Issue 2

1VAC30-46 Newsletter — November 2026

COMMERCIAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION



Your quick guide to updates, reminders, and resources to support your laboratory operations provided by the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) Virginia Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (VELAP).

New Accreditations Available

PFAS IN DRINKING WATER: EXPANDED LISTS

In July 2026 VELAP expanded its available accreditations for drinking water testing by EPA 533 and EPA 537.1 Rev 2 to cover the full compound lists designated in each of the two published methods for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water.

For more information on PFAS in drinking water and approved methods:
https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas
https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epa-pfas-drinking-water-laboratory-methods

DISSOLVED ORGANIC CARBON (DOC) IN NON-POTABLE WATER

In October 2026 at the request of Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), VELAP added accreditation in non-potable water for DOC by the following methods:

- SM 5310 B-2014
- SM 5310 C-2014
- SM 5310 D-2011

To expand your your laboratory's scope of accreditation, refer to the Change in Scope section of VELAP's Toolbox Webpage or contact your laboratory's lead assessor for more information.

Certificate Dates

On October 1, 2026 VELAP completed a process to synchronize all laboratories accredited under 1VAC30-46 to one annual certificate period of October 1 through September 30.

Moving forward, expect annual invoices and renewal paperwork in mid-July followed by receipt of the new certificate in late September.

THANK YOU for your patience and cooperation during this one-time adjustment and transition period.

Spotlight on Cyber Security

Digital Safety Reminders and Tools

Staying Alert

VELAP has been made aware of instances where third parties have reached out to laboratories, appearing as if they are doing work on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia for fee collection or licensing. If you need to confirm anything that appears to come from VELAP and seems suspicious or outside of our normal business or communication practices, please feel free to contact us before clicking or responding in any manner. As the saying goes, it's better to be safe than sorry.

VELAP Email Attachment Changes

VELAP's Information Technology (IT) team has recently updated the maximum size of email attachments, both to and from our agency. The maximum allowable size is now approximately 15 megabytes (mb). The 15 mb limit includes all attachments combined. If the collective attachment size exceeds the limit, the entire email will be blocked. Unfortunately, no notifications to the sender or the recipient are sent from VELAP's email server, therefore both parties are unaware that the email was blocked. If you are sending to VELAP, your own email server might give you an "undeliverable" notification.

To address file transfer issues caused by email limitations, VELAP has set up a site for file transfers outside of the email system. The site uses a verification process based on recognizing the email address of the laboratory's submitter. After the verification process is completed, the submitter can drag and drop files to our site and receive immediate email confirmation of the files transferred. This process is easy to use, ensures a safe transfer of files, and avoids the need for multiple emails. Please email our team to request the link any time you need to send files to VELAP.

Refer to VELAP's Toolbox Webpage or contact the VELAP office for more information on using this file transfer portal.

Communication Confirmations

VELAP's business practice is for the assigned contact person for each laboratory to acknowledge receipt within 1-3 business days of all emails from laboratories requesting a service or containing attachments, e.g., a change-in-scope request, corrective action submission, or certificate from another accrediting body. We also have a business practice of using out-of-office replies to help you estimate when your email will be received by your assigned contact person in the VELAP office. Please note that if your email to VELAP contains questions needing review or research, our response time may be longer.

Communication Confirmations, cont'd

If you don't receive a timely acknowledgment to your email to VELAP, feel free to contact your assigned VELAP representative for confirmation of receipt.

Your involvement in assuring communications were received by VELAP will help us avoid unpredictable delays caused by communication failures such as blocked emails or other unexpected issues.



Spotlight on Proficiency Testing (PT)

Information and Reminders to Support PT Success

PT Compliance Tip: Managing PT Schedules for Newly Added FOAs

Failure to incorporate newly added fields of accreditation (FOAs) into *routine semi-annual proficiency test (PT) schedule(s)* can lead to non-participation failures for new FOAs. Non-participation failures occur if more than seven months pass between studies.

Example: A laboratory applied in July to add a new method. The laboratory's most recent PT supporting the change-in-scope application was a quick response PT completed in February. The laboratory will receive a non-participation failure for the new FOAs if no PT is performed within seven months of the February study, even though it's possible that the change-in-scope procedure might still be in progress. (Refer to 2016 TNI V1M1 5.1.1.d, 5.2.1.2.a, 3.10, 3.11, and 5.2.3 for more information on the applicable PT requirements for this situation.)

Compliance Tip: After any initial PTs are performed for the addition of new FOAs, VELAP recommends immediately adding the new (or planned) FOAs into the next routine semiannual study to be done, even if it means the laboratory will do a study "sooner than 6 months" for the new FOA. For the example above, if the laboratory normally performed its PTs on an April/October schedule, VELAP recommends adding the new method to the April PT round following the February PT done for the change in scope.

[*Yes! In this example the April round occurred even before applying, but after the lab had started the internal process of preparing the application and PTs!*] Waiting until October in this example will cause non-participation failures to be assigned to the new FOAs (since February to October is greater than seven months), and adding a new PT schedule different from the rest of the laboratory's processes, with plans to maintain a separate ongoing PT schedule for one method, may be difficult to manage in the future without confusion or error.

PT Data Automations

The VELAP team is piloting automated uploads of Proficiency Testing (PT) data into our laboratory database. This process is code driven, using data in a format that includes the laboratory's EPA ID number along with TNI-based codes for the analyte, method, and matrix provided by the PT provider, based on the selections made by laboratories during the reporting process.

- BE SURE TO REPORT YOUR LABORATORY'S EPA ID NUMBER when you submit PT results to your PT provider.
- PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION WHEN SELECTING THE METHOD AND ASSOCIATED REVISION DETAIL FOR EACH PT RESULT, ensuring a match to what is reflected on your VELAP certificate.

During this pilot period, VELAP is working to ensure our coding is synchronized with TNI codes used by the PT providers. We may need to reach out to laboratories if we encounter discrepancies so that we can work to ensure accurate and efficient data transfer through this automated process. We look forward to implementing this efficiency to add both quality and cost savings to the accreditation process.

PT Reporting and MUR Compliance

Notification of the most recent Clean Water Act (CWA) Method Update Rules (MURs) of 2021 and 2023 was provided to laboratories in August 2024 and implemented in June 2025.

All VELAP scopes (field of accreditation listings) reflect the revision information for the Standard Method (SM) references, shown as a designation consistent with the currently accepted method per 40CFR136.3 (example: SM 2120 B-2021).

Many laboratories are still reporting proficiency testing (PT) results using outdated SM revisions.

Reporting PTs accurately is a regulatory requirement per 2016 TNI V1M1 4.3.3.



Success Stories

Do you have a SUCCESS STORY? The VELAP Team interacts with laboratories --- like yours --- every day and we know the answer that question is "Yes!" We know you have learned from your experiences and have some helpful ideas to share with other laboratories. Please consider sharing something with your laboratory community that you wish you'd known without having to learn by trial and error. Feel free to submit a brief article to VELAP for consideration for the next newsletter. We all benefit when we learn from and support each other. Email submissions to Lab_Cert@dgs.virginia.gov. Our team will be in touch with you before sharing your submissions.

Contact Us

Questions? Suggestions? Ideas?

Email: Lab_cert@dgs.virginia.gov
Phone: (804)648-4480 & request to speak to a member of the laboratory certification team