

1. Which PT study results must be reported to Vermont?

Each and every PT report that includes fields of accreditation for which the laboratory holds Vermont drinking water certification must be sent to our program at the close of the study.

2. How many PTs does Vermont require?

- a. Vermont follows the TNI 2016 requirement for PT frequency.
- b. This is a minimum of two PTs a year with no more than seven months passing between PT results.
- c. To obtain or maintain certification for a field of accreditation, the lab must have a history of at least two acceptable PTs out of the last three attempted.

3. Which analytes and methods require PTs?

- a. Vermont requires PTs for each field of accreditation for which a PT is readily available from approved PT providers.
- b. This means that Vermont may require PTs for some methods that TNI does not, such as color.
- c. Keep in mind that while TNI may allow PTs to represent different methods with the same “technology,” 40 CFR 141 requires PTs be completed per method for some analytes.

4. How should PT reports be submitted to the VDH Drinking Water Laboratory Certification Program?

- a. Proficiency reports must be submitted to our program by the PT provider at the close of the study, preferably to SDWAcert@vermont.gov.
- b. PT reports sent by the laboratory will not be accepted.
- c. PT reports may not be accepted if submitted after the close of the laboratory.

5. What counts as an “unacceptable” PT result?

- a. The laboratory reports values for a parameter outside of the acceptance limits as established by the EPA, TNI, or PT provider.
- b. The laboratory fails to participate in PT studies at the required frequency (more than 7 months has passed between PTs).
- c. The results fail to meet additional criteria given by 40 CFR 141. For example, an unacceptable result for one of regulated THM results in an unacceptable result for total THMs.

For questions, e-mail SDWAcert@vermont.gov