

Region III Fact Sheet: Field Samplers Guide to the Collection and Handling of Soil Samples for Volatile Organic Analysis using SW 846 Method 5035A

Summary:

The purpose of this fact sheet is to specify procedures for the collection and handling by **field samplers** of soil samples for volatile organic analysis (VOA) in Region III. SW-846 Method 5035A is the collection method required for analysis of soil samples for VOA. This method incorporates chemical preservatives and sample storage techniques to limit volatilization and biodegradation of organic compounds. Method 5035A is applicable to both low/medium and high level soil samples.

Collection Procedures:

- Soil samples being analyzed for volatile organic compounds collected via Method 5035A should not be chemically preserved in the field.
- Samples should be collected using the following collection options:

Option 1: For most Soil types

Number of samples: 4 EnCore (or similar closed-sampling vessel)¹ samples
4 QC EnCore samplers
1 40-mL vial for moisture analysis

¹EnCore samplers (or similar sample collection device, refer to Section 4.5 of Method 5035)

Samples must be cooled to 4° C upon collection and during shipment and bagged individually upon collection.

Samples must arrive at the laboratory within 24 hours.

Samples must be analyzed or preserved by the lab within 48 hours of collection.

Option 2: For Non-Cohesive Granular Material (wet, rocky, sediments, etc.)

Number of samples: 4 40mL vials (sampler may use wide mouth jars if sample not amiable to smaller vials)
2 QC 40 mL vials
1 40 mL vial for moisture analysis

Samples must be cooled to 4°C upon collection and during shipment.

Samples must arrive at the laboratory within 24 hours.

Samples must be analyzed or preserved by the lab within 48 hours of collection.