

**Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**  
**(1 VAC 30-46)**

**INFORMATION NOTICE CONCERNING**  
**DRINKING WATER CERTIFICATION and 1VAC30-46**

**Revised 7/28/2016**

The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) may certify laboratories that perform testing required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) under two different regulations. Laboratories that only perform drinking water testing must continue certification by complying with 1VAC30-41, *Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water*. Commercial environmental laboratories that include drinking water testing as part of their services may include certification for drinking water under 1VAC30-46, *Accreditation for Commercial Environmental Laboratories*.

An explanation of when a drinking water laboratory may become certified under 1VAC30-46 as well as the legal basis and standards for the drinking water laboratory certification program and the environmental laboratory certification program follows.

Virginia statutory law (§2.2-1104 A 4 of the *Code of Virginia*) authorizes DCLS to certify drinking water laboratories. The requirement to certify drinking water laboratories is a federal regulatory requirement under SDWA, which is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Office of Drinking Water of the Virginia Department of Health (ODW) is the Virginia agency that has been delegated primary authority (primacy) in the Commonwealth of Virginia to carry out the requirements of the SDWA. ODW receives the data that results from the analysis of drinking water samples. DCLS certifies drinking water laboratories to the standards for these laboratories set out by EPA: *Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water* (5th edition, January 2005) [the Manual].

Section 2.2-1105 of the *Code of Virginia* authorizes DCLS to certify environmental laboratories. This statute authorizes the certification of laboratories analyzing environmental samples. The data derived from these analyses are required to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality under its air quality, water quality, and waste management laws and regulations. DCLS certifies environmental laboratories to the standards for these laboratories developed by the NELAC Institute (TNI). DCLS is the TNI accrediting body for Virginia. A commercial environmental laboratory must meet the standards set out by TNI for environmental laboratories as incorporated by reference into 1VAC30-46.

These two certification programs were authorized for two separate purposes. Two different Virginia governmental agencies receive the data from these certified laboratories.

EPA's Drinking Water Program allows the TNI standards to be used in lieu of EPA's drinking water laboratory certification standards. EPA authorized this substitution in a letter dated October 1, 2002. This letter can be found in the Manual at Appendix F.