
Law and Definitions

Georgia state law (O.C.G.A. § 12-2-9) requires all commercial environmental laboratories submitting data to the Environmental Protection Division for regulatory purposes to be **approved or accredited** as specified in EPD's rules and regulations. Additionally, any person submitting data **prepared** by a commercial analytical laboratory to the Division for regulatory purposes shall stipulate that the laboratory is **approved or accredited**.

The responsibility for submitting acceptable analytical data lies with the person subject to regulation under Georgia's environmental statutes, permits and rules.

Commercial Environmental Laboratory means:

Any laboratory which provides analyses of environmental samples on a fee or contract basis. A laboratory operated by the State, a city, county, local authority, or an industrial facility is typically not considered a commercial environmental laboratory.

Approved means:

The acceptance of a commercial laboratory by accreditation or certification. The approval is valid for the time period and tests included in the scope of accreditation.

Data submitted for regulatory purposes means:

Any data which is to be submitted to the Environmental Protection Division, or required to be retained on site for review by EPD, except for:

- Initial Hazardous Site Response Act (HSRA) data;
- Data obtained from *in-situ* analysis;
- Turbidity data for construction stormwater permits;
- Tests for which accreditation or certification are unavailable.

Effective Date: **July 01 2001**

Benefits

- C Improve credibility and acceptability of data to customers and regulators.
- C Replace redundant and often contradictory inspections with comprehensive standardized inspections.
- C Enhance the laboratory's ability to compete in Georgia, nationally, and internationally.

Accrediting Authorities

Commercial environmental laboratories may obtain accreditation from the any of the following authorities:

These states are acceptable as accrediting authorities:
National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program conducted by The NELAC Institute
CA, FL, IL, KS, LA, NH, NJ, NY, OR, PA, TX, UT
Internet: www.nelac-institute.org

These 3rd party accrediting authorities are acceptable:
American Association for Laboratory Accreditation
Telephone: (301) 644-3248
Internet: www.a2la.org
American Industrial Hygiene Association
Telephone: (703) 849-8888
Internet: www.aiha.org
Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories
Telephone: (613) 233-5300
Internet: www.caeal.ca
NSF International Inc
Telephone: (800) NSF-MARK
Internet: www.nsf.org
Quality Associates International LLC
Telephone: (800) 962-0600
Internet: www.qai-online.com

ISO 17025 is the basis for accrediting laboratories.

Stipulations

Any person submitting data to EPD prepared by a commercial analytical laboratory shall stipulate that the laboratory is approved (Chapter 391-3-26-.05). The stipulation shall include:

- C Name of the accrediting agency
- C Scope of accreditation relevant to the data submitted (e.g., air, drinking water, non-potable water, solid/hazardous waste)
- C Accreditation number or identifier issued by the accreditation agency
- C Effective (or issued) date of accreditation
- C Expiration date of accreditation

Example Stipulation

Laboratory:	<i>Georgia Testing Lab, Inc.</i>
Accreditor:	<i>NELAP Accrediting Authority, A2LA, AIHA, CAEAL, NSF, QAI</i>
Accreditation ID:	<i>123.01</i>
Scope:	<i>Non-potable water</i>
Effective:	<i>Oct 06 2003</i>
Expires:	<i>Oct 31 2005</i>

This stipulation shall be on each report or may be submitted in a separate document with the first report of the calendar year.

Drinking Water Analysis

Commercial environmental laboratories approved under this Rule who seek to analyze drinking water samples for compliance with the Georgia Rules for Safe Drinking Water should contact the Georgia EPD Drinking Water Program. A completed application package as well as proficiency testing results are required.

Contacts for More Information

Your EPD permitting or compliance contact is a good place to start if you have questions about reporting requirements. For additional information on this rule and how laboratory accreditation may impact you, please contact the following Georgia Environmental Protection Division staff:

EPD Coordination (Division-wide)

Ernest U. Earn, (404) 675-1619
Ted V. Jackson, (404) 656-3204

Air Protection Branch

Richard Taylor, (404) 363-7141

Hazardous Waste Management Branch

David Reuland, (404) 657-8600

Program Coordination Branch (District Offices)

Ted V. Jackson, (404) 656-3204

Program Coordination Branch (Laboratory)

Phillip Mitchell, (404) 206-5269

Land Protection Branch (Solid Waste)

June Li, (404) 362-6400

Watershed Protection Branch (Wastewater)

Ernest U. Earn, (404) 675-1619

Watershed Protection Branch (Drinking Water)

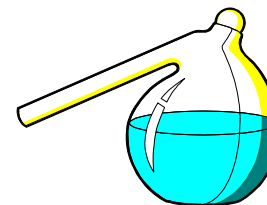
Loretta Lambert, (404) 651-5164

✓ Printed on recycled paper

Georgia Environmental Protection Division

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE Suite 1152 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334
Phone: (404) 656-4713
Fax: (404) 651-5778
Web: www.gaepd.org

Georgia Rules for Commercial Environmental Laboratory Accreditation



*Quality
Analytical Data*

*to Support
Environmental
Protection*



**Georgia Dept of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division**
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE
Suite 1152 East Floyd Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334-9000

Revised June 2007