State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water's Laboratory Certification Program Presents Chain of Custody

What is it? Why do we need it? How is it done?



Chain Of Custody

When samples are collected during an enforcement action, possession must be traceable from the time of collection to sample disposal.

Chain-of-custody procedures are used to maintain, transfer and document sample possession.

Chain Of Custody

Chain of Custody is necessary if there is any possibility that the analytical data or conclusions based upon analytical data will be used in litigation.

> A sample is under custody: If it is in your possession It is in your view, after being in your possession It was in your possession and you locked it up It is in a designated secured limited access area

An essential part of any sampling or analytical event is ensuring the integrity of the sample. The process includes the ability to trace the possession and handling of the sample from sample collection to sample disposal. This is the concept of chain-of-custody.

Chain of Custody

Labels should be affixed to the sample container prior to or at the time of sampling. When possible, labels should be filled out prior to the sampling event (except time of collection).

> Evidence tape or custody seals are used to detect unauthorized tampering of samples.



Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Friday March 24th, 1989 Est. 11 million gallons of crude oil was spilled into Prince William Sound



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Wikipedia: Chain of Custody refers to the chronological documentation or paper trail showing the seizure, custody, control, transfer, analysis and disposition of physical or electronic evidence.

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Container*** P-Plastic, G-Glass, V-Voa Vial, OT-Other

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