

A comparison of ELAP audits

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Some information about B&R Labs...

- ▶ Small commercial laboratory in Northern California
- ▶ Waste Water & Drinking Water analysis
- ▶ Whole Effluent Toxicity of WW (Rainbow Trout)
- ▶ 9 FOT's
- ▶ 4 Principal Analysts (including 1 Lab Director)
- ▶ 4 Laboratory Technicians
- ▶ 2 Laboratory Interns
- ▶ 4 Front Staff (Including 1 General Manager)



My outlook on audits...

- I am not afraid of audits!
- Opportunity to learn & improve
- Before the current ELAP admin... this was the only opportunity to ask questions...take advantage!
- Open book...open lab
- Opportunity to become a better lab
- Be friendly & open



Old ELAP Audit experience snapshot

- ▶ Difficult to contact
- ▶ Unapproachable
- ▶ Difficult to communicate with in person
- ▶ Thorough during audit (sometimes to a fault)
- ▶ Trying to “trip” or “trick” lab techs
- ▶ Creating a “Lab Director vs. Lab Tech” scenario
- ▶ Unreasonable expectations
- ▶ Willing to make accommodations with scheduling and CAR
- ▶ “you never know what you’re going to get”



Current ELAP

2016 Audit experience snapshot

- ▶ Readily available
- ▶ Willing to answer questions & help
- ▶ Quick to respond to inquiries
- ▶ Communicates via email
- ▶ Call ELAP...they answer the phone! What a concept
- ▶ Willing to make accommodations with scheduling and Corrective Action Response
- ▶ Heavy reliance on checklists
- ▶ Did not review a majority of our FOTs
- ▶ Difficulty understanding PT requirements
- ▶ Have to point out that my audit occurred BEFORE implementation of new SOPS



How did our last 3 audits compare...

Audit Year	Length of Audit	Number of Auditors Present	Number of Findings	Performed prior to certificate expiration?
2016	3 hours	2 (plus Christine Sotelo)	5: Corrective Action 5: Method Deviation	Performed 13 business days before certificate expiry
2013	6-7 hours	2	7: Corrective Action	Performed 1 year after renewal
2011	6-7 hours	2	18: Corrective Action 6: Recommendations	Performed 1 year after renewal

- ▶ * the “Number of Findings” information is labeled differently because each auditor labeled findings differently. Problem with consistency between auditors.

Effluent Toxicity Audits

- ▶ Same auditor...same practice
- ▶ Generally this audit did not change
- ▶ 3-4 hour audit
- ▶ 1 auditor
- ▶ ELAP was flexible in scheduling this a different day than General Lab audit
- ▶ Meaningful audit
- ▶ Auditor is helpful in answering questions
- ▶ Reasonable expectations in relation to analysis



Now what?

- ▶ ELAP is generally moving in the right direction
- ▶ Checklists will be of upmost importance in future audits
- ▶ New PT officer will, hopefully, help with PT misunderstandings
- ▶ ELAP needs to be thorough in Audits, even if they have a good “gut feeling” about the lab
- ▶ Attention to new FOT's on a lab application
- ▶ Training & Checklists are still needed...especially for Wastewater and Hazardous Waste- not just drinking water
- ▶ ELAP staff has promised to deliver- I am excited to see what the future holds!



Questions?

Please feel free to reach out to me after this review

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- Thank you for this opportunity

