

No.W-11019/04/2015-WQ  
Government of India  
Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation  
(Water Quality Section).

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4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Raod  
New Delhi - 110003

Dated: 21st April, 2015

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

Sub: Minutes of the Orientation Workshop on NABL accreditation of Drinking Water Testing Laboratories.

Sir/Madam,

The Ministry convened an Orientation Workshop on NABL Accreditation of Drinking Water Testing Laboratories on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi. A copy of the Minutes of the aforesaid Workshop is enclosed herewith for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

*S. Sanyal*  
21/4/15  
(S. Sanyal)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India  
Tele: 011-24368562

To

As per the list of participants.

Copy to: Principal Secretary/Secretary - In-charge of Rural Water Supply (All States/UTs)

Ex. Technical Director (NIC) - Please upload in website

## Minutes of the Orientation Workshop on NABL accreditation of Drinking Water Testing Laboratories

The Ministry convened an Orientation Workshop on NABL Accreditation of Drinking Water Testing Laboratories on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2015 in Conference Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, CGO Complex, New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Smt. Vijaylaxmi Joshi, Secretary, MDWS. List of the participants is at Annexure.

2. During welcome speech, Shri Satyabrata Sahu, Joint Secretary (Water), informed the State Officials that according to UN Reports, India stands at 120<sup>th</sup> position out of 122 countries, in terms of quality of water available to its citizens. Although nearly Rs.1.4 lakh crore has been invested in rural drinking water supply during the last 65 years, drinking water quality problems have not been solved completely though it has been mitigated to some extent. He said that the Ministry expects to prepare an Action Plan for NABL accreditation of water quality testing laboratories during this Workshop. He further requested to all the State officials present in the Workshop, to raise pertinent queries to NABL officials so that accreditation process is started. He assured the State officials that the Ministry will continue to provide funds for WQMS activities which can be used for NABL accreditation of laboratories.

3. Shri D. Rajasekhar, Dy. Advisor (Water Quality) gave an overview of laboratory situation in the country. He informed that certification and accreditation are not synonymous and accreditation is much stringent. The State level laboratories once get accredited, can become referral laboratory for other laboratories getting accredited. The Ministry has also released Uniform Drinking Water Quality Protocol for standardization of laboratories which have been found very useful by the States.

4. Smt. Vijaylaxmi Joshi, Secretary, MDWS, during her inaugural speech, observed that the level of credibility of Government run water testing laboratories is very low in the eyes of the general public. People reliance is more on results from private laboratories. The challenge before all of us is to raise the level of credibility of Government run laboratories and this is certainly achievable. She further observed that the operating condition/environment of drinking water testing laboratories in States is not satisfactory due to variety of reasons such as inadequate manpower, functioning of laboratories in dilapidated/unsuitable building and lack of other infrastructural facilities etc. Sometimes the testing and other details provided by the States on IMIS of the Ministry are not genuine and this shows the lethargy on the part of States. There is a need to understand that the work pertaining to rural drinking water and sanitation is directly related with public health and States should monitor and tackle water quality problems more efficiently. She said that proper emphasis has to be given for functioning of laboratory so that the sense of pride is felt by the staff concerned. Presently, the sense of pride for working in laboratory is missing in the people working in laboratories, as the laboratories are deemed last priority in many States. She said that States have to now roll on action plan of NABL accreditation of all laboratories in a phased manner.

5. Shri Venkateswaran from NABL informed the Secretary that minimum time required for NABL accreditation is about 100 days. The following States informed the Secretary that they would make efforts to get NABL accreditation.

- (i) Assam - 1 lab
- (ii) Telangana - 2 labs
- (iii) Andhra Pradesh - 1 lab
- (iv) Kerala - 1 lab
- (v) Gujarat - 2 labs
- (vi) Karnataka - 2 labs (District level as State lab is not ready)
- (vii) Nagaland - 1 lab
- (viii) Rajasthan - 1 lab
- (ix) Jharkhand - 1 lab
- (x) Sikkim - 1 lab
- (xi) Arunachal Pradesh - 1 lab
- (xii) Madhya Pradesh - 2 labs
- (xiii) Himachal Pradesh - 1 lab (district level)
- (xiv) Uttarakhand - 1 lab
- (xv) West Bengal - 1 lab
- (xvi) Kashmir - 1 lab
- (xvii) Maharashtra - 1 lab
- (xviii) Bihar - 1 lab
- (xix) Tamil Nadu - 1 lab
- (xx) Haryana - 1 lab
- (xxi) Punjab - 1 lab

6. Secretary desired that 2<sup>nd</sup> list of 25 laboratories should also be got ready. She directed the State officials to propose the next 25 laboratories for getting NABL accreditation within 15 days. She directed JS (Water), to write a DO letter to all State Secretaries emphasizing the importance of laboratory, water quality and NABL accreditation (**Action: The concerned Chief Chemist/Laboratory In-charge to make assessment of laboratory situation for accreditation. States to provide list of laboratories to get accredited in second round at the earliest**).

7. Shri Venkateshwaran from NABL thanked Secretary for her motivational speech and said that it is quite unbelievable that within such a short span of time the Ministry has done lot of work to start the process of getting the laboratories accredited. He said that States will be prepared to fill up application form properly and prepare Quality Manual by today evening. He said that the Uniform Protocol released by the Ministry is a very useful document and is of relevance.

8. Shri Sujoy Mojumdar, representative from UNICEF said that UNICEF has filled Offices in 14 States and it would render all possible assistance to the States for NABL accreditation of the laboratories.

9. Shri Rajesh Kumar, Director (Water) expressed Vote of Thanks to the chair.

10. After deliberation with State officials, JS (Water) provided following timeline to the States:

- 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2015 : Completion of NABL accreditation for identified 25 laboratories;
- 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2015: Completion of NABL accreditation for next 25 laboratories;

JS (Water) also said that he is getting information that Chief Chemist/WSSO Directors are not getting funds directly from NRDWP- WQMS and Support funds.

11. Representative from Himachal Pradesh asked whether Hydrology laboratory can be got accredited. JS (Water) replied that only those water testing laboratories which are under administrative control of drinking water supply in rural areas, would be considered for funding by the Ministry and since the Hydrology laboratory is under Irrigation Department in Himachal Pradesh, the same cannot be done for NABL accreditation by this Ministry. JS (Water) also expressed unhappiness with the officials of the Odisha State on delay in starting construction of State level laboratory due to tendering process. He also said that funds would be linked to laboratory accreditation by NABL at the time of release. It was also informed that in Assam State, Chief Chemist is not consulted at all by Director, WSSO on any matter pertaining to water quality. JS said that this should not happen and the State should take corrective steps to remove the anomaly.

12. Shri D. Rajasekhar, DA (WQ) informed the State officials that there is no need to involve any third party in accreditation process (i.e. no involvement of outside consultants).

13. Smt. Lawrence, Chief Water Analyst from Tamil Nadu said that TWAD Board got ISO:9001 certification in 2004 itself. She said that she would feel most proud for getting TWAD Board laboratory accredited by NABL, however she expressed doubt regarding manpower shortage in laboratories in Tamil Nadu. She further said that Tamil Nadu takes pride in employing highest number of laboratory staff (Analyst/Bacteriologist, etc.). However, there is acute shortage of laboratory staff in the State and since this is a policy issue, the Ministry should take the matter with senior officials of TWAD Board to accelerate the process of accreditation. DA-WQ informed that the Ministry would write a letter to all the States to deploy suitable manpower.

14. Representative from Karnataka said that there is no State level laboratory in the State upon which the officials from Ministry said that why then the information on State level laboratory has been entered on IMIS. The State was advised to give in writing that the State has no State level laboratory and the information has been entered on IMIS is wrong. Since the State has expressed its intention to get two laboratories accredited by next 3 months, it was suggested to identify two laboratories which may be got accredited by next 3 months.

15. Representative from Nagaland said that there is no State level laboratory in the State, however, there is one laboratory in Dimapur which can be taken up for NABL accreditation. Officials from Haryana also raised manpower problem and other infrastructural facilities in laboratories in Haryana and said that the laboratory in Karnal can be taken up for NABL accreditation.

16. Shri Venkateswaran from NABL suggested that States should nominate Quality Manager and Technical Manager for NABL accreditation. Further, Deputy Quality Manager and

Deputy Technical Manager should also be nominated. The person concerned should have experience in working in laboratory and understood manpower of water quality. He further elaborated the process of NABL accreditation in detail during pre lunch and post lunch session. The session covered the following:

- (i) About NABL
- (ii) NABL accreditation process
- (iii) Overview of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (standard requirements)
- (iv) Overview and practical process of completion of NABL application, Quality Manual, etc.
- (v) Interactive session with all the participants for clarifying all queries.
- (vi) Feedback session

17. Since the officials of the States could not complete the NABL Application form as it required various data which are available in laboratories and also the requirement of administrative decision at various places, it was decided that the officials from the States would de-brief their respective officers in the States and fast track the process by early submission for accreditation. It was decided that Shri D. Rajasekhar, DA-WQ would be the focal point for coordinating information and States should keep in touch with NABL as well as with DA-WQ.

