

IC2 Product Testing Workgroup Meeting Notes | January 7, 2026 at 3pm ET/ 12pm PT

Participants (29): Mikalah Bailey, Andre Algazi, Amanda Charette, Sara Sekerak, Kelleigh Wasser, Conor Shea, Jennifer Harfmann, Ashley Wong, Tom Metzner, Julia Toro, Ravi Kang, Lyndsey Smith, Sarah Briggs, Hannah McNeight, Jen Jackson, Amy Salamone, Maria Chiu, Christine Papagni, Mui Koltunov, Michele McCaughey, Ivan Titaley, Stephanie Frisch, Myles Perkins, Nicole Orabona, Brooke Manor, Jesus Valdez, Karna Holquist, Katie Fellows, and Alyssa Lewis

Meeting Topic + Discussion: How are people thinking about representative sampling?

New York State Dept. Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)

How their P2 unit approaches representative sampling by using the disadvantaged community criteria to plan product testing purchasing locations. Presented by Amanda Charette

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- Ensuring representative sampling
 - In-store purchases are prioritized because online purchases don't reliably show store location
 - Originates from the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (Climate Act) signed in 2019.
- Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
 - The Act requires that disadvantaged communities receive at least 35% of overall benefits, with a goal of 40%.
 - Indicators include environmental burdens, climate risks, socioeconomic factors, population characteristics, and health vulnerabilities.
- How does the P2 Unit use this information
 - DAC ArcMap is used to guide product purchasing.
 - Staff use the map to identify which stores fall within DACs and prioritize sampling from those locations.
- DACs and Census Tracts adjacent to DACs
 - Including adjacent tracts expands sampling opportunities and supports representative sampling
- PFAS in Food Packaging Filter: By location and store type
 - The PFAS program map shows store and fast-food locations as filterable points by county and store type.
 - Clicking a store reveals address, coordinates, and all metadata uploaded into ArcMap for sampling planning.

Questions:

- How did you get store info?
 - Amanda went on the websites and gathered the information manually. Some stores have shape files.
- How did you come up with DAC criteria?
 - The climate justice working group developed the criteria. They are experts and representatives from different communities across NY. Also worked with contractors.
- Where do the criteria live?
 - [Climate Justice Working Group - New York's Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act](#)
- What criteria were used for choosing locations? Do you look at mom-and-pop type stores? How do you handle purchasing from stores that are smaller and whose sales could be affected by “bad press”?
 - For choosing locations, they will pick a region and try to concentrate their purchases in one area and gather store availability. As researchers, they guide based on products and COCs. As far as the type of stores, they have not done testing with smaller stores. They aim to focus on stores with maximum impact, so mainly focusing on chain stores so far. Have had reports from smaller shops and in those cases the store will sometimes use a softer approach as to not affect sales.
- Food packaging with PFAS has been done, any other testing? Differences between DAC and non-DAC products? Working with current bans or future?
 - Working with current bans, testing products under those bans. Need more data to compare DAC vs non-DAC products that look at regional/local offerings, for example food packaging.
- Outreach and if they are able to share protocols/SOPs/data?
 - Mainly for compliance efforts. Using outreach and education tailored towards retailers to give them time to gradually phase out products. As the states finds products out of compliance, they reach out to the retailer or manufacturer to continue to make them aware of the law and the actions needed. They are able to share sampling plans.
- Have you seen any trends/differences between local mom-and-pop vs chain stores? For compliance?
 - In the local stores there are a mix of products, some that aren't name brand. Limited data on compliance trends. Important area to think about going forward.

- ECY shared info from HPCDS regarding WA Safer Products for Washington (SPWA) could be a good resource for NYSDEC to use. <https://hpcds.theic2.org/Search>
- ECY shared that chain store availability is usually dictated by what is sent to the nearest distribution center.

WA Ecology (ECY)

Taking representative samples of a product and how to define representative of what's available for purchase. Presented by Karna Holquist kaho461@ECY.WA.GOV and Amy Salamone amsa461@ECY.WA.GOV. Slides: [Click here](#)

- Representing the Product
 - Uses several methods to ensure samples are representative and meet study objectives
 - When designing a study, they consider trends within a specific product type.
- Components and Compositing
 - Children's products often contain multiple small components like charms, beads, plastics, and metals that may not be heavy enough to test individually. To composite properly, they sometimes purchase two of the same product, assuming identical manufacturing.
 - Two Standard Operating Procedures guide how products are broken down, composited, and prepared for testing.
- Screening Questions
 - Screening can help identify high-risk components but can introduce bias to sample selection.
 - Screening values can be highly variable depending on the matrix.
 - A non-detect screening result does not mean the product is free of the chemical.
- Representing the Industry
 - Uses static tests for representative sampling
 - Change in industry
 - Results can only be a snapshot in time as market products come and go. Therefore, they don't make claims about segments of the market.

Questions and discussion:

- Do other states use any statistical tests for representative samples? What do you use? What does your lab request in terms of sample submission? What parts do they test and how do they report that?
 - CA restricts lead and cadmium in children's and adult jewelry. In the past, they have used XRF to scan for lead and cadmium in stores. They then purchase

multiple quantities of the products and send those products to the lab to analyze, weigh, and test components. If products exceed state levels, they will take action against the manufacturer.

- Is there any way to identify distribution centers before purchasing products?
 - Walmart was easier to gather distribution center data as bigger stores have that information online. It depends on the store, Marshalls and TJMaxx are a bit different.

Shared links:

- Ecology's Product Pubs:
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/UIPages/PublicationList.aspx?IndexTypeName=Topic&NameV...>