

APRIL 2026

# IAS AccrediCom®

## IAS Environmental Laboratories Program NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the April 2026 edition of the IAS Environmental Laboratories Program. We aim to share information that is educational for all laboratories participating in ELAP, LELAP, MNELAP and TNI as well as DoD ELAP and DOECAP. In this issue, we invite you to explore the free webinars available on our website and mark your calendar for the 2026 ELAP Symposium, taking place this fall in Brea, California. Building on previous issues, we continue to share practical insights to help you better prepare for the assessment process. This edition also features an article about adding ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation to a TNI-accredited laboratory, along with other important updates and resources.

Please submit any comments about topics you would like to see covered in future issues of the newsletter to [elap@iasonline.org](mailto:elap@iasonline.org).

### The Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP) Approves IAS to provide assessments

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is now authorized to conduct assessments under the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (LELAP).

Under the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, LELAP is essential for accrediting environmental laboratories across Louisiana, ensuring that the quality and consistency of reported results meet rigorous standards. This accreditation instills confidence that data submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural Resources is produced using reliable methods.

In the State of Louisiana LELAP accreditation is required in several cases; for commercial laboratories that perform environmental analyses or tests for third parties for a fee or other compensation on behalf of any facility as defined in R.S. 30:2004; required by permit; required by order of the Department, included in a monitoring report, submitted by contract; or required by Department regulation.

The LELAP accreditation process allows IAS to conduct on-site assessments for a variety of laboratories, including commercial, federal, and state facilities requiring this accreditation. IAS has over 50 years of experience in accreditation and has developed a robust environmental testing program. This, added to a team of expert assessors, provides IAS the necessary tools to support Louisiana's commitment to high laboratory quality standards. Furthermore, IAS deep understanding of the accreditation requirements for environmental laboratories helps support the Louisiana laboratory community in fulfilling their critical responsibilities.

Besides LELAP, IAS provides comprehensive accreditation assessments for other states, as well as the Department of Defense Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (DoD ELAP) and the Department of Energy Consolidated Audit Program (DOECAP).

For more information about the Louisiana Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program, including information about how to apply for accreditation, click [here](#).

### FREE WEBINAR

#### Performing Instrument Calibrations for a CA ELAP Laboratory - IAS ELAP Webinar #28

This prerecorded training webinar provides laboratory staff with practical guidance on performing instrument calibrations in compliance with the 2016 TNI Standard and EPA and SM reference methods. Participants will learn the role of calibration in ensuring accurate, traceable, and defensible data. The webinar will discuss how to prepare standards, establish calibration ranges, evaluate curve performance, and apply method acceptance criteria. Emphasis is placed on proper documentation, traceability of standards, data integrity, and required corrective actions when calibration requirements are not met. It also explores common calibration failures, audit findings, and troubleshooting strategies. The training concludes with recommendations for strengthening laboratory calibration procedures, staff competency, and quality control monitoring to support regulatory compliance and reliable analytical results.

You can access this and other free IAS ELAP webinars at:

<https://www.iasonline.org/services/epa-environmental-laboratory-accreditation-program/>



## New California ELAP Requirement for Accredited Laboratories

California ELAP has introduced a new **Laboratory Third-Party Assessor Commitment and Qualification Statement and Conflict of Interest Form** required for each assessment. In addition to assessor certification and conflict of interest disclosure, the form includes a laboratory acknowledgment section requiring signature from an authorized laboratory representative. Laboratories should anticipate receiving this form prior to the assessment.

See or download the form [here](#).



## Adding ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation to a TNI-Accredited Laboratory: What It Takes

Laboratories accredited under The NELAC Institute (TNI) standards are already operating at a high level of technical competence and quality assurance. For many environmental testing labs, the next logical step is pursuing ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, the internationally recognized standard for testing and calibration laboratories.

Because TNI is closely aligned with ISO/IEC 17025, labs that already hold TNI accreditation often find that obtaining accreditation to this standard is not a complete overhaul, but rather an expansion and formal recognition through a recognized accreditation body. The organizations that are signatories to the MRA of the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated[AH1.1]. (formerly ILAC) are in this category.

### Understanding the Relationship Between TNI and ISO/IEC 17025

TNI accreditation is widely used in the United States for environmental laboratories, particularly those supporting regulatory compliance testing. TNI incorporates the technical and management principles of ISO/IEC 17025 but also includes additional environmental program requirements and state-specific certification elements.

ISO/IEC 17025, on the other hand, is an international standard focused on ensuring that laboratories produce valid, reliable, and technically defensible results.

### Selecting a Recognized Accreditation Body

The first step toward ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is choosing an approved accreditation body (AB). A recognized

accreditation cannot be self-declared; it must be achieved under Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated. (formerly ILAC) framework.

### Defining the Laboratory's ISO Scope of Accreditation

One of the most significant differences between TNI and an accreditation under ISO/IEC 17025 is the way the scope of accreditation is structured. ISO/IEC 17025 scopes must clearly define test methods, measurement ranges, sample types, and accredited locations.

### Conducting a Gap Assessment

Although TNI and ISO/IEC 17025 overlap substantially, most laboratories still will need to perform a gap assessment to identify ISO/IEC-specific requirements that may not be fully addressed under their current program.

### Updating the Quality Management System

Most TNI-accredited laboratories already maintain a strong quality management system. However, accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 may require additional policies and procedures such as impartiality statements, risk documentation, uncertainty procedures, and decision rule guidance.

### Completing Internal Audits and Management Review

Before an assessment to comply with 17025 can occur, laboratories must demonstrate that their management system has been fully implemented and reviewed internally through audits, corrective actions, and management review.

### The ISO/IEC 17025 Assessment Process

Once the lab applies, the accreditation body conducts a document review and an on-site assessment observing laboratory operations, competency, traceability, and reporting practices.

### Corrective Actions and Accreditation Approval

After the assessment, the lab must respond to any findings with root cause analysis and corrective action evidence. Once accepted, the laboratory receives an accreditation certificate of compliance to ISO/IEC 17025 which indicates the specific accredited scope.

### Conclusion

For laboratories already meeting TNI requirements, adding ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation is a realistic and strategic advancement. With global recognition and expanded credibility, this accreditation can open new opportunities and strengthen confidence in laboratory results.



## 2026 Industry Events

The following events may be of interest to professionals working in environmental laboratories:

- **CWEA Annual Conference 2026 "The Power of Community."**  
Sacramento, CA, April 7–10, 2026
- **2026 TNI Environmental Measurement Symposium**  
Houston, Texas, August 3-7, 2026

## IAS Participates as a Platinum Sponsor at the 2026 SARBS Annual CS Winter Seminar

On February 19, 2026, IAS participated as a Platinum Sponsor for the 2026 SARBS Annual CS Winter Seminar. The event took place at the Highway 39 Event Center in Anaheim, California.

The Santa Ana River Basin Section (SARBS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) is dedicated to empowering, educating, and connecting wastewater professionals to protect public health and the environment. SARBS is one of 17 geographical sections of CWEA, serving portions of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Duncan Millar, IAS ELAP and Global Business Development, delivered a message to the group underscoring IAS's commitment to supporting key industry initiatives and collaborations. During the seminar, Duncan presented a brief overview of IAS, highlighting its mission and values emphasizing the critical role of SARBS in fostering professional standards within the industry.

An important part of Duncan's message was IAS's overall involvement with CWEA and the significance of SARBS within this organization. He noted that these affiliations are vital for the success of the Environmental Laboratories Accreditation Program (ELAP) of California and the role of IAS in this program ensuring quality and reliability in testing services.

IAS participation as a Platinum Sponsor at the 2026 SARBS Annual CS Winter Seminar showcased its commitment to the industry and reinforced the importance of collaboration among organizations. The event provided a valuable opportunity for networking and sharing insights within the water testing community.



Duncan Millar of IAS delivers a presentation at the Santa Ana River Basin Section (SARBS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA).

## Become an IAS Environmental Laboratories Program Assessor

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is seeking qualified assessors for assessing environmental laboratories aiming to gain recognition under the different environmental programs across the U.S. (ELAP, MNELAP, LELAP DoD ELAP, DOECAP and TNI). IAS is a nonprofit Accreditation Body based in Brea, CA and is recognized as a TNI-approved non-governmental accreditation body. Additionally, IAS is authorized as a third-party agency to conduct assessments on behalf of the States of California, Minnesota, Louisiana, U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Energy. Email your Resume / CV to [elap@iasonline.org](mailto:elap@iasonline.org).



