

**ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY APPROVAL PROGRAM
CERTIFICATION MANUAL**

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Certificates of approval are issued for specific Fields of Accreditation, comprising:

Matrix –Technology/Method – Analyte

DEFINITIONS

Matrices (also known as **Categories**) offered by ELAP are as follows:

1. Drinking (Potable) Water (DW or PW); which is any drinking water supply, including those required under the State Sanitary Code, Part 5, for public drinking water supplies and bulk or bottled water. Sampling and analytical requirements are specified in the Sanitary Code. The category includes drinking water samples within the distribution system and source waters to distribution systems.
2. Non-Potable Water (NW or NPW), which includes all aqueous samples that are not in the Category of Drinking Water, such as wastewater, leachate, public swimming pools and bathing beaches, streams, lakes, rivers etc. This category includes analyses performed under the State Sanitary Code, Part 6, and Article 17 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
3. Solid and Chemical Materials (SCM or SW), which means the analysis of solid wastes including soils, sediments, dredgings, sludges, slurries and semi-solids, as well as samples of pure or mixed chemical compounds; including those performed under contract to State or local governments as required under Article 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
4. Air and Emissions (AE) which means the analysis of ambient air, stack emissions, surface coatings or fuels; including those performed under contract to State or local governments or required under Article 19 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
5. Medical Marijuana (MM), which includes medical marijuana products produced by registered organization; including those forms approved by the Department in accordance with Article 5 of the Public Health Law.

Methods are most often standard methods promulgated by bodies such as US Environmental Protection Agency, Standard Methods, ASTM International, US Geological Survey, and so forth.

Laboratories may only use methods for which they have ELAP approval. In some cases, ELAP may approve alternate test procedures and other methods requested by laboratories. The following Certification Manual Items include the methods for which ELAP will grant accreditation: 180.1 (Drinking Water), 180.2 (Non-Potable Water), 180.3 (Solid & Chemical Materials), 180.4 (Air & Emissions), and 180.7 (Medical Marijuana).

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It is the responsibility of the laboratory to ensure that the proper analytical method is used to report data for specific programs.

Technology is a specific arrangement of analytical instruments, detection systems, and/or preparation techniques (e.g., ICP-AES; GC-MS). Technology is not required to be separately identified by laboratories and is inherent to the reference method utilized. However, technology is utilized by the Program in the evaluation of proficiency testing scores and subsequent accreditation changes. For more information on Proficiency Testing, see Certification Manual Item 300.

Analyte is any chemical or physical parameter that is measured or determined by a method.

EXAMPLES

Some examples of Fields of Accreditation are:

- Drinking Water – Colilert-24 – Total Coliform/E. Coli (Qualitative)
- Non-Potable Water – EPA 200.9 Rev. 2.2 – Cadmium
- Solid and Chemical Materials – EPA 8141B – Diazinon

Many Standard Methods (SM) references will include two parenthetical digits following the reference. This refers to the Standard Methods online version. Many ASTM methods have multiple approved revisions. They are indicated by the digits following the dash.

EXCEPTIONS

Certain drinking (potable) water tests are exempted from the requirements of this Program. Therefore, the tests do not have to be performed in an approved laboratory; however, approved methodologies must be used. This exemption is only applicable to Public Water System laboratories (40 CFR 141.1). The regulation governing laboratory certification (40 CFR 141.28) requires that all testing for compliance purposes be performed by certified laboratories except for the following: alkalinity, calcium, conductivity, disinfectant residual, orthophosphate, pH, silica, temperature, and turbidity. In addition, per the Stage 2 Rule, found in 141.131(b)(3), 141.131(c)(3), and 141.131(d), these analytes are exempted: total organic carbon, specific UV absorbance at 245 nm (SUVA), and daily chlorite. Measurements for these analytes may be performed by any person acceptable to the State.

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TCLP ACCREDITATION

If a laboratory is performing TCLP (or SPLC), it is to hold certification for the SW 846 1311 (or 1312) under the SW category. As to which category, the laboratory is to hold certification in for the determinative method, please refer to the flow chart below.

