



Analytical Advisor

An informational newsletter offered by Analytical Laboratory Services, Inc.

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President's Message

ALSI has been paving the way for an exceptional future in the laboratory industry. The past several months have allowed us to make some significant additions to laboratory operations which will also effect you, our valued clients, as well.

★ Additional instrumentation in the GC/MS VOAs Department

ALSI recently added a Finnigan™ GC Mass Spectrometer (GC/MS) to aid in our ever-increasing sample load in VOC analyses bringing the number of GC/MSs to six (6) in this department. Just to give you an idea of the number of samples that are being run daily, the maximum number of samples that can be run by an instrument in 24 hours is 48. When you do the math, 6 instruments x 48 samples = 288 samples in a 24-hour time period. Although this number seems very aggressive in running samples, in reality, 30% are QC samples, which instantly lowers the numbers to 200 per 24 hours. Again this number is immediately lowered because we cannot assume that all 200 samples will be run only once, in fact it is unlikely because of the stringent quality control criteria set forth by the EPA method.

★ Additional instrumentation in the GC/MS SVOCs Department

We also added an Agilent™ GC/MS to the SVOC department bringing the number of GC/MSs to five (5) in this department. The average run time is about 1 hour per sample. Again, using the same logic as above, 5 samples x 24 hours = 120 samples/day x 30% QC = 84 samples/day. Theoretically, we can produce 84 samples in 24 hours.

★ Increased demand for TO-15 Air Analysis

The increased demand for TO-15 Air analyses has necessitated ALSI adding an Entech™ autosampler which permits us to analyze 16 summa canisters in a 24 hour period. We have also successfully added Naphthalene to our TO-15 list of compounds, which eliminates the need to run a separate TO-13 method.

★ Additional instrumentation in the Metals Department

ALSI's newest purchase this month is a Perkin Elmer® ICP/MS DREC model. This is the newest model available with enhanced capabilities specifically designed for the environmental laboratory. This will be our second ICP/MS and will help ALSI meet the ever increasing demand for lower detection limits for metals along with the ability to perform them in a more timely manner. This addition also completes our internal goal of having redundant instrumentation for all technologies performed by ALSI. Remember, effective January 2006 the new Arsenic level of 10 ug/l goes into effect which means the ICP/MS and graphite furnace AA will be the only techniques approved by the EPA.

Are you in compliance?

By George O'Hara, IH Group

Today there are very few jobs that do not involve the use of some type of chemicals. Electroplaters working with acids, caustics and cyanide. Painters working with oils and solvents. Concrete workers with silica. Foundry workers with arsenic and lead. Even office workers with printer and copier inks and toners. Maintenance employees, production employees and office employees - all have a host of chemicals that they must work with day to day.

To ensure that all workers who handle hazardous chemicals understand the physical and health hazards of the chemicals used in their workplace and the protective measures needed to work safely with these chemicals, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) enacted their Hazard Communication regulation in 1985.

Employers are required to assure that all hazardous chemicals are used, stored, transported and labeled properly. In addition, and most importantly, all employers are required to assure that all of their employees receive the necessary training before handling any hazardous chemical. The major elements of this major regulation cover the following items:

- **Chemical Inventory** - Performing a wall-to-wall chemical inventory off all hazardous chemicals in your workplace.
- **Labelling** - Assuring that all chemical containers in you workplace are properly labelled.
- **MSDS sheets** - Obtaining, and making available for all employees, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) sheets for all hazardous chemicals in your workplace.
- **Education & Training** - Providing "hazard and precaution" education and training to all employees who handle any hazardous chemicals.

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CONTACT US BY PHONE AT 1-800-794-7709 OR BY FAX AT 717-944-1430!

LIMS UPDATE

By Duane Garman, LIMS Administrator

Analytical Laboratory Services, Inc. (ALSI) is currently in the process of upgrading the Horizon LIMS to more fully automate the generation of Data Packages and other deliverables, as well as providing additional report features. These new pieces that are being added to the existing LIMS will also provide additional functionality to not only ALSI, but to our clients as well.

One of the new pieces that we are in the process of implementing is called NuGenesis. NuGenesis is a Document Management System (DMS) that is used to store electronic images of all kinds of documents, including but not limited to instrument chromatograms and other instrument data, chain-of-custodies, standard operating procedures, etc. In addition to being a true DMS, NuGenesis also provides results upload capabilities to Horizon LIMS. Through the use of extraction templates, data on instrument reports and spreadsheets can be extracted by NuGenesis and fed into the Horizon LIMS for posting of results. Not only will this

functionality provide upload capabilities for our departments that use instruments to analyze samples, but this will also provide an automated upload capability for departments that currently utilize logbooks to enter and store analysis data. Through these processes the clients will realize improved turnaround times on their data packages and reduced error rates through reduction of human interfaces. These automated steps do not eliminate the necessary review processes by our staff inherent in our laboratory.

