



Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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JB Pritzker, Governor

James Jennings, Director

IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs: July 29, 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. New Database for IL ELAP

- IEPA LAU has been busy trying to update and learn about our new accreditation database. We hope the new system will be more user friendly for both our team and the renewals and audits for you the labs.
- The data base utilizes tablets; this can provide a greener audit when we are onsite...less paper checklists.
- Applications look similar but hopefully a little better than our old ones. A cover letter, statement of conformance form, application spreadsheet and invoice will make up the application packet. Directions on sorting the methods/analytes are the same as the old application.
- Soon the Certificates of Accreditation, invoices and audit reports will all be generated from the new system. The PT evaluation reports started to be sent out this month. Please let us know if you see any issues, we have a few PT analyte codes not syncing correctly.

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 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.

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-MS/MS (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

- IEPA Laboratory and other labs have had problems procuring diazald. There is a vendor that has the same CAS number Diazald as Sigma Alrich, CP Lab Safety through Fisher Scientific. (see link below)
- https://www.calpaclab.com/n-methyl-n-nitroso-p-toluenesulfonamide-diazogen-c-h-n-o-s-50-grams/cp-30261311-50g?srsId=AfmBOopTqeJCUNl26j1v9n_lp-GHwWDyXxHMHP3Oa6WdKBSRurcrlgv

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 do not accurately represent current practices in the lab.
- The temperature probe on the pH meter is 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)*

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.