



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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## IL ELAP Update to Accredited Labs: (August 16, 2022)

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

### 1. Updating to the newest Standard Method Edition:

- Per TNI Standards, the laboratories should be using the most recent version of a method.
  - V1M2 5.4.2 *The laboratory shall ensure that it uses the latest valid edition of a standard unless it is not appropriate or possible to do so.*
- IEPA Laboratory Accreditation Unit (LAU) will be accrediting Standard Methods Editions 20-23 after **January 1, 2023**. (Due to IL Legislative constraints, the most current edition is usually delayed in being approved for IEPA LAU Accreditation)
- IEPA LAU will only allow one edition of the Standard Methods accredited unless contacted by the laboratory as to why a second edition is necessary.
- What does that mean for the laboratory? They must update their SOP, PT codes, 2 passing PTs plus IDOCs if there is a significant change in the method. The old methods will be updated once the information is received. Optimally this will occur when you have your annual renewal.
  - Some method editions only change QC requirements, so new IDOCs may not be necessary. Stating why new IDOCs were not run in the updated SOP provides clarity.
- Please provide a written request for any change in method, 2 passing PT's, IDOC's, MDL's and updated SOP should be sent with the request for method changes.
- Our staff has 30 days to process the request once all the documentation is received.
- Laboratories can add or change methods at the renewal time, which is the preferred time to do this, if the request comes in within 60 days of the renewal date, they will be updated with the renewal. If the request is greater than 60 days to renewal, please submit a written request with supporting documentation.
- Please contact IEPA LAU if you have questions regarding this update.



## 2. New Payment Option:

- Starting in April 2022, renewals and application fees can be submitted using e-Pay.
- Electronic Check Transfers, Master Card, Visa, American Express and Discover Cards are all acceptable forms of payment.
- There is a fee for using electronic check transfers, \$0.75 and credit cards \$2.25
- You select “Lab Accreditation Fees” and fill in your information.
- The ePay will provide an email receipt to your email address and our email address as proof of payment.
- Here is the link for the e-Pay site and we are putting it on your renewal invoice:  
<https://magic.collectorsolutions.com/magic-ui/en-US/Login/illinois-epa>

## 3. Class A Glassware

- Our unit received a certificate of analysis/conformity from a laboratory regarding their Plastic graduated cylinders being “Class A.” Per TNI Standard Interpretation Request (SIR) for Section: V1M2, Section 5.5.13.1 It states that “plasticware” is not glassware. Class A Plasticware, is not considered an equal substitution for Class A glassware. This will be an assessment finding if the LAU identifies the plastic volumetric measuring device is not being properly verified.

## 4. Conductivity Method clarification:

- In SM 2510-B-2011, conductivity method, it states in section 4 b that the temperature range of the sample should be adjusted **about** 25°C.
- Your laboratory needs to document in your SOP what temperature you are allowing the samples to come to prior to starting the analysis.
- IEPA LAU is interpreting this “about 25°C” as +/- 3 ° C of ambient temperature.

## 5. Method Modifications

- Please make certain any modification to a method is documented in the method SOP. An example would be using a manufacture’s method, still note that the same amount of QAQC is required even if it is not listed in the manufacture’s method.
- If the modification requires a study to show no chemical or physical impact to the analysis, this study needs to be completed before samples can be analyzed using this modification.

## 6. Most Common Nonconformities seen in assessments

- Not using the minimum number of standards required for the type of calibration curve, V1M4, section 1.7.1.1 f. 2016 TNI Standards.
- IDOC issues—wrong procedure, not documented, not done for each analyte in the method, not done by each analyst and/or not done for each matrix.
- Use of wide-range pH paper to measure pH <2; must use narrow range pH paper

- Technical Managers without enough hours of chemistry (Inorganic lab (other than metals) 16 college hours of chemistry classes, Organic Lab 24 college hours of chemistry classes.)

Thank you all for working with us to ensure Illinois has safe drinking water.

**IL ELAP Staff:**

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Please contact any of the IL ELAP team if you have questions and/or concerns.

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Please recommend any topics for the next Update for Accredited Labs. Chances are if you have a question about something, someone else does, too.

Link for survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D986KQC>