



October 2013 - March 2014



LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM (LELAP) UPDATE AND NEWS

LELAP NEWS— LELAP has renewed its recognition as a NELAP accreditation body on September 9, 2013 based on the 2009 TNI standard following the completion of the 2012 NELAP evaluation. This also follows the announcement of the implementation of the 2009 TNI standard by LDEQ effective June 10, 2013.

CONTRACTOR ASSESSORS— The current contract for third party assessments expires December 31, 2013. LDEQ concluded acceptance of Requests for Proposal for the new contract on October 17, 2013.

CONTRACT EVALUATORS— The NELAC Institute (TNI) is accepting Requests for Proposal for a new contract to conduct evaluations of accreditation bodies seeking or maintaining recognition from the NELAP Accreditation Counsel.

TESTS OF SIGNIFICANT TOXICITY— As was stated in the April-June eNewsletter, the LDEQ Water Permits Division is not requiring tests of significant toxicity at this time. However, if any laboratory wishes to apply for accreditation of the calculation method, LELAP will accept the application.

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM TESTING— Laboratories wishing to obtain accreditation for testing non-potable water samples for Cryptosporidium must apply to LELAP for secondary accreditation if the data is to be submitted to LDEQ; arrangements are underway to enable LELAP to offer primary accreditation. Laboratories testing drinking water must apply to the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospital's laboratory certification program to obtain accreditation.

MOBILE LABORATORY SURVEY— LELAP thanks the facilities with mobile laboratories for participating in the recent NEFAP survey. The information obtained will enable NEFAP to improve the Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations Sector of the 2009 TNI standard.

EPA LAB CODES— Please contact Mr. Charles Feldmann of the US EPA to obtain a new EPA lab Code if your laboratory tests non-potable water and has had a change of ownership. Mr. Feldmann's email address is Feldmann.Charles@epamail.epa.gov

THIRD PARTY ACCREDITATION— Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation (PJLA) and Assured Calibration and Laboratory accreditation Select Services (ACLASS) are now offering accreditation by the Louisiana Administrative Code. Laboratories accredited by these bodies may receive secondary accreditation (recognition) from LELAP after proper application is made.

MATRIX SEPARATION ON PROFICIENCY TEST RESULTS— Laboratories participating in proficiency test studies for underground storage tanks must request the proficiency test provider to distinguish the results obtained for those studies from the results obtained for studies using solid and chemical materials samples.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLANS— All accredited facilities must provide the name of party responsible for the implementation of the corrective action, not a group or position. Facilities must also provide a date the corrective action was implemented other than listing "Done".

STANDARD METHOD LISTINGS ON SCOPES OF ACCREDITATION— To ensure compliance with the 2012 Method Update Rule, laboratories employing Standard Methods must identify the Standard Method used and the date (year) of EPA approval on all test reports, data packages and raw data.

EPA COMPETENCY POLICY— The EPA published a new laboratory competency policy on April 29, 2013. Organizations seeking EPA grants exceeding \$200,000 must demonstrate competency. EPA accepts, but does not require, accreditation to demonstrate competency.

PROFICIENCY TEST RESULTS FOR LABORATORIES GRANTED PRIMARY ACCREDITATION— Laboratories granted primary accreditation from LELAP should instruct their proficiency test provider to submit a copy of the proficiency test results to LELAP in the form of an Excel spreadsheet or comma separated value (csv) file in addition to the portable document format (pdf) if they are not doing so. The spreadsheet format may be obtained from LELAP. LELAP will be unable to summarize the proficiency test results without the spreadsheet or csv file.

FIELDS OF PROFICIENCY TESTING TABLES— Laboratories are strongly encouraged to monitor the TNI website for updates to the fields of proficiency testing tables. The updates are posted on the webpage for the Proficiency Testing Executive Committee.

REQUESTS TO AMEND PROFICIENCY TEST REPORTS— LELAP will grant requests to amend proficiency test results on a case-by-case basis. LELAP will grant requests to change numerical results only if the provider is not compliant with 2009 TNI V3 10.3. LELAP will grant requests to change method, method codes, analyte and analyte codes unless the provider has a policy which requires approval of all accreditation bodies receiving the results and one of those bodies rejects the request.



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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reminders—

STACK AND ENGINE TESTS—

- Stack and engine testers must include the calibration gas response before and after test runs in test reports
- Stack and engine testers reporting moisture results must be accredited for a moisture method.
- Stack and engine testers claiming exclusions from measuring traverses must be accredited for EPA Method 1.
- Additional guidance for stack and engine testers may be found at the Waste Engineering section website
- Stationary source audit samples must be tested per the instructions of the Waste Engineering section.
- Stack and engine testers seeking approval of new methods or procedures must obtain the approval of the agency—state and/or federal—which is the ultimate recipient of the data. LELAP will accredit methods required by the applicant but it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the method is approved for the intended use.

SCOPE OF ACCREDITATION ACCURACY--Please check your scopes for all desired accredited analytes and methods when after receiving the accredit scope. If a method is not listed on your scope it is considered not accredited unless a correction is issued.

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.

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. If you have not received your FY 2014 scope please notify Paul Bergeron at 225 219-3247 or paul.bergeron@la.gov.

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. Applications will not be processed unless all applicable fees have been paid.

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 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.

TNI TRAINING — Laboratories that are interested in TNI-based training may obtain information from the TNI webpage for [training classes](#) held by webinar. For facilities interested in implementing the 2009 TNI Standard you may obtain information at <http://www.nelac-institut.org/eds-home.php>.

CLARIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION ISSUES

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 LDEQ.LabAccreditationProgram@la.gov or send LELAP a link to the webpage where the current scope is posted. Those laboratories (seeking secondary accreditation) accredited with 2003 TNI Primary ABs will not receive 2009 TNI scopes unless an attestation of compliance with the 2009 TNI Standard is received from the facility.

LELAP STATISTICS: In-state accredited labs— 50
Out-of-state accredited labs — 155

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.