567—83.2(455B) Definitions.

"Batch" means environmental samples that are prepared, analyzed, or both together with the same process and personnel, using the same lot(s) of reagents. A preparation batch is composed of 1 to 20 environmental samples of the same quality systems matrix (water supply, wastewater, etc.), meeting the above-mentioned criteria and with a maximum time between the start of processing of the first and last sample in the batch to be 24 hours. An analytical batch is composed of prepared environmental samples (extracts, digestates or concentrates) that are analyzed together as a group. An analytical batch can include prepared samples originating from various quality system matrices and can exceed 20 samples. If there is a conflict between this definition and the requirements of an approved method, the more stringent requirements shall apply.

"Certified" means a laboratory demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department its ability to consistently produce valid data within the acceptance limits as specified within the department's requirements for certification and meets the minimum requirements of this chapter and all applicable regulatory requirements. A laboratory may be certified for an analyte, an analytical series, or an environmental program area, except in the UST program area, where certification for individual analytes is not allowed.

"Corrective action report" or *"CAR"* means documentation that demonstrates a laboratory has satisfied cited deficiencies or deviations.

"Critical staff" means an analyst who is the only person at a laboratory performing a particular function or analysis (no backup analyst).

"Demonstration of capability" or *"DOC"* means a procedure used to demonstrate the ability of an analyst to generate acceptable accuracy for each method the analyst performs.

"Discharge monitoring report-quality assurance" or *"DMRQA"* means an effluent performance test study regulated by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program and administered by the EPA.

"Environmental program area" means the water supply (drinking water) program, underground storage tank program, wastewater program (nonpotable water), or solid waste and contaminated site program pursuant to 83.1(3).

"Essential staff" means an analyst who is primarily responsible for a particular analysis/program and handles the administrative or technical tasks associated with the analysis or program.

"Holding time" means the maximum time a sample may be held before beginning of an associated analysis.

"Level of quantitation" or *"LOQ"* means the analyte concentration that produces a signal sufficiently stronger than the blank, such that it can be detected with a specified level of uncertainty during routine operations.

"Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Environmental Samples for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources" is incorporated by reference in this chapter.

Chapter 1 pertains to certification of laboratories analyzing samples of drinking water and incorporates by reference the Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water, 5th edition, January 2005, EPA document 815-R-05-004; Supplement 1, June 2008, EPA 815-F-08-006; and Supplement 2, November 2012, EPA 815-F-12-006.

Chapter 2 (2020), pertains to laboratories analyzing samples for the UST program.

Chapter 3 (2017), pertains to laboratories analyzing samples for wastewater and sewage sludge disposal programs.

Chapter 4 (2017), pertains to laboratories analyzing samples for the solid waste and contaminated site programs.

"Method detection limit" or *"MDL"* means the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99 percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero and is determined from analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte.

"National environmental laboratory accreditation program" or *"NELAP"* means the third-party accreditation program that is managed by the NELAC Institute (TNI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and that is based on consensus standards representing the best professional practices for laboratories.

"Quality assurance plan" or *"QA plan"* means a document that describes the key elements of laboratory functions that provide quality testing results to the client. The key elements include but are not limited to a description of the laboratory organizational structure and lines of responsibility; sampling requirements, procedures, and locations; sampling handling procedures; calibration procedures and frequencies; procedures for data reduction, validation, and reporting; quality control procedures including type, frequency and acceptance criteria; procedure(s) used to determine data precision and accuracy; corrective action contingencies; and preventative maintenance and schedules.

"Proficiency test sample" or *"PT sample"* means a reference sample provided to a laboratory for the purpose of demonstrating that a laboratory can successfully analyze the sample within limits of performance specified by the department. The true value of the concentration of the reference material is unknown to the laboratory at the time of analysis.

"Provisional certification" or *"provisional status"* means a laboratory has deficiencies, which must be corrected within the specified time frames in 83.6(3)*"d,"* but demonstrates to the satisfaction of the department its ability to consistently produce valid data within the acceptance limits as specified within the department's certification requirements.

"Reporting limit" means a value established by the laboratory that is at or above the LOQ consistent with the method and compliance reporting requirements.

"Revoked certification" means a laboratory no longer fulfills the requirements of this chapter, and certification is revoked by the director upon determination of the director that the laboratory no longer fulfills the requirements for certification (Iowa Code section 455B.114).

"Signature authority" means the person with the managerial, educational, and technical experience authorized to sign analytical reports on behalf of the laboratory.

"Standard operating procedure" or *"SOP"* is a set of written instructions that describe, in detail, how to perform a laboratory method or process safely, consistently, and effectively.

"SHL" means the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa.

"Suspended certification" means a temporary suspension of certification for a laboratory, conditional upon meeting the time frames in 83.6(5)*"d"* for the correction of the deficiency.

"Temporary certification" or *"temporary status"* means short-term transitional certification granted to a new laboratory that has no history of generating compliance data.

"Traceability" means the unbroken chain of events in the process of a sample being collected, received at the laboratory, prepared for analysis, analyzed, data reviewed and reported, and final disposal of the sample.

[**ARC 9214C**, IAB 5/14/25, effective 6/18/25]