



March - September 2013



LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (LELAP) UPDATE AND NEWS

LELAP NEWS— Cindy Gagnon retired effective January 25, 2013. LELAP's staff and management thank her for her years of dedicated service. The new assessor assigned to your laboratory will be contacting you in the near future. The news letter will no longer be issued quarterly but will now be a biannual publication and issued in March and September.

LELAP REGULATIONS WORK GROUP UPDATE— Laboratories will be notified of the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations changes after the Notice of Intent has been published in the Louisiana Register.

METHOD UPDATE RULE (MUR)—Accredited and in-house laboratories that submit data to DEQ will be required to adhere to new US EPA guidelines published on May 18, 2012 that will take effect on June 18, 2012. LDEQ will implement the MUR as follows:

- 1) Accredited and in-house laboratories submitting data to the Department are expected to take steps to meet the requirements of the Rule; in the case of accredited laboratories, applications to amend the scope of accreditation must be submitted and quality system documents must be revised as needed so that the laboratories will be compliant within a year or by the time of their next biennial assessment (whichever comes first), and
- 2) The Department will accept data based on the previous MUR (2007) up to but not beyond a two year period ending June 18, 2014. For a copy of the rule, please access this link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-18/html/2012-10210.htm>

For more information on the changes please contact Paul Bergeron at 225-219-3247 or at paul.bergeron@la.gov.

LELAP INTERPRETATIONS— Please see the [LELAP Interpretations](#) on our webpage.

OTHER BUSINESS:

TNI EVALUATION — In December 2012, LELAP was evaluated by a NELAP evaluation team for compliance with the 2009 TNI standard. LELAP will make changes to its quality system documents to conform to the standard and implement those documents as allowed by current regulations.

TNI TRAINING — Laboratories that are interested in TNI-based training may obtain information from the TNI webpage for [training classes](#) held by webinar.

CLARIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION ISSUES

FISCAL YEAR — In Louisiana, the fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30. The certificate and scope for Fiscal Year 2013 ends on June 30, 2013. The certificate and scope for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY 2014) starts on July 1, 2013.

RENEWAL APPLICATION — Laboratories are required to renew their accreditation every three years. The Fiscal Division of LDEQ will send laboratories due to renew their accreditation an invoice for the renewal fee of \$660 around mid-March in addition to the annual fees. Laboratories desiring scope amendments during the renewal process must notify the department by April 15 otherwise amendments will be processed in the order received after July 1, 2013. Laboratories are required to submit an electronic application to LELAP with the required documents as specified in the application for the (triennial) renewal.

RECOGNITION—Laboratories seeking to maintain secondary accreditation (recognition) must request their primary accreditation body to send a copy of the scope of accreditation to LELAP at LELAP.LabAccreditationProgram@la.gov or send LELAP a link to the webpage where the current scope is posted.

ALL APPLICATIONS — Laboratories are advised to select only those method (revision or edition) and analyte combinations identified in the laboratory standard operating procedures or quality assurance plan when completing the electronic application. If the methods or the analytes are not in the quality system documents, the application will be denied. Application fees are not refundable. All laboratories are requested to send to LELAP the correct billing address by email as soon as possible so that there will be no gaps in accreditation.

CONTRACTOR ASSESSMENTS — Laboratories assessed by contract assessors are reminded to send electronic and hard copies of the corrective action plan to both the **contractor** and **LELAP**.

METHOD VARIANCE — Any variance from Department-approved methodology is acceptable with prior written confirmation by the Department. When an approved method or an appropriate modification is not available, the data may be accepted when submitted with the method validation package that must include, at a minimum, the requirements found





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METHOD VARIANCE (cont'd)— in paragraph B.2 of Section 5105 of the Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33, Part 1, Subpart 3.

METHOD IDENTIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR LABORATORIES SUBMITTING PROFICIENCY TEST DATA — To prevent rejection or misrepresentation of proficiency test data for your laboratory, please properly identify each parameter tested that is submitted to proficiency providers using information from your Scope of Accreditation. Analyte Names and Codes, and Method References and Codes should correspond with the listing on the Scope of Accreditation. This information can be copied and pasted from an exported Excel spreadsheet obtained from LELAP's website using the [Laboratory Scopes of Accreditation](#) link. LELAP also requests that laboratories use the agency interest (AI) number from the accreditation certificate as an alternate identification number for proficiency test results.

LELAP STATISTICS: In-state accredited labs— 51
Out-of-state accredited labs — 158

PLEASE CONTACT THE LELAP STAFF IF YOUR LABORATORY NEEDS ANY ASSISTANCE. [CLICK HERE](#) TO OBTAIN THE LELAP CONTACT INFORMATION

We solicit your questions, comments, problems, and/or recommendations for this newsletter. Please send them to LabAccreditationProgram@la.gov or call 225-219-3247.



National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Accreditation Body Certificate #2010-005



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