1. **What is the laboratory certification program?**
   New legislation (FAC; Division 5, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 9151 – 9158) passed in 2021 and effective January 1, 2022, requires CDFA to establish a certification program for laboratories testing California's livestock and poultry for Emergency or Regulatory conditions on CDFA's "List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products".

2. **What is the reason for the program?**
   CDFA's certification program is to ensure that regulated diseases are diagnosed using validated tests performed in an approved laboratory, thereby enhancing the accurate detection of conditions and reliability of results that could trigger a regulatory response by the CDFA or USDA.

3. **Which laboratories are required to apply for certification?**
   Any laboratory that tests animals or animal products owned or located in California for Emergency and Regulatory conditions, as noted on California's "List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products", is required to become certified with CDFA, unless exempt (see below).

4. **Are any laboratories exempt?**
   Any laboratory that is approved, certified, or accredited by a state or the federal government to provide these services is exempt from this legislation.

5. **Which diagnostic tests require a laboratory to become certified to perform them?**
   Any laboratory providing services in the examination, diagnosis, analysis, testing, quantifying, or identification of any emergency or regulatory condition of poultry or livestock owned or located within the state, as listed on the "List of Reportable Conditions for Animals and Animal Products", requires certification with CDFA or proof of qualifying exemption. A certified laboratory shall only use an official approved or validated diagnostic test for diseases of regulatory importance.

6. **What is needed for laboratories to become certified?**

   Laboratories are required to have full accreditation and to be in good standing with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), or the individual test methods must be certified according to the International Organization for Standardization(ISO)/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 17025 - The current general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration of laboratories.

7. **How does a laboratory apply for certification with the California Department of Food and Agriculture?**

   Please download the California Animal Health Laboratory Certification Program Application on our website www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/cahlcp/.
   Please return completed application via email to: labprogram@cdfa.ca.gov
   Submit a check paid to the order of: "CDFA - 916"; and mail with a copy of application to Cashier's Office; CDFA - Animal Health Branch, P.O. Box 942881, ATTN:CDFA-916, Sacramento CA 94271

8. **How does a laboratory renew their certification and how often is renewal required?**

   Laboratory certification is valid for one calendar year from Jan 1st – Dec 31st. Applications received and approved during the calendar year will be pro-rated on a per month basis for the remainder of that calendar year.
   Recertification or exemption is required on a yearly basis. Laboratories in the program will be required to download and submit the California Animal Health Laboratory Certification Program Application and apply for renewal (available on the program website) in the fall of each calendar year to ensure approval for the following calendar year.

9. **When do these requirements go into effect?**

   Program requirements are effective as of January 1, 2022. Enforcement of the requirements begins January 1, 2023.

10. **What is the proposed timeline for implementation?**

Enacted legislation is effective January 1, 2022. All applications must be approved or in process by January 1, 2023 when enforcement commences.

11. **What is the cost of application renewal?**

Both initial and renewal applications are currently one thousand ($1,000) per year per application due by January 1st of each calendar year. Check or money order can made out to:"CDFA - 916" and mailed to Cashier's Office; CDFA - Animal Health Branch, P.O. Box 942881, ATTN: CDFA-916, Sacramento CA 94271. Fees will be pro-rated per month ($83.33/month) for applications submitted for a partial calendar year.

12. **What are the penalties for violation after the requirements are implemented?**

There is a penalty of up to twenty-five thousand dollars ($25,000) for each act constituting a violation. (FAC; Division 5, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 3.5, Sections 9151 – 9158).