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NOTE: Effective December 31, 2025, the New York State (NYS) Department of Health's (DOH's) Environmental Proficiency Testing (PT) Program will ONLY be offering PT samples for Asbestos in Bulk Material and Fiber in Air and Asbestos in Water, Air and Solid Waste by TEM.

For laboratories accredited under the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), proficiency testing is conducted in compliance with the TNI Proficiency Testing Standard.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR REPORTING PTs to ELAP

- Laboratories with primary approval with NYS must report PTs. When submitting results to your PT provider, be sure to list NYS ELAP as your Accrediting Body or Agency, to ensure final reports are directly sent to us from the PT provider. NYS ELAP **CANNOT** accept reports directly from the lab. Labs that fail to authorize the PT providers to release all results prior to the close of the study will **NOT** be accepted by NYS ELAP.
- To maintain or gain accreditation a laboratory must achieve a history of two (2) successful PT scores of the most recent three (3) PTs taken for each field of accreditation specified in the TNI FoPT tables.
- Refer to TNI FoPT tables to ensure all required PTs are taken. https://nelac-institute.org/content/NEPTP/fopt.php
- PTs may be taken *"back-to-back"* except that the opening date of the second PT study must be at least seven (7) calendar days after the closing date of the first PT study for the same field of accreditation.
- PTs are required twice per year and the closing dates of subsequent PT study samples for a particular accreditation FoPT must be no more than seven (7) months apart. Labs that do NOT participate in PT within seven (7) months will receive a skip for failure to participate.
- Most PT providers have scheduled and off-schedule (i.e. Supplemental or 'Quick Turnaround') PTs available. We recommend that labs enroll in scheduled PTs to mitigate lapse in PTs.
- When ordering and reporting PT results please ensure the following information is included and accurate:
    - Lab NYS ID
    - Lab Name – this must match the lab name listed on your certification
    - TNI Analyte Codes – Refer to the TNI website.
    - TNI Method Codes – Refer to Item 180.8 for acceptable TNI Method Codes. Please ensure the correct TNI Analyte and Method codes are reported to your PT provider. https://www.wadsworth.org/regulatory/elap/requirements-for-laboratory-certification-certification

  - You may reach out to NYS ELAP for guidance on which TNI Analyte and Method codes to report.
  - If the code you would like to report is not listed in Item 180.8, please reach out to NYS ELAP.
- If any of the above is incorrectly reported by the laboratory unfortunately your labs PT will NOT be accepted by NYS.

NYS DOH Asbestos PT

NYSDOH Proficiency test (PT) samples are distributed by category and discipline semi-annually by the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center PT Program. The categories and disciplines offered include the following:

- ~~Potable Water Chemistry~~
- ~~Potable and Non-Potable Water Bacteriology~~
- Asbestos in Bulk Material and Fiber in Air
- ~~Non-Potable Water~~
- Asbestos in Water, Air and Solid Waste by TEM

~~Chemistry proficiency testing consists of one sample for each analyte in the test series. Not all analytes offered for accreditation are required to be proficiency tested. Bacteriological proficiency testing consists of one (for Non-Potable Water) to ten samples (for Potable Water). Samples are offered in bacteriology for standard plate count in Potable Water, Enterococci in Non-potable Water, Total Coliforms and Fecal Coliforms in Non-potable Water, and E. coli enumeration in Potable Water. Refer to Item 316 for a complete listing of samples and analytes.~~

Requirements for PT (Excluding Asbestos)

~~Although supplied by the NYSDOH Wadsworth Center PT Program,~~ PT samples for Potable Water Chemistry, Potable and Non-Potable Water Bacteriology, ~~and~~ Non-Potable Water Chemistry and Solid and Chemical Material must ~~may also~~ be obtained from ~~another~~ an external organization accredited by a Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA) that meets the TNI requirements. Other external organizations that are accredited to provide PT samples are listed on this website: http://www.nelac- institute.org/ptproviders.php.

NYS ELAP will ONLY accept PT from AIHA for Lead in Dust Wipes, Lead in Paint and lead in air~~, proficiency testing results from AIHA are accepted by NYS ELAP~~ to meet PT requirements.

The laboratory MUST authorize the PT provider to release all results used for accreditation to ELAP (elapptreports@health.ny.gov).

Fields of Proficiency Testing (FoPT)

Except for drinking water analytes in 40 CFR 141, laboratories can analyze and report a single method to represent a technology in a PT study for a particular analyte.

If the laboratory analyzes and reports PT studies for a technology, the score obtained for the reported method will be applied to all methods in that technology/matrix/analyte (with the exception of drinking water analytes in 40 CFR 141).

As an example, assume a laboratory is accredited for the following Fields of Accreditation:

- Non-Potable Water -- EPA 200.9 - Lead
- Non-Potable Water -- EPA 200.7 -- Lead
- Non-Potable Water -- EPA 6010 -- Lead

The laboratory would be required to analyze the sample and report a result by method EPA 200.9 (GFAAS technology) and alternate reporting by either EPA 200.7 or EPA 6010 (both methods being ICP-AES technology). Therefore, if the lab reported by EPA 200.7 in this study, they would report by EPA 6010 for the next required study of the year. A listing of technologies may be found in Certification Manual item 180.6.

