



Accreditation of New Methods

A NELAP AB's Perspective

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**[http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/EnvLabCert/Water
Cert.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/EnvLabCert/WaterCert.htm)**



The Players

- Accreditation Bodies
 - NELAP
 - Non-NELAP
- Data users
 - State regulators
 - EPA
 - Laboratories
- Accredited laboratories



What is a “New” or “Revised” method?

- Laboratory-developed methods
- “Standard” or “Reference” methods extended to additional analytes
 - “issued by an organization generally recognized as competent to do so” (NELAC, TNI)



What is a “New” or “Revised” method?

- Methods modified/updated and re-published by the issuer, often replacing earlier versions
 - EPA’s Methods Update Rule
 - SW-846 Update IV
 - Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater - 21st Edition



Accreditation for Lab-Developed or Extended Methods

- Extend the method?
- Accredited by technology?
- Accredited by SOP



Accreditation of Updates

- Re-application to the AB
- Mandated changeover to updates

Accreditation of Updates

- Assumption that the lab will update to the “latest” version
- No version accreditation; lab uses the version suitable for client needs



Evaluation of New/Revised Methods

- Method specifics
- NELAC/TNI DOC and validation protocols
- 40 CFR Part 136.6
- The Performance Approach

What are some of the issues?

- Reciprocity/Recognition
- Varied timelines/deadlines for updates
- Method applicability
- Data usability

Lack of uniformity is the age-old problem!



So what's an AB to do?

- Be flexible within the rules
- Be reasonable
- Accommodate where possible
- Join the national program



Questions?