

Prior to September 2008, the Laboratory Certification & Registration (LabCert) Program used a 2-tier, "category-test" certification structure. In addition, there were basically two certifications, one for drinking water (test category 18), and the other to cover virtually all other matrices (all categories except 18). The department now certifies and registers laboratories by specific fields of accreditation. Accreditation is offered as either certification or registration.

With the 2008 revisions to NR 149, the program evolved to a 3-tier structure which begins with matrix. Accreditation matrices offered are Aqueous, Solid, and Drinking Water. The complete 3-tier structure for Aqueous and Solid matrices is "matrix—technology—analyte (or analyte group)". For Drinking Water, the structure is "Class—method—analyte (or analyte group)".

### **3-Tier System**

Tier 1: Matrix (Options= Aqueous, Solid, Drinking Water) Tier 2: Technology (Aqueous and Solid) or Method (Drinking Water) Tier 3: Analyte (or analyte group)

### **Aqueous and Solid Matrices**

Matrix Technology Analyte (or analyte group)

View a complete list of accreditations offered for the Aqueous matrix View a complete list of accreditations offered for the Solid matrix

### **Drinking Water Matrix**

Class Method Analyte (or analyte group)

View a complete list of accreditations offered for the Drinking Water matrix

### Classes

"Analytical class" means a set of analytes or analyte groups of similar behavior or composition, or a set of analytes or analyte groups regulated under the same provisions of the federal safe drinking water act, that is used to organize the third tier of certification or registration.

Largely, classes are used to facilitate review of certificates by end users. These classes allows the Program to "group" like parameters in a logical sequence for placement on a certificate. For drinking water, the class is also used as the basis for fee assessment instead of technology, as is used for aqueous and solid matrices).

# **Aqueous and Solid Matrices**

Laboratories analyzing aqueous and solid matrices may be certified or registered for analyte groups belonging to the analytical classes:

- General Chemistry
- Metals

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- Base, Neutral, and Acid Extractable Semivolatile Compounds, including but not limited to:
  - Aldehydes and Ketones
  - o Benzidines
  - Chlorinated Hydrocarbons
  - o Haloethers
  - Nitroaromatics and Cyclic Ketones

- o Nitrosamines
- o Nonhalogenated Organics
- o Phenols
- o Phthalate Esters
- Polynuclear Aromatic Hydrocarbons

- Explosive Residues
- Pesticides and their metabolites, including, but not limited to:
  - Acid (Herbicides)
  - o Nitrogen
  - o Carbamates & Urea
  - o Organochlorine

- Organophosphorus
- o Triazines
- Pesticides Not Otherwise
  - Specified (N.O.S.)

- Petroleum Hydrocarbons
- Polychlorinated Biphenyls (as Aroclors, and as Congeners)
- Polychlorinated Dibenzo-p-Dioxins and Furans
- Volatile Organic Compounds
- Waste Characteristic Extractions (Solid only)
- Waste Characteristic Assays (Solid only)

## **Drinking Water Matrix**

Laboratories analyzing drinking water may be certified for analytes or analyte groups belonging to the following analytical classes:

- Disinfection Byproducts
- Primary Inorganic Contaminants (Non-Metals)
- Primary Inorganic Contaminants (Metals)
- Secondary Contaminants (Non-Metals)
- Secondary Contaminants (Metals)
- Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOC) Dioxin
- SOC Organochlorine Pesticides
- SOC N/P Pesticides
- SOC Herbicides
- SOC Miscellaneous
- Trihalomethanes (THM)
- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC)