

Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
LABORATORY ACCREDITATION/CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS
(1VAC30-41, 1VAC30-45, and 1 VAC 30-46)
INFORMATION NOTICE CONCERNING
CLEAN WATER ACT METHODS UPDATE RULE (2017)
September 7, 2017

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a revised **Clean Water Act (CWA) Methods Update Rule (MUR)**. The MUR **adds** new methods which may be used for CWA compliance, **removes** many methods and **replaces** these methods with only the most current revision of the publisher's method, and **revises** the acceptable procedure for Method Detection Limit (MDL) determination. (See the EPA web pages, below, for full detail about the MUR's changes.)

Note that the revised MDL procedure will also be expected for chemistry testing under the **Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)**, consistent with the revised MDL method for drinking water chemistry testing when any of the following are applicable:

- 40 CFR 141.24 (f)(17)(i)(E)
- 40 CFR 141.24 (f)(17)(ii)(C)
- 40 CFR 141.24 (f)(20)
- 40 CFR 141.89 (a)(1)(iii)
- EPA *Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water*, Ch. IV Section 7.2.11

The EPA has a webpage dedicated to the 2017 CWA MUR Final Rule published in the Federal Register on 8/28/17:

<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/methods-update-rule-support-documents>

The EPA has a webpage dedicated to information on the revised Method Detection Limit (MDL) procedure:

<https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/procedures-detection-and-quantitation-documents>

The NELAC Institute (TNI) has scheduled webinars on the MDL procedure and on the process by which a laboratory implements change, such as the MUR. **These webinars are scheduled for September 12, 2017 and September 19, 2017, respectively.** They will also be available at a later date from the TNI website as pre-recorded "on demand" sessions. Information on these training sessions, and associated costs, may be found at <http://www.nelac-institute.org/>.

Laboratories are encouraged to regularly review the EPA and TNI web pages in the coming months and ***utilize available training materials*** during this time of transition to the updated regulatory requirements.

All laboratories holding accreditation or certification under 1VAC30-41, 1VAC30-45, or 1VAC30-46 should carefully review the materials provided by EPA to describe the MUR and revised MDL procedure and begin making necessary changes to become compliant.

It is acceptable to become compliant with the MUR immediately. A timeline designating the date by which full MUR compliance is required for Virginia's accredited and certified laboratories is forthcoming.