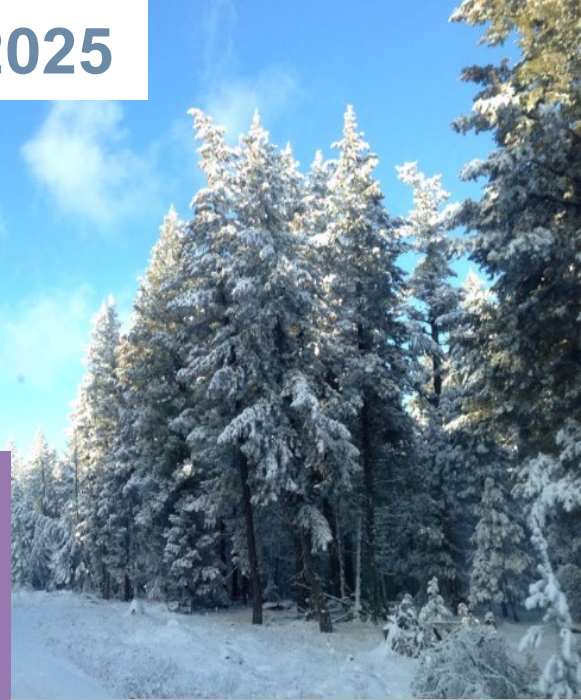


EWQA Newsletter



Newsletter Working Group:
Jenmei He, Leah Young, Veenita Singh

Welcome to the Enhanced Water Quality Assurance (EWQA) Newsletter! This e-update is designed to keep EWQA approved drinking water testing laboratories, and our partners informed about the latest EWQA activities. Bulletins and updates are also posted on our PHSA website, so be sure to visit regularly for the most current information.



What's New

Workshop 2024

FREE Webinar

Questionnaire version
7.0

Significant changes and
requirements

EWQA Auditor Workshop 2024

We are thrilled to announce that this year's Annual EWQA Auditor Workshop, held on September 27, 2024, at the BCCDC, was an outstanding success for our dedicated auditors. The workshop provided a dynamic platform focused on relationship-building and enhancing people skills. With its interactive format, it actively engaged participants and fostered the exchange of valuable knowledge and experiences within our auditor team.

In addition to the engaging discussions, the workshop featured a comprehensive review of EWQA materials. This year, attendees updated each other on the latest developments and shared insightful feedback on how to improve the EWQA checklist. The event concluded with an open forum, offering participants the chance to share stories and lessons learned from their audit experiences. This candid exchange not only addressed communication challenges but also identified practical takeaways to further strengthen our collective objectives.

The Annual Auditor Workshop remains a highly anticipated event that promotes learning, collaboration, and community building. We look forward to creating even more exciting opportunities in the future!

Requirement to Notify EWQA of Significant Changes

Clients must notify EWQA of any significant changes related to their approval certificate. But what exactly qualifies as a “significant change,” and what actions are required from both the laboratory and EWQA? To assist in navigating both major and minor changes, we've provided a list of required actions. For further details or to discuss specific changes, please contact the EWQA coordinator at email Caleb.Lee@bccdc.ca.

Quality System Essential	Change	Action(s) for Lab
1. Organization	New laboratory	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact EWQA. 2. Submit requested documentation. 3. Schedule an onsite audit.
	Change in ownership	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform EWQA of change in ownership, immediately. 2. 30 calendar days prior to change in ownership, provide supporting documentation as requested. 3. Schedule an onsite audit if needed.
2. Customer Service	n/a	
3. Facilities and Safety	Change of laboratory location	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform EWQA immediately of impending change in location. 2. 30 calendar days prior to change in location, provide supporting documentation as requested. 3. Schedule an onsite audit or site self-assessment if needed.
	Major renovation	
4. Personnel	Change in supervisory staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform EWQA within 30 calendar days of new appointment. 2. Provide new Curriculum Vitae (CV). 3. Schedule an onsite audit if needed.
5. Purchasing and Inventory	n/a	
6. Equipment	Under development	
7. Process Control	Change in test methodologies, such as new media, new method	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform EWQ of methodology change or new method to be used. 2. Provide supporting documentation (SOPs, validation data and PT challenge results as requested).
8. Documents and Records	n/a	
9. Information management	n/a	
10. Occurrence Management	Major/Continued Disruption of Service such as major flood or break and entry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If ongoing disruption of service (greater than 7 business day), must inform EWQA immediately. 2. Provide supporting documentation as requested (i.e. contingency plan). 3. Schedule an onsite audit if requested or perform corrective action.
11. Internal / External Assessment	Proficiency Test (PT) results failure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Process under development; laboratory should inform EWQA of PT failure and corrective action
12. Process	n/a	

Free wellness webinars

Mental health and wellness webinars are available to all auditors and distributed through the PHSA Health and Wellness team. If you have not received them by the first Friday of the month, please notify Veenita Singh.

Veenita.Singh@bccdc.ca

Questionnaire 7.0

Version 7.0 of the EWQA Self-Assessment and Audit Questionnaire was published on Dec 18, 2024.

EWQA Provincial Coordinator : Caleb Lee
655 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 4R4 Canada

Caleb.Lee@bccdc.ca