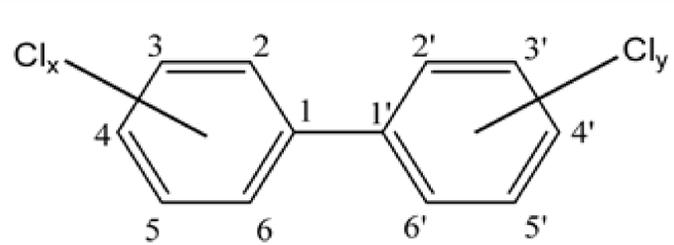


PCB Measurements and Risk



Methods to Measure PCBs

Measures	Method 608	Method 1668
Approved by EPA for permit compliance	Yes	No
Sensitivity	High	Very High
Detection Limit	50,000 ppq	7-30 ppq
Blank Interference	Limited	High
Purpose	Compliance	Source tracking

Protection Levels for PCB Exposures

Category for measurement	Total PCBs (ppq)	Risk is based on:
Human health	7	Human consumption of fish
Aquatic life	Acute: 2,000,000	Aquatic life survival, growth, and reproduction
	Chronic: 14,000	
Consumer products (Toxics Substance Control Act)	50,000,000,000	Human exposure to products

Why are PCBs difficult to Measure?

- Regulations require measuring extremely low levels of PCBs
- PCBs are found everywhere at levels that vary greatly
- There are 209 distinct forms of PCBs
- Isolating sources of PCBs found in the environment is difficult, especially at low levels
- Blank censoring is used to account for background levels of PCBs in the laboratory, sampling equipment, and the environment