The meeting ended with a Vote of Thanks.

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AnnexureList of participants**1. Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation**

- (i) Smt. Vijaylaxmi Joshi.....in Chair.
- (ii) Shri Satyabrata Sahu, Joint Secretary (Water)
- (iii) Shri Rajesh Kumar, Director(Water)
- (iv) Shri D. Rajasekhar, Deputy Secretary (WQ)
- (v) Dr. Brajesh Srivastava, Consultant (WQ)
- (vi) Er. G.R. Zargar, Senior Consultant
- (vii) Er. J.C. Singhal, Senior Consultant

**2. Representative from UNICEF**

- (i) Shri Sujoy Majumder

**3. Representatives from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories**

- (i) Shri Venkateswaran
- (ii) Shri Vikas Kr. Jaiswal, A.O-II

**4. Representatives from State Governments**

- (i) Shri Hemant Joshi, Director, WSSO, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- (ii) Dr. Anil Kumar, Consultant, HRD/IEC, WSSO, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
- (iii) Shri Pawana Pal, Consultant, WQM&S, WSSO, Himachal Pradesh
- (iv) Shri S.K. Harichandan, S.E., RWSS, Odisha
- (v) Shri Narendra Kr. Panda, Chemist, RWSS, Odisha
- (vi) Dr. Binod Pokhral, State Consultant (W.B.)
- (vii) Er. T. Ketan, Chief Engineer, Sanitation (PHE), Arunachal Pradesh
- (viii) Shri Chandra B. Mangu, Consultant, Sikkim
- (ix) Dr. Bhal C. Mehta, PHED, West Bengal
- (x) Shri A. Rolland K. Kon, Chemist, Nagaland
- (xi) Er. K. Ghushito Sumi, Director, WSSO, Nagaland
- (xii) Dr. K.V. Devararajulu, Director (WSSO), Karnataka
- (xiii) Ms. Bhavna M. Trivedi, Chief Sc. Officer, Gujarat
- (xiv) Shri R.A. Jethwa, Jt. Director, GJTI, Gujarat
- (xv) Shri M.V.S.R. Krishna Murthy, Chemist, Andhra Pradesh
- (xvi) Shri A. Sateesh, Chief Chemist, Telangana
- (xvii) Dr. Enny Dowrrah Kotoky, Chief Water Analyst (PHE), Assam
- (xviii) Shri Alak Dev Goswami, S.E., PHED, Assam
- (xix) Dr. Bhupendra Barman, AE (PHE), Assam
- (xx) Shri J. Viswanath, Director, WSSO, Telangana
- (xxi) Shri Rakesh Kumar Mathur, Chief Chemist, PHED, Rajasthan
- (xxii) Shri S.K. Choubey, Biologist, PHED, Bhopal
- (xxiii) Shri Ashwani Sangwan, Executive Engineer (Planning), Haryana

- (xxiv) Shri Amit Kumar Singh, Chemist, (Lab. Co-ordinator), Karnal, Haryana  
(xxv) Ms. Neelima Garg, S.E., Dehradun, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan  
(xxvi) Shri Satish Chandra Nautiyal, Asstt. Engineer, Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan  
(xxvii) Dr. Zubair Adhani, Asstt. Ex. Engineer, PHED, Kashmir  
(xxviii) Dr. Shailesh B. Kanade, State Water Quality Consultant, Maharashtra  
(xxix) Shri Ajay Tandon, Dy. Director, PHE, HRD Cell, Meghalaya, Shillong  
(xxx) Shri K.M. Thomas, Research Asstt. (PHED), Meghalaya  
(xxxi) Ms. Chandravathi P.K., Director, State Kerala Water Authority, Kerala  
(xxxii) Shri Nirupam Nath Consultant, W.Q. PHED, Bihar  
(xxxiii) Dr. Vivek Singh Chauhan, State Co-ordinator (W.Q.), Jharkhand  
(xxxiv) Ms. Vasanhi Lawrence, Chief Water Analyst, Chennai, Tamil Nadu  
(xxxv) Shri P.C. Biakmawa, Chief Chemist, Mizoram  
(xxxvi) Ms. K.N. Sumathi, Chief Chemist, Govt. of Karnataka  
(xxxvii) Shri Md. Wasim Ahmad, State Co-ordinator, WSSO, Uttarakhand  
(xxxviii) Dr. S.P. Pathak, WSSO, Consultant (WQ), U.P.