



Chapter 22: External Environmental Operations

Executive Policy 22-02

Resource Contact: Quality Assurance Officer **Established:** January 23, 1990

References: Chapter 173-50 WAC **Revisions Effective:** January 28, 2008
[Ecology Form 070-152](#)
[Ecology Form 070-152a](#)

Requiring Use of Accredited Environmental Laboratories

Purpose: To ensure all environmental data used by Ecology for decision making is generated by laboratories capable of providing accurate and legally defensible data, shown by their successful participation in Ecology's Lab Accreditation Program.

Application: This policy applies to all Ecology employees, represented and non-represented, whenever they order or oversee submitting environmental data to Ecology from a laboratory providing environmental analytical services, or whenever environmental data is submitted to Ecology through a contractual process.

1. Lab Accreditation Unit Oversees Ecology's Lab Accreditation Program.

The Lab Accreditation Unit of the Environmental Assessment (EA) Program is responsible for determining whether a laboratory meets accreditation standards established in Chapter 173-50 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Any laboratory, within or outside the state, may apply for accreditation. The Lab Accreditation Unit will maintain a list of currently accredited labs and the analytical parameters and methods for which each lab is accredited. Ecology employees and other interested parties may request this information from the Lab Accreditation Unit. It is also available by clicking [here](#) (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/documents/AllAccreditedLabListInternet.pdf>).

2. Managers Use Accredited Laboratories.

Ecology employees responsible for ordering or overseeing lab services or data submittal to Ecology through regulations, permits, or contractual agreements must ensure the laboratories performing these environmental analyses are accredited by the Lab Accreditation Unit for the specific analytical tests submitted to Ecology.

Applicable environmental data include, but are not limited to, results from analysis of water, sediment, sludge, air, soil, plant and animal tissue, and hazardous waste analyzed in a laboratory. Applicable analyses include chemical, physical, biological, microbiological, radiological, or other scientific determinations that provide recorded qualitative and/or quantitative results derived from laboratory analyses.

3. Exceptions Require Approval of the Environmental Assessment Program Manager.

The requirement to use accredited laboratories may be waived only by the EA Program Manager or the agency Deputy Director (use [Ecology Form 070-152, Request for Waiver to Required Use of Accredited Lab](#)). A program or section manager must consult with the agency Quality Assurance Officer, who reviews the request to deviate from this policy and makes a recommendation to the EA Program Manager, or Deputy Director if the EA Program Manager is not available. The EA Program Manager or Deputy Director informs the Quality Assurance Officer and requesting manager of the decision to either approve or disapprove the request. Waivers are not to be used by Ecology employees to circumvent the accreditation process or the intent of this policy.

Approved:


Jay J. Manning
Director

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