

Wholly Water

ECan Laboratory's Newsletter

Turnaround Times

Although we have previously advised what our turnaround times are, we thought it may be time for a reminder:

We endeavour to complete our analyses for **Chemistry within 10 working days** and **Microbiology within 5 working days** and then send our report to you.

However, if we need to outsource samples for you to another Laboratory, we unfortunately have no control over their turnaround times and this may therefore delay getting our report to you.

1 July 2009 Price Changes

We have tried holding off doing this for as long as we could, however from 1 July approximately 30% of our analyses will be increasing by a small margin. The most affected will be Microbiology as the media for performing these analyses has increased over time. A few prices will actually decrease. The new prices will be on our Website as from 1 July for your information.

Quote for the day

Imagination gallops; judgment merely walks.

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Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)

We advised in our June 2008 Wholly Water newsletter that we were seeking IANZ accreditation for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) analysis – good things come to those who wait and we are happy to advise that this accreditation has now been received.

COD vs BOD₅

Like BOD (Biological Oxygen Demand) the COD test is a measure of the relative oxygen-depletion effect of a waste contaminant and both have been widely adopted as a measure of pollution effect.

The BOD test measures the oxygen demand of biodegradable pollutants whereas the COD test measures the oxygen demand of biodegradable pollutants plus the oxygen demand of non-biodegradable oxidisable pollutants.

The main benefits of the COD test over the BOD test are in the analytical time and cost. The BOD is a 5 day test which costs \$37.00 (+ GST) whereas the COD test is faster and cheaper, being carried out in several hours and costs \$20.00 (+ GST). Additionally, due to the fact that the COD test does not have a biological component to the test, it is a more accurate and reproducible test.

Staff Profile – Neville Bishell – Manager Business Units

On 1 February 2008 I took over the management of the Laboratory, as part of the consolidation of the ECan Business Units into one management unit.

My recent life in ECan was Property and Reserves Manager, where I had responsibility for ECan's Building Properties, Vehicle Fleet, Reserve Lands, Forestry, and establishment of Regional Parks.

They say you cannot teach an old dog new tricks, and despite being around ECan and North Canterbury Catchment Board for 35 years I have been on a learning curve for the past year. I am not any help with the testing but confine my involvement into running the business and ensuring the staff, systems and equipment are in place to ensure a smooth running operation.

If you ever wish to talk to someone from outside the Lab door please give me a call on 371 7111. The other ECan Business Units I manage are: Building Properties and Fleet, Surveyors and Legal.



Public Holidays

Due to the fact that ECan is closed for Public Holidays, please note that we do not accept Microbiological samples the day before a Public Holiday.