METHOD BLANK CONTAMINATION DECISION RULES

**Identify Method Blank Sample**

- **Total PCB concentration < 170 pg/L**
  - Yes: **Individual congener < 10 pg/L**
    - Yes: **Associated field sample congener result acceptable**
    - No: **Last individual congener assessed**
  - No: Extraction and analysis of duplicate field sample and method blank are required.

- **Congener exceeds 10 pg/L (and) Associated congener is not found in field sample**
  - Yes: **Flag associated field sample congener result with a B**
    - (or) **Replace field sample congener result with detection limit and flag with an U**
  - No: Extraction and analysis of duplicate field sample and method blank are required.

- **Congener exceeds 10 pg/L (and) Associated field sample congener result > 10X the amount in blank**
  - Yes: **Flag associated field sample congener result with a B**
    - (or) **Replace field sample congener result with detection limit and flag with an U**
  - No: Extraction and analysis of duplicate field sample and method blank are required.

**Sample associated with method blank acceptable**

*NOTE: Assign a value of 0 to field congener result when summing or for data analysis.*