AQUA BAILERS®
Superior Products. Superior Service
800-345-6620

AQUA BAILERS™ BENCHMARK CERTIFICATION

A QUALITY ASSURANCE / QUALITY CONTROL STATEMENT

Environmental Quality Standards. The basic definition of a ***bailer*** is a simple device used to collect water from wells. However, since bailers are used by environmental consultants for the very *specific* purpose of obtaining a ground water sample that is *truly representative* of an area's ground water, it is *vital* to their mission that a bailer used in the field be free of any potential contaminants and held to the *strictest* quality standards possible.

While it is up to regulatory agencies, environmental companies and field technicians to establish and follow protocol for the retrieval of ground water samples, it is **Aqua Bailers'** profound obligation to manufacture a bailer for this purpose which meets or exceeds every standard for durability, reliability, and most importantly... *sample integrity*.

VENDOR SELECTION. The manufacturers of Aqua Bailers' components (e.g., parts, tubes, balls, etc.) are every bit as vital to the quality of a bailer as the cleaning and assembly processes listed below. A variation in the size of a part (*as little as a thousandth of an inch*) can result in a leaky bailer in the field. Therefore, Aqua Bailers' vendors are held to the strictest manufacturing specifications feasible.

MATERIAL SELECTION. The selection of bailer component materials has a great impact on sample integrity as well as ease of use in the field.

- Aqua Bailers' components are manufactured with **only 100% virgin materials. No exceptions**.
- Aqua Bailers uses only approved materials such as FEP, HDPE and PVC.

CLEANING/DRYING/ASSEMBLY/PACKAGING. The proper and thorough cleaning of bailer components *prior to assembly* is arguably the most critical aspect of manufacturing a bailer, and it can have a significant impact on sample integrity.

- All bailer components are cleaned **pre-assembly**.
- All bailer components are washed with laboratory-grade **phosphate-free** detergent and undergo a final rinse with **de-ionized water** before drying.
- Personnel at each phase of the assembly process wear **powder-free nitrile gloves**.
- Each bailer is individually sealed within **3-mil** polyethylene bags prior to boxing.
- The cleaning, drying and assembly processes are performed in three separate **pressure-positive** rooms, minimizing the possibility of airborne contaminants.
- Every case of bailers and Slow-Emptying Devices (a.k.a., VOC Tips) is labeled with a 6-character **Quality Code** (e.g., AB1234) an *imperative* element of any QA/QC program. The Quality Code allows Aqua Bailers to trace a manufactured product back to the actual day of production, ensuring the swift correction of component quality issues that may arise.

TESTING. The two major elements that define Aqua Bailers' high product standards are superior field performance and guaranteed sample integrity.

- Superior field performance is tested via destructive examination (DE) and non-destructive examination (NDE). Assembled bailers are randomly and periodically tested throughout each day to ensure that bailers can withstand rigorous field use without failure.
- Environmental consultants charged with the responsibility of analyzing ground water for contaminant levels as minimal as **parts per billion** need the assurance that the equipment they use will not affect the sample. Guaranteeing this sample integrity requires periodic independent laboratory testing of assembled, pre-packaged bailers chosen at random. Since each sampling event may be unique, no one laboratory test covers every consultant's individual requirements. For example, Test Method 8260B is appropriate when testing for trace levels of volatile organic compounds, but does not include metals. Aqua Bailers periodically tests its bailers to ensure a below-detection-limit (BDL) result for a wide range of analytes including, but not limited to, all RCRA Priority I Pollutants. Contact Aqua Bailers management for specific third-party test results.

WARRANTY. Aqua Bailers has a 100% customer satisfaction guarantee. That statement, however, is an easy one for a manufacturer to make. To comply with such a guarantee means simply that a manufacturer will replace defective or sub-standard products at no extra cost to the consumer. Environmental consultants using bailers in the field – while exposed to all manner of weather and geographical conditions and limitations – need much more than that. They need trust in the manufacturer that they should never receive defective or sub-standard products in the first place. Aqua Bailers readily accepts this ongoing responsibility and obligation to its customers.

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