



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
BUREAU OF REGULATORY SERVICES
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Memorandum

Date: August 30, 2004

DEH Circular Letter #2004-22

To: All In-State Connecticut Chemistry and Microbiology Certified Laboratories

From: Jeff Curran, Supervising Environmental Laboratory Consultant

Re: 2005 Proficiency Testing Schedule and Evaluation

As previously notified starting in 2005 there will be changes in the proficiency testing requirements (See memo dated June 10, 2004). Beginning in 2005 the Environmental Certification Program (ELCP) will institute the following changes in PT scoring:

1. There will be no differentiation between full studies and remedial proficiency test (e.g. Quick Response) samples. All results will be treated equally. The ELCP recognizes three certification statuses for analytes: certified, provisionally certified, and not certified. If a laboratory successfully analyzes a PT sample, its certification status is upgraded one step, unless it is already certified, in which case it remains the same. Conversely, if a laboratory fails to successfully analyze a PT sample, its certification status is downgraded one step, unless it is not certified, in which case, its certification status remains unchanged.
2. If a laboratory has provisional certification status for a given analyte(s), the laboratory is required to successfully analyze another PT sample within 45-days of acquiring the provisional status. Successful analysis of this PT sample will result in a certified status for the analyte(s) in question. Failure to successfully analyze a PT sample within the 45-day timeframe will result in the laboratory's certification being revoked.
3. All laboratories must analyze a PT sample for each analyte and matrix for which they are certified as listed in the June 10, 2004 memo by July 31, 2005. The following categories will be evaluated using the 80% rule, assuming the laboratory is certified for at least 6 compounds in the category per matrix:

Volatile Organics - All matrices

Acid Extractable Organics (Phenols) - Non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices.

Chlorinated Hydrocarbons - Non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices.



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Haloethers - Non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices.

Nitroaromatics/Isophorone - Non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices.

Phthalates - Non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices.

PAH's - Non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices.

Organochlorine Pesticides - Single response compounds only in non-potable water/waste water and soil/solid waste matrices. Toxaphene, chlordane, etc. will be evaluated on an individual basis.

4. If the laboratory passes the first PT sample of the year, they are considered certified and no further PT samples are required for the year for the analytes passed. If a laboratory fails a PT sample, their certification will be downgraded to provisional for the analyte(s) failed, and the laboratory must analyze a second PT sample for those analytes within 45 days of notification of the failure.

5. If the laboratory passes the second PT sample, the certification is upgraded to certified, and no further PT samples are required for the year. If the laboratory fails the PT sample for a given analyte a second time or fails to analyze a second PT sample within the 45-day timeframe, their certification for the affected analytes will be revoked.

6. If the laboratory passes a third PT sample after failing two, the certification for the analyte will be upgraded to provisional. A laboratory with provision certification as described must successfully analyze another PT sample within 45 days of having their certification upgraded to provisional. If a laboratory fails a PT for a given analyte three (3) times in a calendar year, the laboratory will be required to submit a corrective action plan to the program detailing the suspected cause of the failure and the corrective action the laboratory has taken to remedy the problem. This corrective action plan must be approved by the program prior to submittal of any further PT results. In any case the laboratory may not submit another PT sample to the program prior to 30 days elapsed time from when the laboratory was notified of the third PT failure.

7. For microbiology, laboratories will be required to successfully analyze a PT sample for each category of testing for which they are certified. The three categories for microbiological testing are membrane filter methods, fermentation broth methods, and enzyme substrate methods. Thus if a laboratory is certified for total coliforms by Colilert, Colisure, and SM9222B, the laboratory will be required to analyze a PT sample using one of the enzyme substrate methods (either Colilert or Colisure) and the membrane filter procedure (SM9222B).

8. PT studies are based upon the closing date of the study. For instance a study that closes in December 2004, but the results of which are not sent out until January 2005, would count for 2004 and not for 2005.

Please see the attached flowchart for clarification. If you have questions or concerns please contact me at (860) 509-7389 or via email at jeffrey.curran@po.state.ct.us.



