

ACCURATE NEWS

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Previous Articles

Oct: Treatability Studies / 2Day C Class

Sept: Registering for Cert. Classes

August: Stage 2 DBP / UCMR3

July: Finishing Up Renewals

Jun: Consumer Conf. Report Services

May: Importance of Refresher Training

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Big Changes Coming for Treatment Plant Labs: New Federal Regulations for Laboratory Operators

Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) programs are essential for any analytical laboratory to ensure the generation of precise and accurate data. Quality Assurance programs involve a range of activities enabling the laboratory to achieve and maintain high levels of accuracy and proficiency despite changes in test methods and the volume of samples tested. In an effort to improve overall quality and consistency, EPA will be adding minimum QA/QC requirements for all tests and analyses performed by treatment plant laboratory technicians. As of now, there will be twelve required QA/QC checks:

1. Demonstration of Capability (DOC)
2. Method Detection Limit (MDL)
3. Laboratory Reagent (method) Blank (LRB)
4. Laboratory Fortified Blank (LFB) or Spiked Blank
5. Matrix Spike (MS), Matrix Spike Duplicate (MSD) or Laboratory Fortified Blank Duplicate (LFBD) for suspected difficult matrices
6. Internal Standards, Surrogate Standards (for organic analysis) or Tracers (for radiochemistry)
7. Calibration (initial and continuing), Initial and Continuing Performance (ICP) Solutions
8. Control Charts
9. Corrective Actions (root cause analyses)
10. QC acceptance criteria
11. Definitions of a batch (preparation and analytical)
12. Specify a minimum frequency for conducting QC checks

For many labs, this will be all new information and a considerable increase in the amount of time spent running and documenting quality control checks, so it is essential that the labs understand the requirements and have procedures in place to be able to meet these new regulations while continuing to operate as efficiently as possible.

This is nothing new to Accurate Labs, which is why nearly 10% of Accurate Labs' staff is dedicated to QA/QC. Not only is Accurate Labs an ODEQ certified lab that has been in business for 22 years, but they are also nationally certified through the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP). This means that Accurate Labs has met stringent performance and quality control standards set by the NELAC Institute that few labs in the nation are able to accomplish.

Accurate Environmental Training Center (AETC) offers QA/QC training for treatment plant lab technicians. In fact, AETC has offered these classes every June since 2007. Accurate has always realized the importance of a rigorous QA/QC program and given their high levels of certification, are in an ideal position to help other labs understand and develop their own QA/QC programs. The simple fact is that given their extensive laboratory experience and qualifications, no other training center in the State can offer the level of QA training that AETC does.

For more information about Accurate Environmental Training contact Jeff Clarke at (800) 516-LABS or email jeff@accuratelabs.com.

STILLWATER CLASSES

NOVEMBER

02 Open Exam Session #10628
06 – 08 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper
12 – 15 "B" Water Operator
12 – 16 "A" Water Operator
26 – 29 "C" Water Laboratory

DECEMBER

04 – 06 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper
07 Open Exam Session #10629
10 – 13 "C" Wastewater Laboratory

JANUARY 2013

04 Open Exam Session #10757
08 – 10 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper
14 – 15 "C" Wastewater Operator

FEBRUARY

01 Open Exam Session #10758
05 – 07 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper
11 – 15 "A/B" Wastewater Operator
18 – 19 "C" Water Operator
25 – 03/01 "A/B" Water Laboratory

TULSA CLASSES

NOVEMBER

09 Open Exam Session #10626
27 – 29 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper

DECEMBER

14 Open Exam Session #10627
11 – 13 "C" Water Operator
18 – 20 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper

JANUARY 2013

11 Open Exam Session #10759
16 – 17 "C" Water Operator
22 – 24 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper

FEBRUARY

08 Open Exam Session #10760
20 – 21 "C" Wastewater Operator
26 – 28 "D" Water & Wastewater Oper

ODEQ Online Certification Exams

Online certification exams are offered on the last day of all AETC certification classes. An Exam Application must be submitted to the ODEQ at least 3 weeks prior to the test date. If you have missed the DEQ application deadline for your scheduled class, or you need to re-test without re-taking a class, Accurate Environmental Training Center offers open exam sessions on the 1st and 2nd Fridays of every month at their Stillwater and Tulsa classrooms. These exam sessions are open to any level of testing for those operators that have been approved by the DEQ. The same 3 week application deadline applies to the open exam sessions.

**Click the image to the right to download the DEQ exam application.*

Accurate Environmental is one of the nation's most unique and comprehensive environmental service providers. They not only operate the largest commercial environmental lab in Oklahoma and state-of-the-art operator and laboratory training centers, but also provide laboratory supply sales, field and sampling services with weekly sample pick-up routes, as well as environmental and engineering services.

Accurate Labs is comprised of three full-service laboratories, including our headquarters in Stillwater and two additional labs in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. They provide analytical services for drinking water, wastewater, groundwater, soil, sediment, sludge, and hazardous waste. Accurate Labs is nationally certified through The NELAC Institute, and the only commercial lab in Oklahoma that is fully certified for drinking water analysis.

Accurate Environmental Training Center (AETC) is an award winning training center offering operator and laboratory certification and renewal classes at their classrooms in Stillwater and Tulsa. Using multiple instructors for each class, and various teaching methods, such as pie charts and standard formulas for math, AETC is able to tailor training to meet the needs of each individual student.

Accurate Laboratory Supplies (ALS) is an authorized Hach dealer that can save you valuable time and money on all your laboratory supplies, chemicals, and equipment needs with one simple phone call. ALS even offers FREE DELIVERY to clients along their routine sample pick-up routes.

Accurate Field Services, with a team of well-trained field service technicians, provides field and sampling services throughout the state for drinking water, wastewater, soil, sludge, and hazardous waste. Accurate Field Services also has weekly sample pick-up routes to provide their clients with a fast, economical, and safer way to get samples to Accurate Labs for analysis.

Accurate Engineering Services (AES) provides expert technical assistance related to municipal and industrial water, wastewater, solid wastes and biosolids, industrial pretreatment, and environmental site assessments. AES is here to help your system meet EPA and DEQ rules and regulations, improve operation performance, and reduce operating costs.