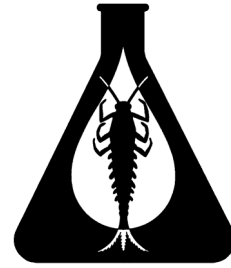


Introduction



The Level 2 workshop is a quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) training. Quality assurance is the process used to measure and assure the quality of a product. Quality control is the process of ensuring products and services meet product expectations.

By attending this QA/QC workshop, the volunteer can demonstrate that their data meets the level of accuracy and consistency established by the VWQM Program. This data may then be used in a broader range of situations and can withstand most challenges to its validity.

Quality Control Levels

The following are levels of quality control (QC) assigned to data in the Stream Team database:

- **QC Level 1:** Monitor has attended an Introductory and/or Level 1 workshop.
- **QC Level 2:** Monitor has attended a Level 2 workshop¹ and can correctly identify 75% of the invertebrates on an exam, not missing more than two EPT taxa².
- **QC Level 3:** Monitor has been audited in the field by program staff and can correctly identify 90% of the invertebrates at their monitoring site, not missing any EPT taxa.

¹To maintain a QC Level 2 or QC Level 3, monitors must attend a Level 2 or Level 2 Validation training every three years.

²EPT taxa includes the insect orders of Ephemeroptera (mayfly), Plecoptera (stonefly), and Trichoptera (caddisfly).