

567—83.6(455B) Laboratory recertification. Laboratories shall be recertified every two years after initial certification. Applications for recertification must be on forms provided by the department and must be postmarked at least 60 days prior to the renewal date. Applications shall be accompanied by the fee specified in 83.3(2). To be recertified, laboratories must meet the following requirements.

83.6(1) *Approved methodology required.* Laboratories must use the approved methodology for all analyses the results of which are to be submitted to the department. A laboratory may not analyze and report data from samples collected for an environmental program area until certified in that area.

83.6(2) *Performance evaluation (proficiency testing) samples required.* Certified laboratories must satisfactorily analyze PEs at least once every 12 months for each analyte by each method for which the laboratory wishes to retain certification unless a PE sample is not available for the particular analyte or method. Results must be submitted to Iowa department of natural resources and the state of Iowa hygienic laboratory, or as otherwise directed, along with a statement of the method used within 30 days of receipt from the provider. The laboratory must maintain records of all PE samples for a minimum of 5 years.

83.6(3) *Notification of major changes.* Laboratories must notify the department, in writing, within 15 days of major changes in essential personnel, equipment, laboratory location, or other major change which might alter or impair analytical capability. An example of a major change in essential personnel includes the loss or replacement of the laboratory supervisor, or a trained and experienced analyst is no longer available to analyze a particular parameter for which certification has been granted.

83.6(4) Site visits.

a. Certification of the State of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory. The department has designated the State of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) as its appraisal authority for laboratory certification. The SHL is responsible for attaining and maintaining laboratory certification for the SDWA program that is acceptable to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SHL quality assurance officer is responsible for the certification of SHL for those programs with no available EPA certification program, including wastewater, underground storage tank, solid waste, and contaminated site programs. The SHL quality assurance officer reports directly to the office of the SHL director and operates independently of all areas of the laboratory generating data to ensure complete objectivity in the evaluation of laboratory operations. The quality assurance officer will schedule a biennial on-site inspection of the SHL and review results for acceptable performance. Inadequacies or unacceptable performance shall be reported by the quality assurance officer to the SHL and the department for correction. The department shall be notified if corrective action is not taken.

b. On-site visits. Laboratories must consent to a periodic site visit by the department or its designee, at least every two years. However, an on-site visit may be conducted more frequently if the laboratory undergoes a major change which may alter or impair analytical capability, fails a PE sample analysis, or if the department questions an aspect of data submitted which is not satisfactorily resolved.

83.6(5) *Period of validity.* Certification shall be valid for a period not to exceed two years from the date of issuance, except in the case of reciprocal certification of an out-of-state laboratory. Reciprocal certification shall be valid for a period equal to that of the resident state in which the laboratory is certified, but shall not exceed two years. Certification shall remain in effect provided a laboratory has submitted a timely and complete application, until certification is either renewed or revoked.

83.6(6) *Reporting requirements.* Laboratories may not analyze or report sample results for any analyte, analytical series, or environmental program area until the initial certification status of “certified” or “temporary” has been granted by the department. Any data generated before certification status is granted will be considered invalid for compliance purposes. A laboratory with “provisional” status may analyze and report analyses for compliance purposes.

A certified laboratory may contract analyses to another certified laboratory. The responsibility lies with the primary certified laboratory contracting for services to verify that the secondary contracting laboratory is certified by the department and to ensure that reporting requirements and deadlines are met.

a. Water supply program.