



NC Pretreatment Consortium
September 16, 2024

Laboratory Certification Updates

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Overview

- Updated Staff Contact Info
- Certification Fees and Timetables
- New EPA Method Update Rule (MUR)
- PFAS Certification Update
- PT Requirement Document Updates
- SOPs and Training Programs

Rules, Policies, Inspection Checklists, Technical Assistance documents, Approved Procedure documents for Field Parameters and more can be found on our website, which is listed on the last slide of this presentation.



Laboratory Certification Staff

	Title/Role	Region/Oversight	New Phone Number
Todd Crawford	Environmental Program Manager	Program Management	(919) 745-4366
Beth Swanson	Technical Assistance and Compliance Specialist	Mentor/Trainer/Technical Assistance	(984) 220-5439
Anna Ostendorff	Technical Assistance and Compliance Specialist	Mentor/Trainer/Technical Assistance	(919) 745-4368
Tonja Springer	Auditor	Fayetteville/Raleigh/Winston-Salem Database Management	(984) 220-3646
Thomas Halvosa	Auditor	Washington/Raleigh/Chlorophyll-a Round Robin Coordinator	(984) 220-4016
Michael Cumbus	Auditor	Winston-Salem/Mooresville	(984) 220-5406
Jason Smith	Auditor	Asheville/Winston-Salem/Mooresville	(828) 424-9477
Jill Puff	Auditor	Wilmington/Raleigh	(984) 220-4946
Each auditor manages out-of-state laboratories as well.			

Certification Fees and Timetables

- Initial and renewal certification fees were last amended by the NC legislature via the State budget and made effective July 1, 2023
- Budget language stipulates that:
“Beginning July 1, 2025, and every two years thereafter, the Commission shall adjust the fees imposed pursuant to this subdivision to cover the costs of legislatively mandated salary and benefits revisions for the employees administering the laboratory facility certification program”.
- Therefore, fees may change for the 2026 certification period
- Invoices are emailed July 1 each year, but if the State budget is not approved prior to that date, they may be delayed



2024 Method Update Rule (MUR)

The new MUR was published on April 16, 2024. The rule became effective on June 17, 2024. Action may be required on your part to maintain certification.

- **By July 17th**, you should have submitted an Amendment to Laboratory Certification Application requesting to drop the old methods and add the new methods.
- **By October 17th**, you must submit the following:
 - Revision history pages (not the entire SOP) of applicable SOPs
 - Training documentation for the new revisions *if they had procedural updates* to show that applicable analysts have been adequately trained on the new method requirements
- Once **ALL** of the above have been received, a revised Certified Parameters Listing (CPL) will be issued, and you will begin reporting results by the new methods.
- There will be no fee for updating to newly required methods as long as the October 17th deadline is met. Customary fees will apply after that date.



2024 Method Update Rule (MUR)

- No Field Parameters had procedural changes in the updated methods.
- Quality Control For “Standard Methods” methods
 - When not in the individual methods themselves, QC always comes from the most recent edition of SM and/or our rules
 - 24th Edition QC Sections (1000, 2000, etc.) are available for free download on the Standard Methods website
 - These are not needed for Field Parameters – Use our Approved Procedure documents
- Individual methods can be purchased from Standard Methods, or the entire hard copy or online subscription can be purchased.
- EPA methods are free for download from their website.



PFAS Parameter Addition Timeline

Jan 11th - EMC (Environmental Management Commission) granted approval of the proposed addition of PFAS as a Parameter to Certification rule 15A NCAC 02H .0804 and to proceed to public hearing.

Mar 20th – Public hearing was held

April 30th - Written public comment period ended

July 11th – EMC approved the Hearing Officer’s report and allowed us to proceed to the RRC (Rules Review Committee) meeting for final approval

Aug 28th - Request that the RRC grant final approval of the proposed rule

Sept 1st - Rule becomes effective (if the RRC granted approval at the Aug 28th meeting)

HOWEVER, due to the way our Rules are written we will not be able to *certify* EPA Method 1633 until it has been published in the Federal Register (40 CFR Part 136).

SW-846 8327 can be certified but cannot be used for Clean Water Act monitoring



PT Reminders

- Analysis of PT Samples is required for each method/matrix combination that you are certified for, if applicable.
- Choosing a method description: Look at your Certified Parameters Listing (CPL) and make sure they match! - Don't report by the newly updated methods before they are listed on your CPL.
- Include your EPA Lab ID.
- We will require revised reports if either of those are missing or incorrect.
- DMR-QA studies are no longer allowed.
- As always, make sure the study you are participating in closes in time for graded results to be in our office by the due date of September 30th.



New PT Requirements Coming in Revision 7 (in effect for 2025)

- Decertified Parameter Method Report due date changed from 30 days to 10 days of the decertification effective date.
- Requirement to retain copies of the reporting forms for PT Sample result submissions has been rescinded (must continue to document calibrations and results on laboratory benchsheets)
- Clarifying language was added to Section 5.6 which states that when multiple results are reported in the same study or concurrent studies, the “50% Rule” (see Section 5.4) will be applied.



Reminders for changes made in July 2019 Rule Revision

ALL laboratories are required to have SOPs

15A NCAC 02H .0805 (a) (7) and (g) (4)

- Must have an SOP for each Parameter Method that you are certified for.
- SOPs must state the effective date of the document and be reviewed every 2 years.
- Any changes to procedures before the 2-year mandatory review must be added to the SOP in real time.
- Document review dates
- When any revisions are made, document what changed, and the date completed
- Field Parameter SOP templates are on our website – (an option, not required to use them, however a good SOP should contain all the elements listed in the Table of Contents)



Reminders for changes made in July 2019 Rule Revision

Documented Training Programs are Required for ALL Labs

15A NCAC 02H .0805 (a) (7) (P) and (g) (5)

- Training program must include documentation demonstrating that:
 - staff have the education, training, experience, or demonstrated skills needed to generate quality control results within method-specified limits and meet the requirements of these Rules;
 - staff have read the laboratory quality assurance manual and/or applicable Standard Operating Procedures and understand what is required; and
 - staff have obtained acceptable results on Proficiency Testing Samples pursuant to Rule .0803(1) of this Section or other demonstrations of proficiency (e.g., side-by-side comparison with a trained analyst, acceptable results on a single-blind performance evaluation sample, an initial demonstration of capability study prescribed by the reference method, etc.).



Reminders for changes made in July 2019 Rule Revision

Documented Training Programs are Required for ALL Labs

15A NCAC 02H .0805 (a) (7) (P) and (g) (5)

- Other training elements that may not appear in the method SOP but should be part of a comprehensive training program include:
 - Proper error corrections
 - Acknowledgment that the laboratory's quality assurance manual and/or applicable Standard Operating Procedures were read and understood
 - Acknowledgment that Certification rules 15A NCAC 02H .0805 (a) (7) and/or 15A NCAC 02H .0805 (g) were read and understood



Questions?

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Website address:

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-data/water-sciences-home-page/laboratory-certification-branch>

To sign up for the listserv, go to <https://lists.deq.nc.gov/>

Include your name, email address and choose “DWR.Lab_Cert (Laboratory Certification Updates)”.

