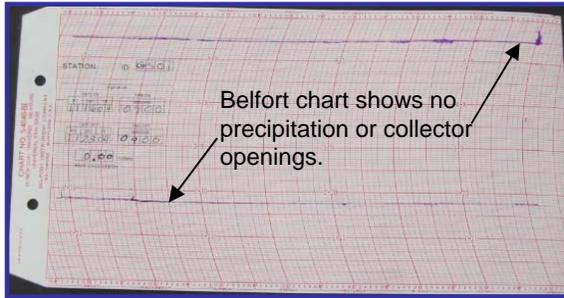


MDN BLIND-AUDIT INSTRUCTIONS

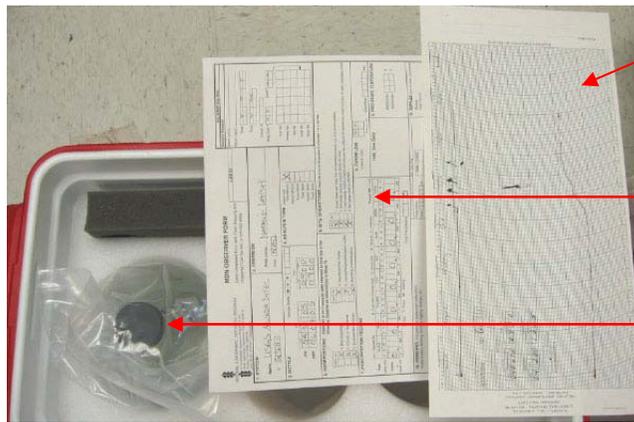
The intent of the blind-audit program is to assess the variability and bias in the analytical results produced by the Mercury Analytical Laboratory (HAL) by disguising a quality assurance sample as a weekly precipitation sample from your site.



STEP 1

Service MDN collector and rain gage. If no precipitation occurred and the collector did not open during the preceding week, then you can process the blind-audit sample. Please **DO NOT** process the blind-audit sample if the collector lid opened even once.

Store in USGS cooler



Photocopied raingage chart for dry week

MDN Observer Form (MOF) for dry week sample

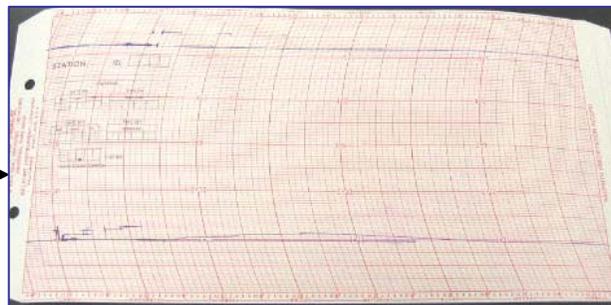
Sample bottle that spent a dry week in the collector

STEP 2

Transfer the blind-audit sample from the USGS cooler to an extra cooler in your stock. This is **IMPORTANT!** It helps to disguise the blind-audit sample as a precipitation sample from your site since the coolers can be tracked by the HAL.

Complete a MOF for the field bottle that spent a dry week installed in the collector. Store the MOF, field bottle, and a photocopy of the rain gage chart that you just retrieved from the field in the cooler that you received from the USGS until you are notified by the USGS to send it to the HAL.

Fill out USGS-created raingage chart



STEP 3

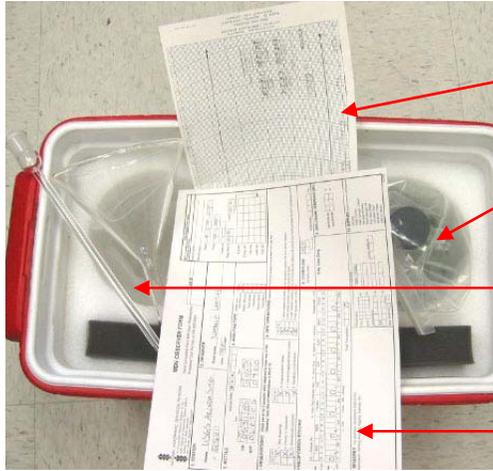
Read and fill out the USGS-created rain gage chart just as you would for any raingage chart from your site. Fill in: site id, date-on, date-off, time-on, time-off, and precipitation total. Make sure that the time-on and time-off match the data from the real chart for the dry week. Make a small mark at the time-on and time-off with a pen. Photocopy the lab-created chart. Send the photocopy to the HAL with the blind-audit sample. Do not send the original to the HAL.

GO TO REVERSE SIDE

STEP 1

Complete a second MOF for the blind-audit sample with information for a typical precipitation sample. Fill in all fields on the MOF, except for field #7-Precipitation Record. For this field, use information from the USGS-created rain gage chart (See step 3). Fill in the daily and weekly precipitation data on the blind-audit MOF per the USGS-created rain gage chart. **PLEASE DO NOT INDICATE ON THE BLIND-AUDIT MOF THAT THIS IS A QUALITY ASSURANCE SAMPLE IN ANY WAY!**

Mail to the HAL in a cooler from your stock



Photocopy of USGS-created rain gage chart that you read and filled out

Double-blind sample mailed to you by the USGS

Used funnel and thistle tube installed in the collector during the dry week

MOF with information for the USGS-created rain gage chart

STEP 2

Make sure that the cooler that you obtained from your stock (not the USGS cooler) sent to the HAL contains: blind-audit sample, photocopied USGS-created rain gage chart, blind-audit MOF, and the used funnel and thistle tube. Use standard shipping methods to mail the cooler to the HAL. **DO NOT USE THE ENCLOSED FEDEX LABEL.**

STEP 3

You will be notified in a few months to ship the actual field bottle, that spent a dry week installed in the collector, to the HAL in the USGS cooler. Use the enclosed FedEx label to ship the USGS cooler to the HAL. All fields have already been completed, please place the label in the plastic sleeve and affix it to the USGS cooler.

Mail postcard to USGS

MDN – RECORD OF BLIND-AUDIT SAMPLE SUBMISSION
 PLEASE FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW AND MAIL TO THE USGS.
 THIS INFORMATION SHOULD MATCH WHAT IS LISTED ON THE MDN OBSERVER FORM

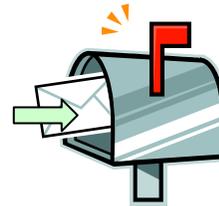
SITE ID SITE NAME _____

SITE OPERATOR _____ Initials

DATE ON: _____
 TIME ON: _____

DATE OFF: _____
 TIME OFF: _____

DATE SHIPPED TO FRONTIER GEOSCIENCES _____



Fill out the stamped, pre-addressed postcard provided with the blind-audit sample and mail to the USGS.

You Have Completed the MDN Blind Audit for Your Site! Thank You!

For more information, call Natalie Latysh at 303-236-1874 / e-mail: nlatysh@usgs.gov