



Issuance of Laboratory Certification

A. Types of Certifications

Based on the results of the on-site survey Laboratory Certification Section staff provides a recommendation to the Director concerning the certification status of the laboratory. Categories are as follows:

1. Certified

A certificate will be issued by Ohio EPA for the analytical method(s) identified on the application for certification. Certificates are valid for a time period not to exceed three years from the date of issuance.

Analysts are only certified at a laboratory for methods noted on their certificate. An analyst must undergo an on-site survey to add additional certified methods for drinking water analysis. Analysts must be certified during an on-site survey or obtain interim authorization prior to analyzing drinking water samples for reporting purposes.

2. Provisionally Certified

Provisional certification is limited to laboratories which have been previously certified for analytical method(s) identified in the application. Provisional certification may be granted to a laboratory with violations noted on the survey report. The provisional certification will remain in effect during the period of time between the completion of the on-site survey and the deadline allotted for the lab to respond to the violations listed on the survey report. The laboratory will be certified for the analytical method(s) by the Laboratory Certification Section if the laboratory provides an acceptable response addressing the violations by the deadline. Failure to respond or to provide an acceptable response will result in a loss of certification. Provisional certification is not available to laboratories requesting initial certification.

3. Not Certified

The laboratory, personnel or equipment did not meet minimum requirements for drinking water analysis certification as detailed in Chapter 3745-89 of the OAC.

B. Certificates

Certificates are nontransferable. It is the laboratory's responsibility to notify the Laboratory Certification Section of all personnel changes. All certificates remain the property of Ohio EPA and must be returned to the Laboratory Certification Section upon analyst separation from the certified laboratory.

Certification will remain in effect for a laboratory changing facility locations if the certified personnel are retained and the new laboratory plans are approved in writing by Ohio EPA prior to the move.

C. Denial, Suspension or Revocation of Laboratory Certification

In accordance with rule 3745-89-06 of the OAC, the Director may deny, suspend or revoke a laboratory certification upon finding:

- The laboratory or any laboratory personnel has falsified laboratory data.
- The laboratory failed to meet laboratory certification requirements as described in rules 3745-89-03 to 3745-89-05 of the OAC.
- The laboratory fails to meet the reporting requirements in rule 3745-89-08 of the OAC.
- The laboratory has submitted unacceptable data.
- The laboratory has submitted a proficiency test sample to another laboratory for analysis and reported the data as its own.
- Analysis of a drinking water PT sample for purposes of retaining a valid laboratory certification is performed by a person who does not hold a valid certification for the laboratory, or the analyte reported.
- The laboratory or any laboratory personnel is performing, reporting, or failing to report drinking water analyses in such a manner as to threaten public health or welfare.
- The laboratory failed to satisfactorily correct violations.
- Failure to maintain at least one certified analyst for each method.
- Any facility changes to approved laboratory plans without prior Ohio EPA approval.

Should failure to follow guidelines result in loss of certification for a period of time, it will be the laboratory's responsibility to have the required analysis completed by a certified laboratory during that time.