

State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

LABORATORY NITRATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Division of Drinking Water recently announced information on revisions to California drinking water standards for nitrate in California Code of Regulations Sections 64431 (MCL), 64432 (DLR), and 64482 (Health Information). The revisions specify that nitrate laboratory results must be expressed as nitrate as nitrogen. As a result, the MCL for nitrate is now expressed as “10 mg/L (as nitrogen)” instead of “45 mg/L (as nitrate)”. Please note, the MCL level has **not changed** and is **not more stringent**. The revisions aim to reduce confusion and ease reporting of results to U.S. EPA.

The regulatory revisions will affect laboratories accredited by California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) who have accreditation for the following methods as part of Fields of Testing 102, Inorganic Chemistry of Drinking Water:

- EPA 300.0
- EPA 300.1
- EPA 353.2
- SM 4110 B
- SM 4500-NO3 D
- SM 4500-NO3 E
- SM 4500-NO3 F
- Hach 10206

All of the above methods require results to be reported as nitrate as nitrogen. Therefore, if analyzing samples according to the above methods, your results will be reported in the appropriate units and no further action is required.

Effective January 1, 2016, your laboratory must ensure results are reported in conformance with the above regulatory revisions. A subsequent announcement from the Division of Drinking Water will inform laboratories of the STORET code used by all laboratories for these new reporting requirements.

Please note, the Division of Drinking Water will continue to accept analytical results with either reporting units until the end of 2015.

As an ELAP accredited laboratory, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 100886, laboratories are required to report full and complete results, in appropriate units, as required by regulation.

For the official announcements, please visit the Division of Drinking Water website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/programs/ or the California ELAP website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap