



The NELAC Institute's NELAP Accreditation Council Announces January 31, 2020 as Implementation Date for the 2016 TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector Standard

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 1, 2019

TNI's NELAP Accreditation Council has set the formal date for adoption of the 2016 TNI Standard as January 31, 2020.

As with previous standard updates, this will be a "rolling implementation" since not all Accreditation Bodies (ABs) will be able to implement the new standard on this specific date. ABs whose regulation incorporates the NELAP Standard by reference can begin accrediting to the 2016 standard on the implementation date or shortly thereafter when its systems are updated and its assessors are trained. Other ABs must conduct rulemaking to change standards, which sometimes takes far longer. Timing for these ABs cannot be announced with certainty today. Also, Florida completed its rulemaking to adopt the 2016 Standard last year and has already announced its implementation date as September 26, 2018. **Each NELAP AB will continue to recognize the accreditations of all other NELAP ABs, regardless of which TNI standard is used to accredit its laboratories.**

If your organization is already an accredited laboratory, your primary NELAP AB will contact you with specific information about the timing of its transition to the 2016 TNI Standard. Your secondary accreditations will not be impacted so long as you maintain primary accreditation.

If you are a laboratory seeking accreditation, you should first determine whether your facility is in a NELAP state, and if so, apply to that state's AB for accreditation. If you are not located in a NELAP state, you may select a primary AB based on the scope of accreditation that you require and any other factors relevant to your laboratory's activities.

If you are a data user of a NELAP accredited laboratory, be assured that the laboratory's accreditation will not be affected by this change of standard, so long as the laboratory continues to comply with the requirements of the standard in use by its NELAP AB.

The 2016 TNI Environmental Laboratory Sector Standard may be purchased online at <https://nelac-institute.org/content/CSDP/standards.php?ap3=1> 2.

In order to help laboratories prepare for implementation of the new standards, TNI has already presented a series of five training courses on the different modules of the 2016 Standard. These are available for purchase in a downloadable webcast format at <https://nelac-institute.org/content/eds-home.php>.

Also, an updated Small Laboratory Handbook, Quality Manual Template, and other helpful documents are available for purchase at <https://nelac-institute.org/content/NELAP/howto.php>.

An updated Quality Systems Checklist, based on the 2016 Standard, useful for establishing compliance with the Standard, is available at no cost from <https://nelac-institute.org/content/NELAP/qscheck2016-access.php>. You will need to attest that you own a copy of the 2016 Standard in order to download it.

For more information about NELAP, contact Lynn Bradley, NELAP Program Administrator at lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org. For a list of NELAP Accreditation Bodies, see <https://nelac-institute.org/content/NELAP/accred-bodies.php>.