



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2520 WEST ILES AVENUE, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JAMES JENNINGS, ACTING DIRECTOR

## IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs: March 19, 2025

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

### 1. 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).
- 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).

### 2. Changes from the Standard Methods 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition

- If your laboratory is updating to the newest version of the method, i.e. go from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 the pH standards in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition need to be disposed of in four weeks after open date, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Edition changed to 6 months after open date.

### 3. Method Update Rules (MUR)

- The current MUR we are attempting to get passed legislation includes the accreditation of the 24<sup>th</sup> edition. We currently cannot accredit the 24<sup>th</sup> edition but we will let our laboratories know when we are allowed to accredit to the 24<sup>th</sup> edition.
- The current Federal MUR22 that is being postponed is MUR22 which is the removal of some 24<sup>th</sup> edition standard methods but mainly the addition of methods 1621 – Organic Fluorine by CIC, 1628 – PCBs by congener by GC-MS, 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.
- <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rules#proposal-mur22>
- When MUR22 gets federally promulgated, the IEPA Lawyers and LAU will work together to get the changes published in the Illinois register, publishing will have to occur before any of these methods are available for accreditation by Illinois. Method 1633 is getting replaced by method 1633A which is not currently promulgated. This change will be effective when the MUR22 is promulgated. Currently, method 1633 cannot be found on USEPA's websites. We brought this to their attention that the current allowed method for wastewater/solids is not

publicly available. Please reach out to the IEPA LAU if you'd need a copy of the January final draft of method 1633. US EPA let us know it should soon be available in their archive of previous methods.

#### **4. 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.
- The temperature probe on the pH meter not being calibrated for temperature.
- Laboratories reporting data below the lowest calibration standard without flagging or qualification.

#### **5. TNI Environmental Measurement Symposium-- St. Louis, Missouri**

- August 3<sup>rd</sup>-August 6<sup>th</sup> , 2025, will be the TNI EMS annual conference held in St. Louis MO at the Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch. IEPA LAU hopes our Illinois laboratories get a chance to attend the symposium.
- The TNI/EMS generally cover:
  - i. New information on PFAS methods and screening techniques.
  - ii. New instrumentation and quality of life equipment for extractions.
  - iii. New information on the TNI standard that is coming out sometime this decade.
  - iv. Vendor displays and vendor presentations on new quantitation techniques and reporting software.
  - v. Other new topics that are getting media attention.
- The presentations will also be available online with the virtual registration during the conference and recordings of the sessions available for several month after the symposium.

#### **6. PFOS Information**

- During the Region 5 quarterly update, it was discussed for PFAS drinking water PTs that all drinking water regulated analytes must pass in a single PT due to the hazard index being a part of the drinking water reporting process. Even though one of the analytes is not part of the hazard index they must all pass in a single PT for the PT to be considered acceptable.
- New PT limits that were established must be followed. However, past PTs with wider range limits that were previously deemed acceptable will still be considered acceptable. Going forward, the new PT acceptance range will follow the new published range (new limits +/-30% of true value).
- The link to the PFAS Rule implementation is linked below, please reach out to region 5 of the US EPA or IEPA LAU if we can help answer any questions. On this below link, there are some helpful documents for PFAS regulation information.
- [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) Rule Implementation | US EPA](#)

#### **7. 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.

- 8. The IEPA LAU will be fully staffed starting April 1, 2025. We will introduce our newest assessor in the next update and get you their contact information. Thank you all for your patience as we train and improve our unit.

*Please feel free to take the anonymous survey to let us know how we are doing:*

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWDDHLM>

**IL ELAP Staff**

Millie Rose	Laboratory Accreditation Unit, Supervisor	<a href="mailto:mildred.rose@illinois.gov">mildred.rose@illinois.gov</a>	(217) 557-0274
Joshua Pritchard	Laboratory Quality Specialist 1	<a href="mailto:joshua.pritchard@illinois.gov">joshua.pritchard@illinois.gov</a>	(217) 785-5163
Landon Pratt	Laboratory Quality Specialist 1	<a href="mailto:landon.pratt@illinois.gov">landon.pratt@illinois.gov</a>	(217) 558-7142

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

[EPA.LAU@illinois.gov](mailto:EPA.LAU@illinois.gov)