

Mastering your Chain of Custody (COC)

Your Chain of Custody (COC) is more than just an order form; it's a roadmap for your samples. A complete and legible COC ensures your samples are processed efficiently, preventing administrative holds that delay your results.

Write for clarity

Issue

Illegible handwriting is a frequent cause of delays. If we can't read it, we can't process it.

Best practice

- Use permanent, black ink (blue ink often doesn't scan well).
- Print clearly in block letters.
- If you make a mistake, cross it out with a single line, initial, and date it. Do not write over it.

Group samples correctly

Issue

Listing every individual container for the same source as a separate line item creates confusion and splits your results.

Best practice

- One Source = One Line: If you fill 3 containers for the same sample point (e.g., "Well-01"), list "Well-01" on one single line.
- Indicate the total number of containers for that sample in the "No. of Containers" column.
- Check all requested analyses across that single row.

Connect the dots (labels vs. COC)

Issue

Discrepancies between the container label and the COC force the lab to stop and ask for clarification.

Best practice

- Ensure the Sample ID, Collection Date, and Time on the container label match the COC exactly.
- Double-check that you have included any Trip Blanks on the COC.

Don't skip the details

Issue

Missing "small" details often halts the entire login process.

Best practice

Ensure these frequently missed fields are complete:

- Sampler Name
- Project Name
- Matrix
- State of Origin
- Site
- Preservation Codes

Sign, seal, deliver

Issue

A COC without a relinquished signature breaks the chain of custody.

Best practice

- Sign, date, and time the "Relinquished By" box before handing over samples.
- Protect paperwork with a zip top bag to keep the COC dry and free from mud or rain.



Eliminate Paperwork with eCOC

Sampling Efficiency through Digital Automation

Skip the handwriting, the wet paper, and the risk of manual errors by switching to Eurofins Environment Testing’s Electronic Chain of Custody (eCOC)—our digital solution for sampling efficiency and an environmentally responsible future.

Work Offline

No internet? No problem. eCOC works offline on all mobile devices, so you can take it into the field without worrying about connectivity.

Faster Turnaround

Digital submission allows for expedited laboratory log-in and accelerated custody exchange times.

Seamless Exchanges

Use electronic signatures and QR codes to relinquish custody and get a receipt confirmation in seconds.

Automated Accuracy

eCOCs can be automatically generated from your bottle orders, reducing data entry errors.

Get Started

All you need is a myEOL account and a mobile device (Google Chrome recommended).

Walkthrough Video

See for yourself how easy it is by scanning the QR code.

