

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Deidre S. Gifford, MD, MPH  
Acting Commissioner

Ned Lamont  
Governor  
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Lt. Governor

Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch

### EHDW Circular Letter 2021-15

To: All Connecticut In-state Certified Laboratories

From: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief, EHDW

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori J. Mathieu '21".

Date: February 19, 2021

Re: Proficiency Tests

The Environmental Laboratory Certification Program (ELCP) annually requires proficiency test (PT) samples for the drinking water, wastewater and solid waste/soil matrices. The drinking water regulations require laboratories to analyze a Proficiency Test (PT) samples for each drinking water method that a laboratory performs. The non-potable water/wastewater and solid waste/soil categories, laboratories need only to analyze one matrix specific PT sample for each analyte listed in the spreadsheet for which the laboratory is approved. Also, analytes may be combined as appropriate by the analytical method (e.g. BNA's may be analyzed by Method 625 or Method 8270 for non-potable water/wastewater). Note that a microbiology PT sample is required for both drinking water and non-potable water/wastewater approval, this includes **all** microbiology methods and media. Make sure to review your graded Proficiency Test reports once they are received from the provider, do not wait until ELCP contacts you for PT failures.

Laboratories must use methods pertinent to the category (e.g. drinking water methods for the drinking water PT sample, wastewater or SW-846 methods for the non-potable water/wastewater PT sample, SW-846 methods for the solid waste/soil PT sample). The program routinely receives PT results with incorrect methods or references cited. Laboratories are required to specify which method they are using by the reference number (e.g. SW8260B, EPA 624, etc.). Approved methods can be found at the following EPA websites:

Drinking Water Methods: <https://www.epa.gov/dwanalyticalmethods>

Wastewater Methods: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods>

Solid Waste/Soil Methods: <https://www.epa.gov/hw-sw846/sw-846-compendium>

Please feel free to contact Dawn Shaban at [Dawn.Shaban@ct.gov](mailto:Dawn.Shaban@ct.gov) or Shinu Zachariah at [Shinu.Zachariah@ct.gov](mailto:Shinu.Zachariah@ct.gov) with any questions or concerns.

cc: Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron MPH, LNHA, Department of Public Health



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