



VRMP-Approved Laboratory Criteria

In order for a laboratory to be approved for providing the VRMP with data, on a water quality parameter-by-parameter basis, they must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Be a Maine Certified Laboratory, as determined by Title 22, Chapter 157-A § 567 (certification or accreditation program; <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/22/title22sec567.html>), for the parameter in question. The proficiency tests (PT) used in the determination of whether prospective laboratories were deemed acceptable would need to be performed by a Maine Laboratory Certification Program acceptable PT provider. A list of these providers is maintained at < <http://www.nelac-institute.org/ptproviders.php> >.

-or-

2. Have acceptable proficiency test results (no more than 1 year old), for the parameter in question, as determined by the National Water Research Institute – Environment Canada (NWRI) or Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), or both, depending on the parameter.

-or-

3. For local volunteer laboratories conducting IDEXX “Colilert” {*E. coli*, Total coliform} bacteria analyses: pass QA/QC approval by VRMP staff who will be using an adaptation of a protocol and checklist similar to that in the Maine Healthy Beaches Program (MHBP) 2008 QAPP. The protocol and checklist, mentioned below, has been adapted from the MHBP “Enterolert” method (*Enterococcus* bacteria) to the “Colilert” method {*E. coli* and Total coliform bacteria} with the assistance of Matthew Sica (formerly Maine Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Environmental Health, Laboratory Certification Officer).
 - a. Original QA/QC protocol (Section 13.21 “Sterility Checks, Blanks, Positive and Negative Controls” performed by Nelson Analytical laboratory of Springvale, ME [minus the tests of distilled water as dilutions are not expected for the VRMP]; MHBP, 2008).
 - b. Original checklist (Appendix F; MHBP, 2008).
 - c. The newly-adapted protocol and checklist can be found Appendix 11 of the VRMP QAPP.

-or-

4. For municipal wastewater treatment facilities who might perform *E. coli* bacteria analyses for volunteer groups, those facilities would need to be operations that fall under the jurisdiction of the MEPDES program run by Maine DEP, and those operations would need to have received acceptable annual and 5-year inspections, annual Discharge Monitoring Report–Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) results, and other assessments as determined by consultation with Maine DEP MEPDES program staff (e.g. Stuart Rose, Sterling Pierce).