

Memorandum

Date: June 10, 2004

DEH Circular Letter #2004-13

To: All Connecticut Certified Laboratories

From: Jeffrey C. Curran, Supervising Environmental Laboratory Consultant

Re: 2005 Proficiency Testing for Chemistry and Microbiology

The Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP) has historically offered approval in three matrices: Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Soil/Solid Waste. The ELCP has recently changed the matrices to the following:

- 1) Drinking Water (Potable Water)
- 2) Non-Potable Water/Wastewater
- 3) Soil/Solid Waste

Certification in each matrix is further divided into categories such as volatile organics, organochlorine pesticides, physicals, etc. Each category is made up of a list of analytes for which approval is offered. The initial and renewal applications have been modified to reflect these changes. The analytes for each category are listed on the applications. Interested parties can view the specifics at the program website:

www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Environmental_Lab/environmental_laboratory.htm

Previously the ELCP only required annual proficiency test (PT) samples for the drinking water and wastewater categories. Effective January 1, 2005 the program will also require laboratories to successfully analyze a PT sample in the solid waste/soil matrix. Laboratories must use methods pertinent to the category (e.g. drinking water methods for the drinking water PT sample, wastewater or SW-846 methods for the non-potable water/wastewater PT sample, SW-846 methods for the solid waste/soil PT sample). A list of the matrices, categories, and analytes required are presented in the accompanying spreadsheet. Please note that laboratories are only required to analyze those analytes listed on the accompanying spreadsheets. The initial and renewal applications include some analytes for which there is no PT requirement. Also analytes may be combined as appropriate by the analytical method (e.g. BNA's may be analyzed by Method 625 or Method 8270 for non-potable water/wastewater). Note that a microbiology PT sample will be required for both drinking water and non-potable water/wastewater approval. No microbiology approval is offered for soil/solid waste.

The drinking water regulations require laboratories to analyze a PT sample for each drinking water method they perform. For the non-potable water/wastewater and solid waste/soil categories, laboratories need only to analyze one PT sample for each analyte listed in the spreadsheet for which the laboratory is approved. The method used should be the predominant method used by the laboratory. For example a laboratory might analyze soil samples for volatile organics (VOC's) by either method 8021B or 8260B. The laboratory need only analyze the VOC solid waste/soil PT sample by one of the methods, and it should be the method most commonly used by the laboratory. Note that if the laboratory is also approved for VOC's in non-potable water/wastewater, an additional non-potable water/wastewater PT sample analyzed using the appropriate non-potable water/wastewater method (e.g. 601, 602, 624, or 8260B) is required.

The program routinely receives PT results with incorrect methods or references cited. Laboratories are required to specify which method they are using by the reference number (e.g. SW8260B, EPA 624, SM6200 B, etc.). **PT results with incorrect references will be considered non-compliant and laboratories will be required to analyze another PT sample.** Approved methods can be found at the following EPA websites:

Drinking Water Inorganic Methods: www.epa.gov/safewater/methods/inch_tbl.html

Drinking Water Organic Methods: www.epa.gov/safewater/methods/orch_tbl.html

Solid Waste/Soil : www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/sw846.htm

Wastewater methods can be found in the Federal Register dated October 23, 2002 and October 18, 1995.

Laboratories should be aware that in the April 6, 2004 Federal Register, EPA proposed changes to the methods approved for both drinking water and wastewater. Laboratories should familiarize themselves with these changes.

Questions concerning the PT requirements may be directed to the ELCP at (860) 509-7389 or via email to me at jeffrey.curran@po.state.ct.us.

c. Gerald Iwan, Ph. D.