

This table summarizes the description of the fields in the parameter code file.

Position column	field	field name	number of characters
1-2	01	group code	2
3	02	sample media	1
4	03	analysis type	1
5	04	reporting units	1
6	05	priority pollutant	1
7	19	toxic extraction	1
8	06	publish or toxic	1
9	20	sub group code	1
10-14	21	parameter no.	5
15	07	decimal point	1
16-39	08	short name	24
40-89	09	full name	50
90-93	10	entry date	4
94-101	11	origin of request	8
102-105	12	revision date	4
106	13	tracking code	1
107-115	14	cas no.	9
116-122 *	15	total observations	7
124-126 *	16	percents 1972-77	3
127-129 *	17	percents 1967-71	3
130-132 *	18	percents pre 1967	3

\* these fields should be ignored. The information is obsolete.

Group field (Field 01) has two characters. The two digit Group codes are as follows:

Group code 01 - administrative  
 Group code 02 - bacteriological  
 Group code 03 - biological  
 Group code 04 - dissolved oxygen  
 Group code 05 - flow  
 Group code 06 - general inorganic  
 Group code 07 - general organic  
 Group code 08 - metal  
 Group code 09 - nitrogen  
 Group code 10 - oxygen demand  
 Group code 11 - pesticide  
 Group code 12 - phosphorus

Group code 13 - physical  
Group code 14 - radiological  
Group code 15 - solid  
Group code 16 - temperature  
Group code 17 - miscellaneous  
Group code 18 - other

Group code 15 - solids will contain sediments, street debris, and dry deposition. Those will be further differentiated on their sample media codes, S and D, respectively.

Group code 18 - measurements on the depth, width, and height of a sample location, as in a river, reservoir, stream bed, air column, will be placed in this group.

Sample media field (Field 02) has one character. The one digit sample media codes are as follows:

W - water  
T - tissue  
S - sediment  
A - air  
D - sludge  
M - meteorological  
E - effluent and influent  
L - land  
F - food  
O - other

Analysis type field (Field 03) has one character. The one digit Analysis type codes are as follows:

1 - total =  
2 - dissolved = water (W) media related  
3 - suspended =  
  
4 - wet =  
5 - dry = tissue (T) media related  
6 - fat =

1-9 - see explanation following sediment (S) media related

1 - total =  
2 - dissolved = air (A) media related  
3 - suspended =

1 - total	=	
2 - liquid	=	sludge (D) media related
3 - solid	=	

The following is a detailed explanation of sample media and its related analysis type code:

water (W) media and related analysis type:

- 1 - Total (measures both dissolved and suspended)
- 2 - Dissolved (measures only dissolved portion)
- 3 - Suspended (measures only suspended portion)

Tissue (T) media and related analysis type:

- 4 - Wet (parameters are referred to as wet weight)
- 5 - Dry (parameters are referred to as dry weight)
- 6 - Fat (some pollutants are soluble only in fats)

Sediment (S) media contains many types of analyses described as follows:

- 1. Total sediment, particle size
- 2. Bedload sediment, sieve diameter
- 3. Suspended sediment, sieve diameter
- 4. Total sediment, sieve diameter/or wet weight analyses
- 5. Total sediment, fall diameter (distilled water)/or dry weight analyses
- 6. Total sediment, fall diameter (native water)
- 7. Suspended sediment, fall diameter (distilled water)
- 8. Suspended sediment, fall diameter (native water)
- 9. Bed material, fall diameter

All of these codes will be found with a group code of 15 (solids).

Note: there should be no confusion as to the same numeral being used for different analysis types (Field 03) because each analysis type is to be read with respect to the sample media alpha character that accompanies it.

Air (A) media and related analysis type:

- 1 - Total (measures dissolved and suspended)
- 2 - Dissolved (measures only dissolved portion)
- 3 - Suspended (measures only suspended portion)

Sludge (D) media and related analysis type:

- 1 - Total (measures solid and liquid fractions)
- 2 - Liquid fraction only
- 3 - Solid fraction only

Note: Sludge (D) and sediment (s) are to be treated separately as media types; sediment usually refers to particulate matter (sands, silts, clays) settled in a river or stream bed or suspended in the river or stream.

Meteorological (M) sample media refers to weather related parameters; examples are below:

Cloud cover  
Wind speed  
Humidity  
Barometric pressure

Note that air (A) is reserved for measurements taken on pollutants in the atmosphere.

Effluent and influent (E) sample media refers to pollutant measurements taken on industrial and municipal waste streams.

