

Consumables Task Force Meeting Summary January 26, 2023

The Consumables Task Force (CTF) met on Thursday, January 26, 2023, by teleconference at 3:00 PM ET. The meeting was recorded for the purpose of creating minutes of the proceedings. The recording was deleted upon completion of said minutes. The meeting was led by Consumables Task Force Chair, Judy Morgan. The agenda for the meeting is presented as Attachment 1.

Roll Call

Judy Morgan, Pace Analytical Services (Task Force Chair)	Present
Robert Benz, Horizon LIMS	Absent
Kathryn Chang, Eurofins CalScience	Present
Dorothy Love, Eurofins	Absent
William Lipps, Shimadzu Scientific Instruments	Absent
Tammy Minigh, City of Daytona Beach	Absent
Amy Pollard, Occidental Chemical	Absent
Patsy Root, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc	Absent
Shawn Kassner, Kaychala Laboratories	Absent
David Smith, Environmental Express	Present
Mike Booth, Inorganic Ventures	Absent
Tammy Kreutzer, Neilson Research Corporation	Present
Michael Brechmann, BSK Associates	Absent
Jack Farrell, Analytical Excellence, Inc.	Absent
Robert Wyeth, TNI Program Administrator	Present

A quorum was not present, but the meeting continued for informational and development purposes.

November and December 2022 Minutes

Without a quorum present, the approval of the November and December minutes will be completed by e-mail ballot of the members.

San Antonio Forum on Environmental Accreditation meeting regarding Task Force implementation

Both Bob and Judy relayed their discussions of the direction of the CTF during the Chemistry Expert Committee meeting and the Mentor session respectively. In neither case was a formal presentation being made but rather a summary type discussion of the CTF efforts and the intent of the Task Force products on the laboratories and their compliance with Standard requirements in EL V1M2. In neither case was the description of the Task Force products met with enthusiasm by the attendees. Generally, it was felt that compliance using the Task Force approach was just another burden being placed on the laboratories.

During a TNI staff meeting following the Forum, Bob discussed these observations and the consensus of the TNI staff was that the CTF should change their focus from the laboratories to the vendor community. It was suggested that a separate volume of the Standard (EL V5) maybe developed regarding procurement of “quality critical” products and services; specifically, regarding Certificates (of Authenticity, Analysis, Measurement or appropriate term).

A revised focus: Comments and Discussion

Despite the low attendance for this conference call, Judy requested input from those present on the current situation and potential direction of the CTF. The general consensus of those present was that a revised focus on the vendor community was an appropriate means of meeting the CTF mission.

The question of guidance versus standard development was discussed with the consensus being that development of a Standard (EL V5) would put an unnecessary requirement on vendors, many of whom could not or would not be prepared to address. This situation is believed to shrink the pool of available vendors and/or increase costs to the laboratories.

Guidance in the form of some appendix to EL V1M2 directed toward the expectations (as opposed to requirements) of vendors was deemed most applicable to ensure compliance with the TNI Standard. One suggestion was the possibility of some form of TNI Vendor Approval or Certification. This concept needs to be further developed but could potentially ease the burden on both laboratories and vendors.

Another issue discussed but not resolved was that in the case of guidance, would assessors deem guidance to be requirements even in the absence of a Standard. Some aspects of this concern could be addressed in the language of the guidance document.

The actions going forward were to prepare a “position paper” on this issue to ensure a thorough review by the full CTF membership on future direction and notification of TNI Management if deemed necessary. It was also realized that if the focus of the CTF is to change, the previously developed decision tree documents would require modification.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM ET. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for February 23, 2023, at 3:00 PM ET.

Attachment 1
TNI Consumables Task Force
Meeting Agenda
Thursday, November 17, 2022, 3:00PM ET

(712) 832-8330; 822174#

Judy Morgan, Chair

1. Roll call.
2. Presentation of November and December Minutes
3. San Antonio Forum on Environmental Accreditation meeting regarding Task Force implementation of work products developed.
4. A revised focus: Comments and Discussion