

Dear Valued Customer,

As you may or may not be aware, the 2009 TNI (The NELAC Institute) Standards for PT studies became effective for NELAC compliant PT studies that start after July 1, 2011. TNI standards are considered the de facto national standards for U.S. run environmental PT programs and this change will impact laboratories in most states.

How will your lab be impacted?

The good news is that Wibby Environmental's staff has been working with accrediting authorities across the country to make sure this change goes smoothly. As a result we are pleased to let you know that these changes should dramatically improve the ease with which you report PT data as well as provide you with a more equitable evaluation of your results.

What you will need to do

The change should be simple for you and more in line with how you report data for routine environmental samples. Starting with our July PT studies, if you detect an analyte in a PT standard above your normal laboratory reporting limit, report that result. If your result is less than your normal reporting limit, report "<" + your normal reporting limit (e.g., < 10, < 5.00, etc...). That is it!

What if my reporting limit is greater than the PTRL?

TNI's PT Field of Testing tables contain a Proficiency Test Reporting Limit (PTRL) for each analyte. If your lab's reporting limit is less than or equal to the PTRL, you are all set. Simply report down to your reporting limit. If your reporting limit is greater than the PTRL, please be aware that some accrediting authorities may reject your PT data or require additional data on the method you are using. For example, New York has stated that they will reject PT data if the lab reports a non-detect at a level greater than the PTRL. Pennsylvania has issued a letter that warns "that if a laboratory chooses to report results with less than (<) symbols" they will "request the analytical data and calibration records to ensure that these results were reported correctly and appropriately" and that they "will also require proof that the laboratory does not report client samples below these LOQ values". Copies of the letters issued by New York and Pennsylvania are posted at www.wibby.com.

If you have any questions on the transition to the 2009 TNI standard, please do not hesitate to contact us. As always, we appreciate your business.

Sincerely,

The Wibby Environmental Team

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