The other new piece that will be implemented is known as Actuate. Actuate is a web-based report generation tool that has been integrated with Horizon to provide new, more advanced reporting capabilities to ALSI. In addition, clients will be able to access copies of reports through use of the Actuate Web Portal. This website will allow users to login and access copies of final reports as well as other types of reports. When users login, they will go to their own "Inbox" where they will be able to access reports made available to them.

ALSI will be implementing these new features in the next couple of months so stay tuned to the next edition of the newsletter and updates on our website for the progress of these exciting features.

TO CHOOSE OR NOT TO CHOOSE?

By Susan Frommer, ALSI Data Package Group

The Data Package is one of the many products offered at ALSI, and at the outset of every environmental project, a determination needs to be made as to how the analytical results will be presented and whether or not a "Data Package" is required.

A Data Package is a customized, organized, hard-copy collection of the data and documents associated with a particular set of samples. Most often, the data is presented on summary forms for ease of review, as well as in the raw-data format. The summary forms and raw data will include not only project sample data, but also the data of all Quality Assurance samples and standards associated with the project samples.

To determine if a Data Package is appropriate for your project, consider these three questions before deciding to obtain a Data Package:

- Is there a strong likelihood that this project will be involved in litigation?
- Is the project part of a Federal, State, or Local site remediation plan?
- Will the sample results be forwarded to another party who wishes to perform their own evaluation and/or validation?

Given that the request for a Data Package could add costs to the bottom line of a project as well as increased turnaround time for the package itself, careful consideration of these questions should help you determine if a Data Package is appropriate for your project. If you need further information as you make this important decision, please contact ALSI. We are committed to our clients' needs and will gladly assist you.

Employee Spotlight



Jason Badman, ALSI's Wet Chemistry Supervisor, is our featured employee and has been employed at ALSI for 6 ½ years. During his short tenure at ALSI, Jason has moved up through the organization rapidly working initially in the Sample Receiving Department and moving into the Wet Chemistry Department. Jason was promoted to his current position in March of 2005. In his current role, Jason is responsible for managing the daily activities of the wet chemistry department which is comprised of three (3) shifts over a 24-hour period of time. Jason is obviously unable to stay at work this entire time but the department depends on strict assignments and personal accountability in meeting a myriad of tests many of which include short holding times.

In his personal time away from the workplace Jason enjoys all types of sporting activities especially the collection of sport memorabilia and sports cards. Jason enjoys time away from work relaxing at the beach with a few drinks and his girlfriend at his side.

Unfortunately, if Jason were to spend a day away from work he would prefer to be at a Washington Redskins game, much to the dismay of the many Pittsburgh Steelers fans at ALSI, or settling for any other sporting event.

Jason's most memorable experience in the laboratory revolves around the company Christmas parties where he enjoys the company of co-workers and their significant others outside of the work place.

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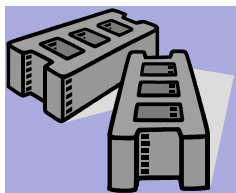
- **Non-routine tasks** - Providing information to employees on non-routine task such as maintenance activities involving confined spaces, welding, torch-cutting, sandblasting, painting, etc.
- **Contract employees** - Developing a system to assure that all employers are aware of what is coming into their workplace and also assuring that outside contractors are aware of what chemicals they will encounter.
- **Written Program** - Composing a written program which covers all of the elements described above.

This has not been an easy regulation for employers. Even though this important regulation was enacted in 1985, OSHA continues to find deficiencies during most of their workplace inspections. Non-compliance with one or more elements of the Hazard Communication standard continues to make the OSHA "Top Ten List of Citations" each and every year. Analytical Laboratory Services, Inc. can provide valuable assistance on this topic for a wide variety of employers. Should you feel you need assistance in complying with the major regulations, please contact George O'Hara, ALSI IH Group, at the Harrisburg office (717) 540-3424.

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★ Building Expansion

Finally and probably the most needed is new bricks and mortar here at the Middletown facility. ALSI will begin construction of a 10,000 square foot addition this winter with a projected plan for completion in the Spring of 2006. Those of you that have visited us recently have undoubtedly noticed the space limitations of our existing facility. We are all looking forward to being able to stretch our legs.



