

## Radiochemical Data Validation and the Importance of the Project Planning Process

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This paper discusses what guidance is currently available for radiochemical data validation, what guidance will be available in the future, and how the decisions made during the project planning process affect (1) the need, (2) the extent, and (3) the criteria for radiochemical data validation.

Currently, there are several guidance documents for radiochemical data validation, but no consensus. This should change when the Multi-Agency Radiation Laboratory Analytical Protocols (MARLAP) manual is published. MARLAP adopts a performance-based approach to analytical measurements and data assessment, so it is important that the planning process addresses the radiological data validation needs for the project. The project planning process should answer several questions, among which are: Is radiochemical data validation necessary? To what extent should the data be validated? What performance standards should the data meet?