

MARCH 2025

# IAS AccrediCom®

## ELAP Lab Edition

### NEWSLETTER



## Welcome to the IAS ELAP Newsletter!

We're excited to bring you the latest updates and insights from the world of environmental laboratory accreditation. In this issue, we're glad to announce about the **2025 IAS ELAP Symposium**, to be held on November 6, 2025, in the beautiful city of Pleasanton, California. This event is your opportunity to connect, learn, and collaborate with IAS staff and technical assessors, industry leaders and your peers.

You'll also find information about upcoming **ELAP webinars**, delivered to keep you informed and ahead in the ever-evolving regulatory landscape. Plus, we're delighted to introduce the IAS ELAP/TNI Program Manager-Technical, **Heather Tohinaka**, who brings strong assessment and field expertise and perspectives to our accreditation work.

As the only nongovernmental accreditation body headquartered in California, IAS is dedicated to supporting the environmental laboratory community with innovative solutions, expert guidance, and unparalleled service.

Thank you for being part of our community, and we look forward to seeing you at the symposium and other exciting events!

Let's dive in!

## ELAP Assessments and Related Programs from IAS

IAS provides assessments for laboratories seeking accreditation to meet the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) requirements established by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Since 1975, IAS has accredited numerous testing laboratories within the U.S. and globally in a variety of industry sectors spanning from chemistry to engineering and environmental. The IAS accreditations demonstrate competence in testing to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, The NELAC Institute (TNI), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resource Board (CARB), Department of Defense (DoD) Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (DoD ELAP), the Department of Energy Consolidated Audit Program (DoE CAP), and other state and regulatory requirements. Our environmental customers range from laboratories that conduct testing and sampling of natural water, drinking water, wastewater, bore water, effluents, saltwater, aquatic biology and marine chemistry, organics and in-organics, process water, etc. Learn more about these programs on the [IAS website](#).

## What CA ELAP Laboratories Need to Know About Changes to SM 9020?

**➤REGISTER NOW for the Next Free IAS ELAP Webinar – March 11**

IAS is pleased to present the next free webinar in our ELAP webinar series. All the laboratories performing microbiological testing under Standard Methods (SM) must perform a variety of quality control tasks. The next webinar will describe the changes made in SM 9020 (and SM 9030) from the 22nd Edition to the 24th Edition. We will provide information related to requirements for thermometers, balances, autoclaves, incubators, media, meters, etc. including changes to verifications and record keeping. This webinar is intended for laboratory managers, quality assurance personnel, and laboratory analysts working with microbiological tests.

**Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:00 AM | (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)**



## View Previous 25 ELAP Webinars for FREE

Learn more about California ELAP when you watch 25 previous IAS webinars for free – All available from IAS. [Watch](#)



# IAS ELAP SYMPOSIUM

## SAVE THE DATE - IAS ELAP Symposium Pleasanton, California, November 6, 2025

Mark your calendars now to attend the 2025 IAS ELAP Symposium, November 6, in Pleasanton, California. The 2024 ELAP Symposium, held in Fullerton, Southern California was a huge success and sold-out event!

The 2025 ELAP Symposium will explore the latest in the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) compliance and best practices. This is your chance to connect with IAS staff and assessors, industry leaders and your peers to gain practical knowledge and strengthen your laboratory's capabilities.

Symposium Highlights will include:

- In-Depth Presentations on Key Topics;
- ELAP Requirements for Laboratories;
- Most frequent corrective actions findings found during IAS Assessments Process;
- Navigating the 2016 TNI Standard;
- Panel discussion with the ELAP Assessors,
- And much more!

### Networking Opportunities:

Meet and exchange ideas with IAS ELAP Assessors and fellow laboratory professionals.

### Who Should Attend?

Laboratory managers, laboratory technical personnel, assessors, and anyone involved in ensuring compliance with ELAP and the 2016 TNI Standard.

Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your knowledge and build valuable connections!



To Register for the ELAP Symposium,  
[Click here.](#)



## Industry Events

The following industry events may be of interest to ELAP professionals.

- ➔ **California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Annual Conference**  
Palm Springs, California, April 22-25, 2025
- ➔ **2025 Environmental Measurement Symposium**  
St. Louis, MO, August 3-6, 2025
- ➔ **IAS ELAP Symposium**  
Pleasanton, California, November 6, 2025

## IAS Recognized for MNELAP



We are pleased to announce that IAS has been approved as a third-party assessment organization for the Minnesota Department of Health Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (MNELAP).

The 2013 Minnesota legislative session amended the Minnesota Statutes 144.98 governing the accreditation of environmental laboratories. The amendments allow the use of qualified independent assessors and assessment organizations approved by the MNELAP.





Staff Spotlight on

**Heather  
Tohinaka**

**Heather Tohinaka** has recently joined the International Accreditation Service (IAS) as the Program Manager - Technical for the TNI/ELAP Programs. With a career spanning over two decades in environmental sciences and program management, Heather brings a strong depth of assessment and technical expertise to her role at IAS.

Prior to joining IAS, Heather served as the Director of Environmental Programs for SAW Environmental, where she spearheaded initiatives to ensure environmental compliance and sustainability. Her experience also includes roles as the Environmental Coordinator for Dominion Energy, where she managed environmental policies and compliance, and as an Environmental Scientist for GSH Geotechnical Consultants, Inc., focusing on environmental assessment and geotechnical services. Additionally, she served as the Inorganic Laboratory Supervisor for American West Analytical Laboratories, overseeing lab operations and quality assurance.

