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Written by:	WADA LabEG	Approved by:	WADA LabEG*
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\*The approval by the WADA Executive Committee is applicable only to Technical Letters issued after November 2019.

## **DIFFERENCE IN “A” AND “B” SAMPLE URINE CHARACTERISTICS**

The *World Anti-Doping Agency* wishes to draw the attention of the Laboratories to the following issue that may affect Laboratory operations. This pertains, in particular, to significant differences in urine characteristics, related to color and/or turbidity, between urine “A” and “B” *Samples*, which are observed upon inspection at *Sample* receipt.

Upon reception, *Samples* shall not be rejected for analysis based on noted color/turbidity differences between the “A” and “B” *Samples*. Should such differences between the “A” and “B” *Samples* be observed, the following steps shall be conducted by the Laboratory in collaboration with the associated Testing Authority (TA):

- Before opening the “A” bottle, the Laboratory shall separately document the observed difference(s) and inform the TA in writing as soon as possible<sup>1</sup>;

[It has come to WADA’s attention that a single freeze/thaw cycle of both “A” and “B” *Samples* may address the difference in turbidity; therefore, storing the “A” and “B” *Samples* frozen overnight and then thawing may be an option before reporting the differences to the TA. It seems that this procedure, in some cases, may result in urines with identical turbidity].

- The Laboratory shall proceed to analyze the “A” *Sample*, for the requested test menu, bearing in mind to preserve as much “A” *Sample* volume as possible for additional investigation<sup>2</sup>, if necessary;
- The TA should investigate with the Doping Control Officers (DCOs) whether any observations or unusual circumstances occurred during the *Sample* collection procedure. In case of abnormality in the collection procedure, the TA should evaluate other *Samples* collected from the *Athlete* and, in addition, the *Athlete* should be targeted for further *Sample* collections;
- In the case of a Presumptive Adverse Analytical Finding (PAAF), the finding shall be confirmed and the result reported in ADAMS accordingly. The difference between the “A” and “B” *Samples* and any other relevant observation shall be recorded in the comments section of the Test Report. The TA shall conduct results management of the case taking into account the Laboratory analytical results and observations, and determine the next steps including the “B” *Sample* confirmation;
- The TA shall alert the associated Athlete Passport Management Unit (APMU) to investigate the *Athlete*’s “steroid profile” with particular attention to this specific *Sample*.

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<sup>1</sup> It is recommended that the correspondence includes a picture of the “A” and “B” *Samples* (as provided in the appendix below).

<sup>2</sup> The TA and the Laboratory shall bear in mind the availability of the “B” *Sample*, which may be split for further investigations, if necessary

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Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the WADA Science Department.

### **Examples of color/turbidity differences between “A” and “B” Samples**