Proficiency Testing Requirements

To be accredited initially, laboratories must participate in two (2) successful, out of the most recent three (3), PT studies for each FoPT. At least one of the scores must be less than six (6) months old from the date of accreditation.

To maintain accreditation, the laboratory must participate in a minimum of two (2) PTs per year for each accreditation FoPT and achieve a passing score, on an on-going basis, in two (2) out of three (3) successive PT studies. Close dates of successive PT samples for fields of proficiency testing must be no longer than seven (7) months apart from the prior PT study.

Each unsatisfactory analytical result requires that the laboratory's management investigate the root cause of laboratory's performance and establish a corrective action report. The corrective action report must be on file and available for review during an on-site assessment. Also, the laboratory must provide a corrective action report to ELAP within thirty (30) calendar days of a request by the program.

Laboratories failing to maintain a passing score on an on-going basis in two (2) out of three (3) successive PT studies will be suspended.

Laboratory accreditation can be reinstated for the analyte by successfully analyzing PT samples from a PT provider that meets TNI requirements, provided such supplemental PT studies are performed at least seven (7) days apart from the close date of one study to the opening date of another study. The laboratory must authorize the PT provider, prior to the close of the study, to release all results used for accreditation and/or remediation of failed studies to ELAP.

The laboratory's management and analysts must ensure that all PT samples are managed, analyzed and reported in the same manner as real environmental samples (i.e., using the same staff, methods, calibration and QC procedures, replicates, equipment, facilities, and frequency of analysis).

~~The NYSDOH Wadsworth PT Program does not provide PT samples to be used as QC samples. Laboratories that do not report the NYSDOH Wadsworth PT Program PT sample results will be recorded as non-participants.~~

PT – Drinking Water Requirements in EPA Regulation

The following are additional requirements for Potable Water proficiency testing, where successful PT performance is graded for groups of regulated analytes.

Excluding vinyl chloride, a laboratory accredited for ALL regulated Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)[1] or ALL regulated Organic Disinfection Byproducts (HAA5s)[2] must also satisfy the "80% Rule". If the laboratory fails to maintain a passing score on at least 80% of the analytes, accreditation for all the analytes in the group is suspended. Repeated failures for the same analyte will also result in loss of accreditation. For vinyl chloride and trihalomethanes (TTHMs)[3], laboratories must maintain a passing PT score (100%). If the laboratory fails to maintain a passing score on 100% of the analytes, accreditation for all the analytes in the group is suspended. In addition, failure to meet 80% for VOCs will result in loss of accreditation for vinyl chloride.

[1]40 CFR 141.24 (f)(17)(i)(B) and 40 CFR 141.24 (f)(17)(ii), Regulated VOCs are: benzene; carbon tetrachloride; chlorobenzene; 1,2-dichlorobenzene; 1,4-dichlorobenzene; 1,2-dichloroethane; cis- dichloroethylene (cis-1,2-dichloroethene); trans-dichloroethylene (trans-1,2-dichloroethene); dichloromethane (methylene chloride); 1,2-dichloropropane; ethylbenzene; styrene; tetrachloroethylene (tetrachloroethene); 1,1,1-trichloroethane; trichloroethylene (trichloroethene); toluene; 1,2,4-trichlorobenzene; 1,1-dichloroethylene (1,1-dichloroethene); 1,1,2-trichloroethane; vinyl chloride; xylenes (total).

[2]40 CFR 141.131(b)(2), Stage 1 Disinfection By Products (DBP) (HAA5s) Rule, Regulated Organic Disinfection Byproducts are: dibromoacetic acid; dichloroacetic acid; monobromoacetic acid; monochloroacetic acid; trichloroacetic acid.

[3]40 CFR 141.131(b)(2), DBP, Regulated trihalomethanes (TTHMs) are: chloroform, dichlorobromomethane, chlorodibromomethane and bromoform.

PT – Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

One (1) PT is required for initial and annually for maintained accreditation for Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing (WETT). This requirement can be met by:

- Annual participation in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Discharge Monitoring Report-Quality Assurance (DMRQA) studies for WETT; or
- If the laboratory is not participating in an EPA DMRQA study for WETT, the closing dates of subsequent PT study samples for WETT testing PT studies must be no more than fourteen (14) months apart.

~~*Value Assignment for Analytes*~~

~~Assigned values for sample analytes are selected randomly within the FoPT ranges described in the TNI FoPT tables. The assigned value is the actual chemistry analyte concentration in the sample as determined gravimetrically during manufacture and verified by in-house validation testing prior to shipment.~~

~~For Asbestos PT and microbiology samples the assigned value is the mean of the in-house verification analyses. Sufficient homogeneity is also established through this in-house testing prior to shipment. The procedures used are adapted from the TNI Standard Volume 3 for the Environmental Sector.~~

~~Stability is confirmed after the close date of the study in accordance with the procedures adapted from the TNI Standard Volume 3 for the Environmental Sector.~~