

Subject: CAEAL Site Assessment and Accreditation Program Updates

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From: Webmaster <webmaster@caeal.ca>

To: CAEAL Assessments Staff

Conversation: CAEAL Site Assessment and Accreditation Program Updates

Dear Members:

Here are some updates on the site assessment and accreditation program.

1) Documents

A new version of A61- CAEAL Traceability Policy (Rev. 2.4) is available on the web site (http://www.caeal.ca/program_req.html). A reminder that all documents used during the site assessment are available on the web site for your use in the preparation process.

2) Traceability of Syringes

While syringes generally come with certificates from an ISO 9000 registered company, this certificate in itself is not sufficient evidence of on-going integrity of the syringe.

Accredited and applicant laboratories must have procedures in place to ensure the integrity of the syringes.

As a minimum, syringes must be identified and there must be procedure in place to ensure the integrity of the syringes. Procedures include, but are not limited to the following:

* Small volume syringes (<25 uL) (that will include both syringes used for standard preparation and sample introduction for the GC etc...) can be verified indirectly through the analysis of surrogate or internal standard.

* Larger syringes can be calibrated by repeated measurements using a traceable balance, and verified at a frequency adequate to identify problems. See A61 – the CAEAL Traceability Policy.

3) Biosolids

The use of the term “biosolids” has been a challenge to align with the CAEAL definition of an appendix. After much discussion, it has been decided that laboratories will have the following options as matrices:

Water/Wastewater/Liquid Biosolids – only for those cases where a laboratory is basically only analyzing liquid sludge (typically 1-3% solids), in addition to any other water-type matrix. The laboratory requires specific method validation for the biosolids.

Biosolids – for those cases where a laboratory is analyzing any other biosolid (e.g., cake).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Assessment staff:

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