

**NEW YORK**  
state department of  
**HEALTH**

Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Sue Kelly  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

June 28, 2011

Dear NYS ELAP - Accredited Laboratory:

The NELAC Institute (TNI) 2009 Standard was voted for adoption in September 2009, with an implementation date of July 1, 2011. It was decided that each state would either use the 2003 NELAC or 2009 TNI Standards as part of a national “rolling implementation.”

On June 10, 2011, the NELAP Accreditation Council voted to clarify the meaning of “rolling implementation” to be the following: *“Each state agrees to recognizing accreditations issued in compliance with the 2003 NELAC standard or the 2009 TNI Standard for a period of at least two years to allow all Accreditation Bodies to adopt the standard into laws or regulations.”*

***At this time, NYS will continue to assess all quality system requirements and accept Proficiency Testing (PT) scores based on the 2003 NELAC Standard.*** Therefore, all laboratories must continue to evaluate and report PT values to the recognized PT Reporting Limits (PTRL) as you have done in the past. Reporting values to a Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) or qualified with a ‘less than’ (<) symbol when the value is greater than the PTRL, will result in an unacceptable score.

As many of you know, the current NYS PT Study for Non-Potable Water, Solid and Hazardous Waste, and Air and Emissions in Chemistry (Study # 345), is due to ship on July 12<sup>th</sup> to all laboratories currently on record to receive these samples. As a result of this rolling implementation, the number of laboratories that will need to participate in this NYS study is uncertain. Therefore, we are shipping a PT sample to each laboratory holding applicable NYS accreditation (both primary and secondary) to ensure you receive a PT that can be scored in a manner consistent with NYS accreditation requirements. However, if you are scheduled to receive a commercial PT for this study, and continue to report using the PTRL, this will have no impact on NYS’s ability to accept this PT result.

If you have any questions, please contact ELAP at the New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center, and PO BOX 509, Albany, NY 12201-0509; by phone at (518) 485-5570; by facsimile at (518) 485-5568, or by email at [elap@health.state.ny.us](mailto:elap@health.state.ny.us).

Sincerely,



Stephanie E. Ostrowski, Ph.D.  
Environmental Laboratory Approval Program, Director