



Environmental Protection Agency

Survey Requirements

The Laboratory Certification Section conducts two types of surveys: announced (scheduled with laboratory) and unannounced (not scheduled with laboratory). The surveys are to confirm the information provided to the Laboratory Certification Section by the laboratory on its application, review and evaluate each analyst and review records maintained by the laboratory.

The following personnel are required to be available during an announced survey:

- All certified personnel seeking renewal or initial certification.
- All personnel seeking initial operational certification.
- A majority of the operationally certified personnel seeking renewal certification.
 - Exemption of operationally certified personnel may not exceed more than one certification cycle.

Surveys are conducted during regular business hours. Required laboratory records must be in the laboratory, clearly labeled and easily accessible. Copies of the records must be made available upon request by the certification officer.

It is recommended that at least two people be designated as responsible for allowing access to the laboratory (e.g., city hall employee, plant operator, police officer, etc.). Telephone numbers of the responsible personnel must be posted in a location visible outside the facility to allow access for certification officers.

A. Typical Agenda

During the survey, the laboratory must demonstrate acceptable levels of performance including, but not limited to:

- Proficiency in appropriate analytical procedures, methodologies, techniques, and use of equipment by analysts participating in the survey.
- Analysis of samples provided at the time of the survey.
- For laboratories seeking initial certification, demonstration of the laboratory's plan for maintaining records, documenting:
 - All appropriate laboratory equipment is operational and is within acceptable limits.
 - Sufficient practice analyses have been conducted by each analyst participating in the survey to demonstrate the analyst's proficiency.

- An acceptable quality assurance plan has been documented and implemented.
- The analyses, quality control (QC) procedures and preparation of standards were correctly performed by all certified analysts during the survey.
- The analyses were correctly performed by each operationally certified analyst participating in the survey.
- Acceptable method detection limit studies have been completed for each method and instrument.
- Documentation of acceptable proficiency study results.
- Conformance to the laboratory plan as approved by the Director.
- Conformance by the laboratory to the analytical reporting limits identified in rule 3745-89-03 of the OAC.
- Correction of violations noted in previous survey reports.

B. Review of Survey Findings

At the completion of the survey the certification officer will meet with the appropriate laboratory representatives to review the findings of the survey.

C. Survey Report

A survey report will be issued to the applicant by the Laboratory Certification Section within forty-five (45) days of a survey. The survey report will indicate the acceptability of the applicant's performance during the survey and will state recommendations and violations required to be corrected prior to certification of the laboratory. If the survey report includes violations, the Director of Ohio EPA may deny, suspend or revoke certification in accordance with rule 3745-89-06 of the OAC.

In accordance with rule 3745-89-01 of the OAC:

- A recommendation is something that needs to be corrected or may lead to a violation.
- A violation is non-compliance with laboratory certification requirements, which cover the physical facility, testing equipment, analytical method, reporting and all QC requirements whether they are in the method, the laboratory certification manuals or the OAC.
 - Laboratories are generally given 30 days to respond to violations identified during the survey.