



Maine Department of Environmental Protection

LABORATORY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

1. All laboratories shall have, and provide access to on request, an acceptable, written Quality Assurance manual referencing current and historic methods and media for which analytic results are ultimately provided to Maine DEP.
2. Laboratories shall, on request, provide documented evidence of the use of approved methods and laboratory Standard Operating Procedures.
3. Any laboratory directly or indirectly providing analytic results that will be used by Maine DEP, agrees to being visited and/or inspected by Maine DEP, or its designee, on request.
4. Maine DEP may, at its discretion, require the use of one or more particular approved methods for a given analysis instead of other methods that are also approved. Maine DEP may also impose other conditions that exceed usual quality assurance requirements for a given method.
5. Beginning immediately, Maine DEP may require evidence of successful performance evaluation (proficiency testing, PT) at an agreed-upon frequency at the laboratory's expense when appropriate PT samples are available from a certified third party.
6. In circumstances when Maine DEP has reason to question the validity of analytic results provided by a laboratory, it may require that third party data validation be provided for subsequent report(s). All such questioned results will be presented to the entity procuring the laboratory services, and to the relevant certifying authority.
7. Beginning July 1, 2003, Maine DEP will begin to purchase laboratory services on the basis of a preference for laboratories holding National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation, Environmental Protection Agency certification, or Maine Certification, for a given method. Laboratories not holding such certification may be deemed competent and eligible on the basis of documented successful participation in a certified proficiency testing program; or after DEP review and approval of suitable project-specific laboratory quality assurance practice and documentation.
8. Failure to meet these *Standards*, or to correct practices that produce invalid data, will be considered in future purchase of laboratory services, and may be considered in regulatory decisions.