



---

## NELAC STANDARDS

---

The NELAC standards are contained within six chapters. A brief summary of each chapter is provided (see below). Every year the NELAC standards are reviewed. Modifications are made to correct inconsistencies, implement improvements, incorporate new concepts, adapt to new regulations, adapt to new international standards, etc. At the Annual Meeting the NELAC voting members approve any changes. The newly approved standards are then published on the NELAC website.

The 1999 and 2000 versions of the NELAC standards are available at [1999 Standards](#) and [2000 Standards](#). Note that the 1999 standards are being used to evaluate the first group of laboratories. (The list of NELAC accredited laboratories will be announced in January 2001.)

**Chapter 1: Program Policy and Structure.** This chapter provides an overview of the history, purpose and objectives of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC), the organizational structure and function of NELAC, and the roles of the various participants.

**Chapter 2: Proficiency Testing .** This chapter and the associated appendices define the major participation organizations (oversight body, providers, participants, etc.), components and requirements of the NELAC Proficiency Testing (PT) program.

**Chapter 3: On-site Assessment .** This chapter describes the policies, qualifications and protocols required of the on-site assessment team in judging the laboratory's compliance with established accreditation standards.

**Chapter 4: Accreditation Process.** This chapter outlines the policies, procedures, and process to grant, deny, suspend, or revoke a laboratory's accreditation based on criteria for personnel qualifications, the on-site assessment, proficiency testing results, and quality assurance/quality control.

**Chapter 5: Quality Systems .** This chapter contains the general requirements that a laboratory must follow to demonstrate that it can be recognized as competent to carry out specific environmental tests.

**Chapter 6: Accrediting Authority .** This chapter defines the process and criteria that will be used by NELAC to determine whether an accrediting authority (state, or federal agency) meets the standards required for recognition.