

Corrective Action Plan Active Case Used on Un-Validated FTIR

Incident Date: October 7, 2022

Incident Type: Procedural

Incident Description: There were multiple power outages the week of October 3, 2023. On Friday, October 7, 2022, an analyst wanted to ensure the Fourier Transform Infrared Spectrometry (FTIR) was still operational after the series of outages. However, instead of taking a sample of a standard or a case used for training, the analyst took a sample of an active case in which they were performing analysis. The FTIR is a new instrument and has not yet been put into service. The instrument has been qualified, but a method plan and validation has not yet been established.

LOG-14-03 Validation

3.3.1 Prior to use in casework, it shall be demonstrated that the procedure or method modification does not negatively impact the interpretation of results or integrity of the evidence.

This is not the first time the analyst has used an unapproved method. Approximately two months ago, the analyst was cited for using an unapproved method on a Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) instrument. At the time, it was undetermined if the use of the unapproved method was deliberate or not. In this case, there was no question that the FTIR was not validated, as the analyst is aware and has been working on the instrument when not performing casework.

Proposed Corrective Action(s):

1. Keep the results from the FTIR in the case file with a note from the analyst regarding the unapproved instrumentation.
2. Attach a copy of the CAP and CAR to the electronic case file.

Timeframe for Corrective Action(s): two week

Comment(s): N/A

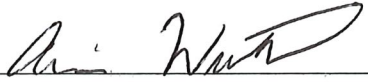
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Applicable Analyst / Discipline

10/31/22
Date

Applicable Analyst / Discipline


Date

Corrective Action Plan
Active Case Used on Un-Validated FTIR



Lab Quality Manager

31 Oct. 2022
Date



Laboratory Director

10/25/22
Date