

3.17 DRINKING WATER LABORATORY CERTIFICATION

- *Question: Will my laboratory analyze drinking water samples for public water systems or to satisfy any legal requirements?*

Why do I need this approval?

This certification assures the reliability of the *Safe Drinking Water Act* compliance samples analyzed by state certified laboratories. Providing high quality data is critical to evaluating public water systems, and is the primary means of evaluating the safety of the drinking water supplies.

The certification is for both In-State and Out-of-State laboratories that analyze drinking water samples for public water systems in Maryland. Laboratories may be either government-owned or privately owned.

What laws or regulations give MDE the legal authority to issue this approval?

FEDERAL:

[*Safe Drinking Water Act;*](#)
[*40 Code of Federal Regulations 141.28*](#)

STATE:

[*COMAR 26.08.05;*](#)
[*Environment Article, Title 9 Subtitle 10*](#)

What is the process to get this approval?

A laboratory must submit an application package to the Department, specifically known as the Laboratory Certification Program (LCP).

New laboratories must pass performance testing for each parameter, have approved standard operating procedures and quality assurance procedures. In addition, an on-site evaluation must be completed by the Department or an approved third party agency for In-State laboratories.

An Out-of-State laboratory that is requesting certification in Maryland must hold certification in their home state or from EPA in order to receive reciprocal certification.

Visit the [LCP Homepage](#) or contact the LCP Manager for more information.

Are there any other requirements?

Laboratory personnel must meet the minimum education and experience requirements established under federal and State regulations and guidelines.

How long should I expect it to take to get this approval once I submit a complete application?

The timeframe for certification is dependent on the complexity of the laboratory services. Generally certification is determined within three to six months of the on-site assessment. The on-site assessment is not scheduled until the other requirements are satisfied.

Once I get this approval, how long will it last?

Maximum of three years. The certification must be renewed annually.

How much will this approval cost?

Fees are due annually. The fees are determined based on the laboratory's In-State/Out-of-State status, along with the number of approved parameters. There is no fee for laboratories owned by local government agencies.

Do I need to know any additional information?

More information on the LCP can be obtained at our program's homepage:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Permits/WaterManagementPermits/Pages/waterpermits.aspx>

Who do I contact with additional questions?

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