LABORATORY CERTIFICATION UPDATES – 6/09/20

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, physical on-site laboratory evaluations are currently being deferred until a later date - to be determined. To ensure that laboratory certifications are not jeopardized by this deferment, we are requesting that sufficient data and records be submitted to enable a desk audit to be performed. A letter will be sent to laboratories with affected certificates requesting that data be sent for review. Upon receipt and completed review of these data, the laboratory will then be contacted to set up a video evaluation. This video evaluation will be primarily to ensure the traceability of the data records reviewed with the physical equipment and reagents in the laboratory.

Current applications that can be used for video evaluations are: Facetime (Apple), Microsoft Teams, and Skype. The acceptability of other possible applications will be determined as needed. While video technology will be used during the current COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate resumption of physical on-site evaluations once it becomes safe to do so.

Laboratories certified using the desk audits and video evaluations during this time period may notice a shorter than normal certification period. It is expected that the desk audit review of your laboratory’s data and records during this time will help to minimize the amount of time needed to perform the next required on-site evaluation.

Any data requested should be submitted on a CD or flash drive to the address below.

Office of Environmental Laboratory Certification
S.C. DHEC
2600 Bull St.
Columbia, SC 29201

We understand that these are difficult times. While the content of this memo was current at the time it was prepared, please note that due to the fluidity of this COVID-19 pandemic, we will make changes/updates as required by the Agency and/or the State of South Carolina.

We thank you for your patience and understanding during these trying times. If you have questions, please contact us at 803-896-0970, or by email at: LabCertHelp@dhec.sc.gov