

ANNEXURE – IV
**DESIGNATION OF LABORATORIES, CONFIDENTIALITY AND LABORATORY
PROTOCOL**

*(Under the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (Water Quality
Assessment of Bulk Water Users) Order, 2026)*

1. Designation of Laboratories

1.1 The Authority may designate one or more laboratories for carrying out water quality analysis under this Order.

1.2 The Authority may empanel, modify, suspend or remove Designated Laboratories from time to time by issuing appropriate orders or directions without requiring amendment to this Order.

1.3 The Authority may utilise one or more laboratories located within or outside the State of Maharashtra, wherever considered necessary.

2. Eligibility of Designated Laboratories

A laboratory may be designated under this Order if it is—

- (a) a laboratory established by the Central Government;
- (b) a laboratory established by the Government of Maharashtra or any other State Government;
- (c) a laboratory of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board or Central Pollution Control Board;
- (d) a laboratory accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for the relevant scope of testing;
- (e) a laboratory recognised by any competent Government authority; or
- (f) any other laboratory approved by the Authority.

Conflict of Interest

Every Designated Laboratory shall disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest which may affect the independence, impartiality or integrity of laboratory analysis. The Authority may assign the sample to another Designated Laboratory wherever considered necessary.



3. Scope of Analysis

3.1 Every Designated Laboratory shall undertake analysis only for those parameters falling within its recognised or accredited scope of testing.

3.2 Where specialised analysis is required, the Authority may send the sample to one or more Designated Laboratories having the requisite scope of recognition or accreditation.

4. Confidentiality and Coding of Samples

4.1 The Authority may assign a unique identification code to every sample collected under this Order.

4.2 The Designated Laboratory shall receive and analyse only the coded sample and shall not be informed of the identity of the Bulk Water User, project, location or any other particulars not required for laboratory analysis.

4.3 The identity of the sample shall remain confidential and shall be known only to the Authority.

4.4 The Authority may, in the interest of impartiality, confidentiality and quality assurance, forward one or more coded samples to one or more Designated Laboratories located within or outside the State of Maharashtra.

4.5 The allocation of samples to Designated Laboratories shall be determined solely by the Authority.

5. Split Sample and Independent Verification

5.1 The Authority may collect duplicate or split samples during Water Quality Assessment.

5.2 Such samples may be forwarded to different Designated Laboratories for independent analysis and verification.

5.3 Where analytical results differ materially, the Authority may direct repeat analysis or obtain analysis from another Designated Laboratory.

Preservation of Residual Sample

The Designated Laboratory shall preserve the residual sample for such period as may be specified by the Authority or applicable laboratory protocols, unless preservation is technically impracticable.



6. Chain of Custody

6.1 The Authority shall maintain a secure record of sample identification, coding, collection, sealing, transportation and laboratory allocation.

6.2 The chain of custody and coding records shall be treated as confidential official records and shall be disclosed only to the Competent Authority, a Court of competent jurisdiction or any authority authorised under law.

7. Duties of Designated Laboratory

Every Designated Laboratory shall—

- (a) analyse the samples in accordance with recognised analytical methods and quality assurance procedures;
- (b) analyse only those parameters falling within its recognised or accredited scope of testing;
- (c) maintain confidentiality of the coded samples received;
- (d) issue the Laboratory Water Quality Analysis Report in the format prescribed in Annexure II;
- (e) preserve laboratory records in accordance with applicable requirements; and
- (f) immediately inform the Authority of any circumstance affecting its accreditation, recognition or scope of testing.

8. Quality Assurance

The Authority may periodically review the performance of Designated Laboratories and may issue such directions as may be necessary to ensure reliability, consistency and integrity of laboratory analysis under this Order.

9. Panel of Designated Laboratories

The Authority may notify and maintain district-wise, region-wise, parameter-wise or category-wise panels of Designated Laboratories and revise such panels from time to time through administrative orders.

Specialised Laboratories

The Authority may engage any Government laboratory, research institution, university laboratory or specialised laboratory possessing the requisite expertise for analysis of specific parameters, contaminants or specialised water quality investigations.