Heather holds a Master of Science and Technology in Environmental Sciences from the University of Utah, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Botany from Weber State University. Her academic and professional background reflects her commitment to advancing environmental stewardship and regulatory compliance in the industry.

Heather's leadership, technical expertise, and passion for environmental science make her an invaluable asset to the IAS team.

Heather will be working closely with the entire IAS ELAP/TNO Team including Harry Makam, Program Manager- Operations, Emily Pao, Program Coordinator, Duncan Millar, ELAP/TNI Business Development Associate, Greg West, Senior Vice President, among others.

## ELAP Questions & Answers ?

In case you missed it, here were some questions the audience asked the IAS assessor panel at the last ELAP Symposium.

**Q Do CA ELAP accredited laboratories need to implement requirements from the EPA Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water?**

**A** The manual is a guidance document, and the requirements do not need to be implemented by the laboratory.

**Q Can a CA ELAP accredited laboratory change its calibration curve fit from linear to quadratic for a method?**

**A** If the method allows the laboratory to choose either fit, then that is acceptable. But it is required that the laboratory's SOP also indicate that either fit is allowed for that method.

**Q What are the qualifications to become an assessor for CA ELAP laboratories that analyze drinking water?**

**A** The first step to becoming an assessor involves passing the Basic assessor training for the 2016 TNI standard, and the EPA Laboratory Certification Officer courses in the desired area of expertise – inorganic chemistry, organic chemistry, and microbiology. There are also additional training sessions provided by California or TNI for other fields such as toxicity, asbestos, radiochemistry, and assessing PFAS methods.

**Q How long should initial Method Detection Limit records be kept for chemistry test methods?**

**A** TNI requires that the laboratory retain these records for a minimum of 5 years. There may be additional regulatory requirements requiring records be kept longer depending on the type of testing and test method.





## 2025 Forum on Environmental Accreditation

IAS participated in the 2025 Forum on Environmental Accreditation, hosted by The NELAC Institute (TNI) February 3-6, in Jacksonville, Florida. Duncan Millar, CA ELAP/TNI, Business Development, for IAS, gave a presentation during the Nongovernmental Accreditation Body panel discussion and Harry Makam, IAS ELAP/TNI Program Manager, Operations, gave comments on the DOECAP Accreditation Program. IAS also had a display in the expo area. Some of the highlights from the week included training courses on improving internal skills and ensuring reliable results, a special Workshop on getting ready to be a certified Environmental Laboratory Quality Management Systems Professional, TNI committee meetings; a mentor session, an assessment forum, a general session with updates about TNI programs, including recent new initiatives; and a special session on "Analytical Disciplines and Technical Specialists", a new concept to replace the old Technical Manager in the current TNI laboratory accreditation standard.

## Your IAS ELAP Support Team

Dear IAS ELAP customers,

We want to thank you for your continued support and commitment to IAS. To ensure your assessment process goes smoothly, we would like to introduce you to our IAS Environmental Laboratories Program team. This introduction may help expedite the process and enhance our service to you. Our internal team has the most up-to-date information and expertise to efficiently address your needs, including assessor availability and scheduling, ensuring a smooth and seamless process. For any scheduling inquiries, please contact us directly, and we will coordinate everything for you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. Thank you!

**Mr. Harry Makam,**  
Program Manager – Operations  
[hmakam@iasonline.org](mailto:hmakam@iasonline.org)

Your primary point of contact for any assessment-related inquiries and guidance throughout the evaluation process including quoting and scheduling.

**Ms. Heather Tohinaka,**  
Program Manager – Technical  
[htohinaka@iasonline.org](mailto:htohinaka@iasonline.org)

Responsible for overseeing the technical aspects of the program, ensuring compliance with standards, and providing technical support and expertise

**Mr. Duncan Millar,**  
CA ELAP/TNI, Business Development  
[dmillar@iasonline.org](mailto:dmillar@iasonline.org)

Coordinates all of our customer engagement activities including new customer outreach, trade and events management, regulatory outreach, among other functions

**Ms. Emily Pao,**  
Program Coordinator  
[epao@iasonline.org](mailto:epao@iasonline.org)

Available to assist with general questions, and administrative support (e.g. certificate of insurance, business license, etc.).

**Ms. Jamie Lee Karim,**  
Accounting Specialist  
[jikarim@iasonline.org](mailto:jikarim@iasonline.org)  
[elap@iasonline.org](mailto:elap@iasonline.org)

Manages all billing and accounting-related inquiries to ensure your financial interactions with IAS are smooth and transparent.  
General email

## Become an IAS ELAP Assessor

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is seeking qualified assessors to join our team to perform assessments of environmental laboratories seeking to gain recognition under the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP).

IAS is a nonprofit Accreditation Body based in Brea, CA and one of the TNI approved 'Non-Governmental Accreditation Body'. IAS has also been approved as a Third-Party Agency permitted to conduct assessments on behalf of the State of California. Email your Resume / CV to [elap@iasonline.org](mailto:elap@iasonline.org).



## About IAS

IAS is the only nongovernmental accreditation body headquartered in California that has been approved to provide third-party assessments to laboratories seeking CA ELAP accreditation. IAS is a member of the International Code Council Family of Solutions

Be sure to Like, Follow and Subscribe:



**Trust, Competence, Safety**

3060 Saturn Street, Suite 101  
Brea, California 92821-1732 USA

[www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org)