Land (L) refers to pollutant analyses on soils, et al.  
Food (F) refers to pollutant analyses of foods.  
Other (O)

Reporting units field (Field 04) has no character. The one digit reporting units codes are as follows:

A - mg/L	o - %, percent
B - ug/L	p - no units, code, ratio, etc.
C - mg/kg (ug/g)	q - time: day, mo, yr, sec, min, hr
D - ug/kg	r - mmhg
E - #/100ml (no./100ml)	s - ph
(cells/100ml)	t - pc/gm
F - #/ml (no./ml)	u - no/sq ft
(cells/ml)	v - #/day (lb/day), lb/yr
G - #/liter (cell/liter)	w - #/effort
H - degrees C	x - production: ton, ton/day
I - distance	kg/1000gal

J - degrees f

K - cfs

L - gpm, gpd, or mgd

M - pc/l

N - mpn

y - wt. Measurement

z - "catch all"

Priority pollutant field (Field 05) has one character. The one digit ppl code is:

I - indicates that the parameter was identified as a priority pollutant.

Publish field (Field 06) has one character. The one digit publish codes are:

t - designated toxic parameter

x - restricted use

Decimal point field (Field 07) has one character. The one digit decimal point codes are:

1 - xxxxxxx.

2 - xxxxxx.x

3 - xxxxx.xx

4 - xxxx.xxx

5 - xxx.xxxx

6 - xx.xxxxx

7 - x.xxxxxx

Short name field (Field 08) has twenty-four characters. (see item vii a).

Full name field (Field 09) has fifty characters. (see item vii b).

Entry date field (Field 10) has four characters. This field contains information that pertains to when the parameter was entered into the STORET system. For example, if the parameter was entered into STORET in June of 1978 the coding would be 7806 (i.e.. YYMM).

Origin of request field (Field 11) has eight characters, and the information is coded in with left justification. The origin location field has two portions: major category and minor category. The two categories are separated by a hyphen.

Major category

S - State agency

F - Federal agency or department other than EPA

I - Interstate agency

E - Environmental Protection Agency, including its predecessor agencies, such as public health service, federal pollution control administration, federal water quality administration.

Minor category

Abbreviations following the major category indicates the specific user.

States - by state abbreviation (i.e., s - VA indicates state of Virginia) federal - by specific agency such as:

- FS - forest service
- GS - u.s. geological survey
- COE - corps of engineers
- BR - bureau of reclamation
- TVA - Tennessee valley authority
- AF - air force
- BM - bureau of mines

Interstate - by acronym

- INCOPOT - interstate commission for the Potomac river basin Orsanco -O river valley sanitation commission
- DRBC - Delaware river basin commission

EPA - by the specific part of the environment protection agency.

- R01 - region i
- R02 - region ii
- R03 - region iii
- R04 - region iv
- R05 - region v
- R06 - region vi
- R07 - region vii
- R08 - region viii
- R09 - region ix
- R10 - region x
- ENF - office of enforcement
- ORD - office of research and development
- HQ - headquarters

E - STORET indicates the parameter was in the original group used to start the STORET data storage file.

Revision date field (Field 12) has four characters. This field contains information that pertains to when the parameter was revised. For example, if a revision was made to a parameter in STORET in July of 1978, the coding would be 7807 (i.e., YYMM).

Tracking code field (Field 13) has one character. The one digit tracking codes are as follows:

\* - correct parameter - additions and/or corrections have been made to the parameter and it is in need of no further action.

+ - a correct parameter that was placed in STORET as one of the original entries prior to July 1966, usually assigned an entry date (Field 10) of 6507, and an origin of request code (Field 11) of e-STORET. This parameter needs no further action.

CAS number field (Field 14) has nine characters, and the information is coded in with right justification. The chemical abstracts service registry number (CAS number) is a unique number that exists for every element and compound. The CAS number can have up to nine digits.

Toxic extraction code (Field 19) has one character. This code indicates the type of extraction that the toxic parameters are detected in, such as:

- V - volatiles
- A - semi-volatiles - acid extractable
- B - semi-volatiles - base - neutral extractable
- O - organohalides - hexane extraction

Sub group code field (Field 20) has one character. This code indicates the subgroup to which the toxic parameters belong, such as:

- P - PCB's and related compounds
- H - halogenated aliphatics
- E - ethers
- M - monocyclic aromatics (excluding phenols, cresols, and phthalates)
- C - phenols and cresols
- T - phthalate esters
- L - polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
- N - nitrosamines and other nitrogen containing compounds

Source: Environmental Protection Agency, STORET Legacy database, 1998.