

# Rule Adoption Notice

## Accreditation of Environmental Laboratories, Chapter 173-50 WAC

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) is amending the laboratory accreditation rule under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-50. The proposed amendments were published in the Washington State Register on March 24, 2010.

### What is Chapter 173-50 WAC?

Chapter 173-50 WAC describes the implementation of the State Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program including:

- Procedures for applying for accreditation.
- Requirements for maintaining accreditation.
- Accreditation fee schedule.

### Summary of the rule changes adopted on August 9, 2010

The amended rule is designed to raise fees to cover Ecology's costs for carrying out the state lab accreditation program. The last time Ecology changed its fees was in 2002. In addition, a recent reduction in accreditation staffing required Ecology to reduce its frequency of on-site audits at environmental laboratories, except for those labs which analyze drinking water.

### Response to comments

Ecology's response to comments received during the public comment period is now available at [www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1003051.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1003051.html).

### Whom does this rule affect?

This rule affects all laboratories that report environmental data to Ecology or drinking water data to the state Department of Health. It also indirectly affects regulated parties who use the services of accredited laboratories.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

Accreditation of environmental laboratories ensures that labs are capable of providing accurate and defensible analytical data to Ecology, the state Department of Health, and other local, state, and tribal agencies. These agencies use this data to help protect public health and the environment.

State drinking water and environmental permits require that accredited labs are used.

Ecology administers an accreditation program for about 460 environmental laboratories, including labs that analyze drinking water.

#### Important dates:

- Adopted August 9, 2010
- Effective September 9, 2010

#### Contact information:

Stewart Lombard  
(360) 895-6148  
[stew.lombard@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:stew.lombard@ecy.wa.gov)

#### Special accommodations:

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Environmental Assessment Program at 360-407-6764. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

**More information**

Ecology maintains a web page with information on the Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, including the rule revision, at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/lab-accrreditation.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/lab-accrreditation.html)

The amended rule and associated documents are available on the Internet at [www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac17350/0909.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/wac17350/0909.html)

This Rule Adoption Notice is available on the Internet at [www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1003050.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1003050.html)

To get updates on Ecology's rule-making activities, sign-up for the **WAC Track** e-mail list. Go to: [www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html).

**Appeal procedures**

This adoption can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedure Act (RCW 34.05.330). For additional information about appealing this adoption please contact Jerry Thielen, Ecology's Regulatory Affairs Manager at (360) 407-7551 or at [jthi461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jthi461@ecy.wa.gov).

