



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF LABORATORIES

April 27, 2012

Re: PA-DEP LAP Extends the Approvals of All Distillation Variances

Dear Sir or Madam:

On April 19, 2012, the USEPA announced the pre-publication of the Method Update Rule ("MUR") for 40 CFR, Part 136, relating to the Clean Water Act and NPDES compliance testing. One of the changes included the footnote for the distillation of ammonia and fluoride samples. Due to this change, the Department of Environmental Protection's Laboratory Accreditation Program ("Department") must amend its own procedures for evaluation of distillation variance applications.

**Effective immediately:
The Department hereby extends the approval of all
Distillation Variances until further notice.**

For those facilities that the Department granted distillation variance approvals, you may continue to operate with an expired approval until further notice. The Department will amend the "Distillation Variance Procedure (Rev. 10/2007)" to comply with the MUR. Specifically, this means that the Department will not evaluate any distillation variance applications until it amends its own procedure.

When the Department finalizes the amendments to the distillation variance procedure, the Department will:

1. Publish the updated "Distillation Variance Procedure" to the Laboratory Accreditation Program's website.
2. Notify the facilities whose current distillation variance has expired of the new procedure.
3. Allow all facilities with expired distillation variance approvals to comply with the new "Distillation Variance Procedure" within 120 days.

All questions or concerns regarding the extension of the Department's distillation variance approvals should be directed to your accreditation officer or may be directed to eplabaccredit@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

Aaren S. Alger, Chief
Laboratory Accreditation Program
Department of Environmental Protection
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania