

State Water Resources Control Board

Guidance on the Change from Fields of Testing (FOTs) to Fields of Accreditation (FOAs)

Issued January 15, 2021

In accordance with ELAP’s new regulations, effective January 1, 2021, ELAP has converted the Fields of Testing Forms (FOTs) to Field of Accreditation (FOA) Tables. This announcement provides an overview of the changes. Laboratories should compare their accredited methods against the updated FOA Tables to determine if any methods have changed.

What is a Field of Accreditation?

A Field of Accreditation is defined in [California Code of Regulations, title 22, § 64801.00\(m\)](#) as the matrix, technology/method, and analyte combinations for which ELAP will offer accreditation, as defined in 2016 TNI Standard - Revision 2.1, Volume 1, Module 2. The FOAs are grouped together in Tables organized by matrices and published on the ELAP website.

Essentially, a FOA is an individual line item or row in a FOA Table. The example below shows three FOAs selected, as indicated by the “Y” in the right column.

Table 101: Microbiology in Drinking Water Fields of Accreditation in Drinking Water					
Lab Name:					
Certificate #:					
Please refer to footnotes at the end of this Table					
Subgroup Code	Analyte Code	Method	Analyte	Technology	Enter Y for Selection
101.010	001	SM 9215 B	Heterotrophic Bacteria	Pour plate	Y
101.010	002	SimPlate	Heterotrophic Bacteria	Idexx	Y
101.020	001	SM 9221 B	Total Coliform, P/A	Multiple Tube Fermentation	Y
101.020	002	SM 9221 B,E	Fecal Coliform, P/A	Multiple Tube Fermentation	
101.020	003	SM 9221 B,F	E. Coli, P/A	Multiple Tube Fermentation	

Does this change affect my current certificate?

No. The change to FOAs will not affect your current accreditation until you file your next renewal or amendment application. At that time, ELAP will issue an accreditation with the updated terminology. Until that time, current certificates and Accredited Fields of Testing Lists remain valid.

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How does this change impact my fees?

Beginning January 1, 2021, a component of your application and accreditation fees will now be based on the total number of FOAs in either your application (for all application fees) or on your certificate (for your annual accreditation fee during the year you are not submitting a renewal application).

The Fields of Accreditation Fees are separated into tiers based on the number of FOAs your laboratory is applying or accredited for. To determine which tier will apply to your fee, count the number of individual FOAs on your application or certificate, and select only one tier.

Fee Component	Price
Base Fee (all laboratories)	\$2,500
Reciprocity Fee (Out-of-State Laboratories only)	\$5,000
Field of Accreditation (FOA) Fee (select only one tier)	--
Tier 1 – 1-10 FOAs	\$300
Tier 2 – 11-49 FOAs	\$1,000
Tier 3 – 50-99 FOAs	\$3,000
Tier 4 – 100-149 FOAs	\$5,000
Tier 5 – 150-249 FOAs	\$7,000
Tier 6 – 250-349 FOAs	\$9,000
Tier 7 – 350+ FOAs	\$11,000

ELAP's courtesy fee notices will reflect the updated pricing beginning January 2021. Fee information is located on the [ELAP Apply for Accreditation](#) webpage.