



Who Needs to be Certified or Registered? What Testing Requires Certification?

Unless otherwise exempted in s. NR 149.02, ch. NR 149 [the Lab Certification Administrative code] applies to laboratories:

- (a) Applying for certification and registration.
- (b) Holding a certification or a registration.
- (c) Submitting data to the department for a **covered program**.
- (d) Generating data that is necessary for the department to determine compliance with a **covered program**.

Laboratories (both in-state and out-of-state) performing chemical and toxicological testing for compliance monitoring under many of the Department's **covered programs** are required to be certified or registered under ch. NR 149, Wis. Adm. Code. This requirement applies to any laboratory that performs testing in the general areas listed to the right. The table below lists the specific administrative codes that require DNR certification or registration. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) certifies laboratories for microbiological testing in both water and milk. For questions about this certification program, contact [Laura Traas](#) at (608) 669-7243.

What Programs are "Covered Programs"?

Administrative Codes and Programs Requiring Certification or Registration (Covered Programs)

NR 110 – Sewerage Systems,	NR 507 – Environmental Monitoring for Landfills,
NR 113 – Servicing Septic Systems,	NR 661 – Hazardous Waste Identification and Listing,
NR 123 – Well Compensation Program,	NR 662 – Hazardous Waste Generator Standards,
NR 131 – Metallic Mineral Prospecting,	NR 664 – Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility Standards,
NR 132 – Metallic Mineral Mining,	NR 665 – Interim License Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility Standards,
NR 140 – Groundwater Quality,	NR 700 – General Requirements for Investigation and Remediation of Environmental Contamination,
NR 145 – Private Wells,	NR 712 – Environmental Response Actions,
NR 150 – Environmental Analysis and Review Procedures,	NR 716 – Site Investigations,
NR 157 – Management of PCBs,	NR 809 – Safe Drinking Water,
NR 158 – Hazardous Substance Discharge Notification,	NR 811 – Design of Community Water Supplies,
NR 182 – Metallic Mining Waste,	NR 845 – County Administration of NR 812 (Private Wells),
NR 206 – Land Disposal of Municipal and Domestic Wastewaters,	HFS 46 – Group Day Care Centers for Children.
NR 210 – Sewage Treatment Works,	
NR 211 ¹ – General Pretreatment Requirements,	
NR 212 – Wasteload Allocated Effluent Limits,	
NR 214 – Land Treatment of Industrial Liquid Wastes,	
NR 216 – Stormwater Management,	
NR 219 – Analytical Test Methods and Procedures,	
NR 347 – Sediment Sampling and Analysis,	

¹ If data is reported directly to the Department or a pretreatment ordinance mandates it.

The programs above are established under

- the Clean Water Act (CWA),
- the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and
- the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

WI DNR certification or registration encompasses most matrices and applies to most WI DNR programs; including, but not exclusively, Safe Drinking Water, Wastewater, Groundwater and Soils and Sediment.

The Laboratory Certification Program does not certify laboratories for testing under the Clean Air Act or other required air monitoring, radiological or microbiological testing.

Private Well Testing

If you are a member of the public that simply wants to test your well water for your own information (*vs. being directed to by the DNR*), the laboratory you choose does not have to be one certified under this Program. For this purpose, you may want to simply look in the "Yellow" Pages under "Laboratories - Testing", and select from one of these labs. The only downside to using one of these labs is that they may or may not have any oversight body that ensures the quality of their test results.

On the other hand, if you have just had a new well installed or are involved in a property transfer with a well as the drinking water source, your test results **will** have to be generated by an accredited laboratory. The LabCert Program can provide you with [lists of laboratories](#) that are certified for specific analytical parameters of interest. Before selecting a laboratory to do any testing, consider reviewing some information we put together which summarizes [information to consider when contracting for laboratory testing](#).