



PFOA and PFOS ELAP Certification  
Frequently Asked Questions  
July 12, 2016

**FAQ 1:** Is ELAP currently offering certification for PFOA and PFOS testing?

**ANS 1:** Yes. ELAP is offering certification for Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs), specifically, Perfluorooctanic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) in the Drinking Water category.

**FAQ 2:** Is ELAP offering certification for PFOA and PFOS testing in Non-potable water and Solids and Hazardous Waste?

**ANS 2:** At this time, ELAP is not offering certification for PFOA and PFOS testing in these categories.

**FAQ 3:** What methods will laboratories be allowed to use for PFOA and PFOS testing in potable water?

**ANS 3:** ELAP is offering certification for PFOA and PFOS testing in potable water using EPA method 537 (Version 1.1, September 2009) and/or the latest edition of ISO method 25101 (ISO 25101:2009(E)).

**FAQ 4:** Will ELAP allow laboratories to make modifications to EPA method 537?

**ANS 4:** Laboratories should refer to section 1.6 of EPA method 537 for allowable modifications.

**FAQ 5:** Will ELAP allow laboratories to make modifications to ISO 25101:2009(E)?

**ANS 5:** After consulting with scientific subject matter experts, ELAP will allow the following modifications to ISO 25101:2009(E):

- Sample Preservation: Sample preservation with sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate or other dechlorinating agents is not required
- Sample Extraction: The volume of sample that can be extracted can be determined by the laboratory so long as the laboratory can meet the reporting limit of 2 ng/L for PFOA and 2 ng/L for PFOS.
- Elution: Evaporation and concentration is not required so long as the laboratory can meet the reporting limit of 2 ng/L for PFOA and 2 ng/L for PFOS.

**FAQ 6:** ELAP will be offering interim approval for laboratories seeking certification for PFOA and PFOS by ISO 25101:2009(E) in the Drinking Water category. What is interim approval and what requirements need to be met to obtain interim approval?

**ANS 6:** For certification for PFOA and PFOS by ISO 25101:2009(E) in the Drinking Water category, a laboratory that has not undergone an on-site assessment may be granted interim

approval, for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months, provided that the laboratory submits acceptable documentation by August 12, 2016, including:

- A completed application form 108 (also include Form 107 if your laboratory is new to the ELAP or program or is not currently approved for a Chemistry scope)
- A copy of the laboratories SOP using ISO 25101:2009(E)
- Initial demonstration of capability (iDOC) and supporting data. Since proficiency testing (PT) is not available, laboratories will not need to submit PT data. In the absence of a PT, initial demonstration of capability will be required with the submission of the application for certification.

Only once the documentation is reviewed and approved by ELAP will interim approval be granted, at which time labs will be able to perform testing for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water using ISO 25101:2009(E). Full certification will be granted upon completion of a successful on-site inspection.

**FAQ 7:** If a laboratory applies for certification for PFOA and PFOS by ISO 25101:2009(E) in the Drinking Water category after the August 12, 2016 deadline, will ELAP consider offering interim approval?

**ANS 7:** No. Extensions will not be granted. All required documentation will need to be submitted to ELAP by August 12, 2016 in order to be considered for interim approval. Any laboratory that applies after the August 12, 2016 deadline will be required to have an on-site assessment before using ISO 25101:2009(E).

**FAQ 8:** If I have additional questions, who do I contact?

**ANS 8:** All inquiries can be sent by email to [elap@health.ny.gov](mailto:elap@health.ny.gov).