The reason I share the current and future goals of ALSI is because some of you have asked us in the last couple of months—why does it sometimes take so long to get results? I would like to re-iterate that ALSI follows the method. Unfortunately, the reality of the matter is that many of the samples we receive are high in contaminants and need to be re-run 2 to 3 times to get them to meet method criteria. We stand on providing high quality data and we only believe in releasing data that can be validated.

Nevertheless, we owe all these exciting additions to you, our client, and we are committed to enhancing our services to exceed your needs. I like to quote, "**See your future . . . Be your future!!!**" A great line from the movie Caddyshack and how true it really is.

For more information about our services and capabilities, please visit our website, contact one of our sales representatives, or myself. My door is always open. Also, please remember we are readily available to come to your office for a brown bag lunch presentation or to give a laboratory tour of our facility.

Michael S. Farbling

DO YOU NEED TO PRE-SCHEDULE A PICKUP, SAMPLING EVENT OR PLACE A BOTTLE ORDER?

In an effort to better provide you with the means of getting your sample (s) to the laboratory within the EPA mandated holding times and provide you with the necessary sampling supplies and bottle containers



with preservatives, ALSI has added some additional personnel and software tools to the Field Services Department. Ms. Vanessa Shomper, Field Services Coordinator, joined the Field Services Department and is responsible for coordinating and maintaining the scheduling of routine and non-routine pickups, sampling events, emergency events, and bottle orders. In her new role, Vanessa was trained on ScheduleVIEW Plus 2.0.85, which is used for scheduling your routine and non-routine pickups and sampling events; and BottlePro, which is used to create your bottle request into a bottle order to prepare them for shipping, drop off, or pickup on the day that you need them. With these new additions, Vanessa will be able to assist you with the following value-added services:

- ⊕ **Pre-schedule your routine sample pickups.** Events can be daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual.
- ⊕ **Pre-schedule your non-routine sample pickups.** This may be a one-time project and may be tentatively scheduled. Advanced notice is greatly appreciated and will reserve your spot on the calendar.
- ⊕ **Pre-schedule your routine or one-time sampling event.** ALSI is always ready to provide 40-hour OSHA-trained field sampling technicians for your sampling and analytical project. We also stress the importance in providing our sampling technicians with the scope of work for each sampling event to ensure accuracy on your project requirements.
- ⊕ **Pre-order bottles/containers/sampling equipment.** The sooner the better in delivering your bottles on time.
- ⊕ **Emergency courier service or sampling event.** We are willing to work with your schedule to meet your emergency needs.

Vanessa Shomper can be contacted at 717-944-5541 (Ext. 3141) or vshomper@analyticallab.com.



Fax name and address changes to
717-944-1430 or call 717-944-5541.

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DATA PACKAGES: TO CHOOSE OR NOT TO CHOOSE? See page 2 . . .

ALSI CALENDAR 2005



Holidays, Conferences and Shows

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| Nov 14-17 | SETAC | Baltimore, MD |
| Nov 18 | EPWPCOA | Berks-Montgomery Municipal Authority |
| Nov 24 | Thanksgiving—LAB CLOSED | |
| Nov 25 | Day after Thanksgiving — LAB CLOSED | |
| Dec 5-7 | 2005 USACE Small Business Conference Washington, DC | |
| Dec 15-16 | Assoc. of Env. Authorities of New Jersey Trump Taj Majal, Atlantic City, NJ | |
| Dec 23 | 1/2 Day Christmas Eve — LAB CLOSED | |
| Dec 26 | Day after Christmas — LAB CLOSED | |
| Jan 2 | Day after New Year's Day — LAB CLOSED | |

CARING AND SHARING

By Helen MacMinn, QA Manager



The employees and management of ALSI continue to participate in various ways to help those in need both locally and overseas. ALSI has on several occasions sent "care packages" to our soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Recently we received a *Thank You* from one of those soldiers telling us how appreciative they were to receive these gifts. It appears that this particular group of soldiers are in a remote area of Afghanistan and have absolutely no access to a PX or even have a town close at hand. We hear that the various items were swallowed up within 10 minutes of receipt. If any of you would feel that this is something your company would like to get involved in, you can contact this website for more information angeladoptions@soldiersangels.org

The employees of ALSI recently collected funds to help out the victims of Katrina. These funds were then "matched" by management and we were able to send a larger check to the American Red Cross. For Thanksgiving 2005, ALSI collected food for the poor and donated it to a local food bank. This year we requested items to be included in gift baskets containing all the items necessary to make the traditional Thanksgiving meal. It helps our employees to feel more apart of the community where they work, and the food banks and local churches really appreciate the donations.