IAS Assessor Spotlight  
**Tony Francis, PhD**

*Dr. Tony Francis is an active IAS instructor and lead assessor for the IAS California ELAP Program. He has also been the presenter for the IAS [ELAP webinars](#) that have been offered for the past few years. He has been involved with laboratory quality management systems and accreditation for many years. Dr. Francis provides data integrity training, document revisions, and data validation. Dr. Francis has assessed numerous laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025 and various TNI Standards for IAS and several accreditation bodies. He is a fully qualified NELAC assessor in organic and inorganic chemistry, microbiology, cryptosporidium, radiochemistry, solids, aqueous, tissue, and air. He is an EPA-approved drinking water certification officer in all areas available. He received his PhD in chemistry from the University of Utah in 2003.*



## IAS ELAP SYMPOSIUM

Coming to Brea, California  
on September 24, 2026!

## TNI's Professional Development Program Executive Committee starts the Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence Scholarship Program

The Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence Scholarship Program was announced by The NELAC Institute (TNI) last January at the EMS Conference in Boston. IAS participated in the development committee to support advancing the TNI Professional Development program training efforts.

The purpose of the Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence Scholarship is to provide need-based financial support for TNI members pursuing a TNI Certified Professional Credential or Digital Badge. TNI's goal is to ensure accessibility to high-quality training for all qualified members. Scholarship funds will be used towards credentialing and badges, which may include coursework from TNI's extensive training catalog. The scholarship is funded through donations from individuals and members, as well as by a portion of TNI conference fees.

Applications for the scholarship were accepted between January 15 and March 15, 2026. Awardees will be notified in May 2026 and will have 18 months to utilize any scholarship funds awarded.

For more information about the Jack Farrell Analytical Excellence Scholarship, and future participation as a sponsor or an applicant please contact: [scholarships@nelac-institute.org](mailto:scholarships@nelac-institute.org).

## About IAS

IAS is a nonprofit accreditation body that has been approved to provide third-party assessments to environmental laboratories seeking accreditation under California ELAP, Minnesota MNELAP, Louisiana LELAP, DoD ELAP, DOECAP, and TNI. Headquartered in the United States, IAS is a globally recognized accreditation body offering accreditation programs to testing and calibration laboratories, proficiency testing providers, inspection agencies, certification bodies and more, in 70 countries.

BE SURE TO LIKE, FOLLOW AND SUBSCRIBE:



We are deeply saddened to share the passing of Chuck Ramani, Founding President of the International Accreditation Service (IAS), who passed away peacefully on April 1, 2026, surrounded by his family.

Chuck's contributions helped shape IAS into a globally respected accreditation body and left a lasting impact on the conformity assessment community worldwide. He will be remembered for his dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.

Read more about Chuck's life and legacy: [HERE](#).



In Memoriam:

**Chuck Ramani**

Founding President, International Accreditation Service (IAS)

## Frequent Assessment Findings

At IAS, we aim to support laboratories in continuously improving their management systems and technical operations.

Based on IAS assessments, we would like to share some common areas where extra attention can help the laboratory prevent nonconformities and strengthen overall compliance

### Hold time exceedances

*These findings are common and the reason is rarely carelessness – more often, it reflects a systemic gap that the first corrective action addressed on paper but not in practice.*

Consider this small commercial laboratory. During consecutive annual audits, the laboratory received citations for exceeding maximum hold times on fecal coliform and heterotrophic plate count samples under Standard Methods 9221 and 9215. The root cause was straightforward: a single analyst handling both microbiological sample intake and instrument maintenance during peak Monday morning deliveries. After the first citation, procedures were updated and staff was retrained – but the structural bottleneck remained. The same findings appeared the following year. Under California ELAP's accreditation framework, that repetition matters. Assessors evaluate not just whether a corrective action was written, but whether it was effective. A repeat finding signals that the corrective action process itself may be deficient, which can complicate the path to continued accreditation.

The fix came when the laboratory's quality manager reframed the problem – not a training gap, but a resource allocation gap. Dedicated analyst coverage was added during high-volume intake windows, a LIMS alert was configured to flag microbiological samples approaching four hours post-collection, and a 90-day verification period confirmed the change held. For any California ELAP-accredited laboratory, the lesson is simple: corrective actions should close loops, not just check boxes. When a nonconformance reappears, the question your quality system should already have answered is whether the true root cause was ever identified in the first place.

## Your IAS Support Team

The **IAS Environmental Laboratories Program team** is here to ensure your assessment process goes smoothly. This internal team has the most up-to-date information and expertise to efficiently address your needs, including assessor availability and scheduling, ensuring a smooth and seamless process. For any inquiries, please contact any of the IAS Environmental Laboratories Program team directly

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