



IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs: April 2, 2026:

This note is intended to provide an update to all Illinois (Primary) labs accredited by the Illinois Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (IL ELAP).

1. Linear Dynamic Range and Linear Calibration Range:

- IEPA LAU conferred with NELAC Institute Accreditation Council (AC) regarding their auditing of Linear Dynamic Range (LDR) and Linear Calibration Range (LCR). The IEPA LAU had received some questions regarding whether it was necessary due to the TNI Standard stating labs cannot report results above their highest calibration point. (V1M4 1.7.1.1 h)
- Due to EPA 200.7, 200.8, 300.0 and 245.1 being Drinking Water Methods, US EPA states that modifications are not allowed. While adhering to this rule, our unit discussed how we would look at the requirement.
- The LDR is required for any of the methods that reference this practice.
- Per the other NELAC Institute AC members, a standard at least 10% higher than the highest calibration point needs to be run on a defined schedule. This frequency can be defined in the method SOP or QM.
- In running this higher standard, the laboratory confirms the highest calibration point is linear and the entire calibration range can be used to report the results. It also confirms that there is no carryover/saturation due to the higher concentration.
- Even with an established LDR, no reporting above your highest calibration level is permitted.

2. Adding new methods to your laboratory's scope:

- IEPA LAU will work with your laboratory to get new methods requiring on-site assessments scheduled as soon as possible. (Any new technologies that have not been assessed previously require an on-site assessment).
- Please reach out to us if you have any questions regarding whether or not an analyte can be accredited by IEPA LAU.
- IEPA LAU requires the following items submitted before an onsite date can be discussed:
 - i. SOP for the new method.
 - ii. MDL's
 - iii. Analysts IDOCs and continuing DOCs if applicable
 - iv. Data packet/test report examples
 - v. Two passing PTs (per 2016 TNI Standards, passing includes being 7 days apart from closing of one to opening of the second).

3. IEPA LAU is Accrediting 24th Edition Standard Methods

- If your laboratory is updating to the newest version of the method, i.e. go from 23rd to 24th Edition of Standard Methods, make certain to read the Sampling and Quality Control opening sections (example the 3010 and 3020 sections in Standard Methods). There may be slight changes here that are not seen in the method themselves.
- One example of change is now SM-4500 H⁺ B “pH VALUE*” is now renamed “pH” and is found after Peracetic acid in the 24th edition.
- We can now accredit the 24th edition in Illinois. Please contact epa.lau@illinois.gov or email your LAU contact for any requests/updates to your laboratory COA. This will also be sent as a reminder with your annual renewal to update to the now available 24th edition of standard methods.

4. Accreditation for new parameters

- Due to the increasing public concern or publicity of Harmful Algae Blooms, we wanted to notify our laboratories that we are accrediting HABs. We are including this under “Organic [Matrix]” fee which would be \$1000.00 per matrix accredited (NPW and DW).
- 1,4 – Dioxane regulation requirements passed earlier this year (March 21st, 2025) will impose state-only 1,4-Dioxane MCLs by June 30th, 2030. The public health reference level of 35 ug/L will be referenced until June 30th, 2026. The agency will have 2 years to propose a new MCL for 1,4-Dioxane. We are also accrediting 1,4-Dioxane to any interested laboratories under an “Organic [Matrix]” fee.
- Please reach out to your Laboratories’ LAU contact or epa.lau@illinois.gov for any questions regarding this request/update.

5. Method Update Rules (MUR)

- The current Federal MUR22, waiting to be promulgated, includes the removal of some 24th Edition Standard Methods but mainly the addition of methods **EPA 1621** – Organic Fluorine by CIC, **EPA 1628** – PCBs by congener by GC-MS, **EPA 1633A** – PFAS by LC-MSMS (non-procedural updates), and some preservation clarification to title 40 eCFR 136. There are many changes proposed by MUR22 and these are just some examples. TNI does have a Webex training on the updates, if interested.

<https://eds.nelac institute.org/CourseDetails?iid=308>

<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rules#proposal-mur22>

6. Questions about Diazald Availability

- Several laboratories have reached out regarding concerns with acquiring diazald. Sigma Aldrich is the only company manufacturing diazald, currently in the USA and it appears to be backordered at least 6 months. Other vendors have been showing stock, but some quality/purity of the diazald is less than the product directly from Sigma Aldrich and Fisher Scientific.
- Please let our unit know if your laboratory knows a reputable vendor so we can disseminate this to the rest of our accredited laboratories.

7. Most Common Nonconformities seen on assessments.

- Using portions of one method and mixing with another similar method. This is not allowed, even if more stringent requirements are being used.
- Not documenting the software and the specific version being used for analytical instruments.
- Not enough standard concentration levels for the calibration curve or using the calibration blank towards the TNI required point total. (5 points for linear and 6 points for quadratic, not counting zero as a point.)
- Procedures not accurately representing current practices in the lab.
- The temperature probe on the pH meter not being calibrated for temperature in addition to not being appropriately labelled per V1M2 5.5.8.
- Flashpoint, ISE, and titration data are not being bracketed by an ending CCC/CCV standard.

8. Measurement Traceability

Suitable ways to obtain traceability of measurement results. Accredited laboratories can achieve traceability by using certified reference materials obtained from competent providers accredited to ISO 17034 standards, calibrations to the SI units (such as for NIST-traceable weight in grams and temperature in Celsius / Kelvin degrees), and standardizations of secondary standards with primary standards. Additionally, the TNI standard related to measurement traceability is V1, M2, 5.6. *(This note is included in each IEPA LAU Quarterly Newsletter in response to a finding on the IEPA LAU from a recent TNI Assessment)*

9. Survey

New IEPA LAU Feedback Survey Link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/72Rm9e17Cr>

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Please recommend any topics for our Laboratory Communication Newsletter. Chances are if you have a question about something, someone else does, too.

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