



## Interim Policy for Lab Accreditation Fees

**Policy Effective:** July 1, 2025

Effective until June 30, 2026, or until Ecology revises Chapter 173-50-190 WAC.

**Program Name:** Environmental Assessment Program

**Date Issued:** July 21, 2025

**Date(s) of Substantive Updates:** Not applicable at this time

**References:** RCW 43.21A.230, WAC 173-50-190

### **Purpose:**

This interim policy clarifies how the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) may calculate fees associated with Lab Accreditation fees, as required in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). This is to ensure fees align with the temporary lower costs of administering the Washington Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

### **Application:**

This policy applies to Ecology staff who administer the Lab Accreditation Fee.

### **How does Ecology calculate the Lab Accreditation Fee?**

- [WAC 173-50-190](#):<sup>1</sup> establishes fees for Lab Accreditation and directs Ecology to charge fees based on the parameters requested. Fees established under Chapter 173-50 WAC are to cover the costs of administering the Washington Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Due to a 40.9% reduction in program costs, Ecology staff may apply a total fee of 59.1% of the fee in Table 3, instead of the full fee.
- Ecology staff will continue to assess fees for labs accredited through recognition of accreditation by a third party, as outlined in WAC 173-50-190(5) and (10). Additionally, labs that receive technical assistance from Ecology may not be eligible for a fee reduction, since such labs are incurring Ecology costs for the technical assistance.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-50-190>

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- Exercising our best professional judgement, Ecology staff may determine the appropriate fee. Ecology staff will work closely with labs to ensure we calculate fees correctly on a case-by-case basis.

### **Will this policy affect Ecology's calculations of Lab Accreditation fees?**

We determine the fee based on the parameters for which the lab is requesting accreditation.

Under this policy, Ecology staff may apply a total fee of 59.1% of the fee in Table 3, instead of the full fee, due to a 40.9% reduction in program costs.

Ecology staff will continue to assess fees for labs accredited through recognition of accreditation by a third party, as outlined in WAC 173-50-190(5) and (10). Also, labs that receive technical assistance from Ecology may not be eligible for a fee reduction, since such labs are incurring Ecology costs for the technical assistance.

Exercising our best professional judgement, Ecology staff may determine the appropriate fee. Ecology staff will work closely with labs to ensure we calculate fees correctly on a case-by-case basis.

### **What are the next steps?**

We plan to update the rule to clarify the Lab Accreditation fee calculation in WAC 173-50-190. We will notify the public and stakeholders when we start the rulemaking process. Join our email list to receive updates.

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