

Summary of the Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2024 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Aaren welcomed everyone to this meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. The agenda was amended to include nominations and a vote for a committee Vice Chair and approved by unanimous consent. The original agenda is shown in Attachment 2.

The minutes from August 20 were approved with a change requested by Nilda, after a motion by Mike seconded by Nilda. Approval was unanimous.

2. Nominations for Committee Vice Chair

Both Amy and Mike stated that they would consider the role of Vice Chair, and after discussion, Mike stepped back and Amy nominated herself. Mike moved and Michella seconded that Amy be elected as Vice Chair, and approval was unanimous. Thank you, Amy! And thanks to Mike for being willing.

3. Discussion of Items in Draft Module from Requested Full Review

Aaren had again reviewed the entire module and annotated it with her comments to note places where ISO language could be removed or needed supplemental information to make it suitable for governmental ABs, or other text that should be considered for modification. No other committee members offered to provide comments from their review. The comments as discussed are detailed below.

§3.15 – Assessor Definition

The ISO text says an assessor is assigned by the AB. For at least two NELAP ABs (FL and MN), the lab chooses and pays its assessor from a state-provided list of approved assessors, a process that would make them non-compliant. For those two states, the lab chooses its assessor (or assessor body) based on the desired scope of accreditation and whether the assessor is qualified for everything in the scope. Zaneta noted that ANAB serves as an assessor body for FL, and that in ANAB's case, the non-governmental AB (acting as a third party assessor) does select the assessor, but that is not the same as the NELAP AB assigning a particular assessor.

Different preferences were expressed by committee members, with some stating that flexibility is desirable and others concerned about at least the appearance of impropriety when the lab chooses and pays its assessor directly. MN does not allow the same assessor more than twice in a row, but FL has no such restriction. Michella stated EPA's policy that allowing the lab to choose its third party assessor conflicts with the drinking water certification program. Participants agreed that Michella and Aaren will take this issue up with the NELAP Accreditation Council before finalizing the module.

§3.19 – Consultancy Definition

Example 3 in this definition (ISO text) needs to be deleted because states are generally obligated to "support" labs in the process of becoming accredited, and this is an expectation of the drinking water program as well.

§3.22 – Flexible Scope of Accreditation

Previously agreed that this definition should be deleted, as NELAP does not permit flexible scopes (August 14, 2023).

§4.2 – Accreditation Agreement

Aaren noted that there are many TNI exceptions to this section, but that non-governmental ABs recognized to accredit to the TNI Standard probably need all of it. (There was no longer an NGAB representative on the call for this discussion, due to early departure.) The state governments implicitly have enforcement authority. Perhaps a note stating something like “for governmental ABs, the application for accreditation (or contract or certification of compliance) is deemed legally enforceable” – final wording to be determined later.

§4.3 – Use of Accreditation Symbols and Other Claims of Accreditation

Because this section is about lab requirements, not AB requirements, it should be in Volume 1 (where it can still be enforced by the AB). The Chair of Quality Management Systems Expert Committee affirmed that the lab requirements in this section are now in the draft revision of V1M2.

§4.4.5 – Impartiality Requirements

Is this about having an advisory body? States are required to do “notice and comment” rulemaking before implementing or changing accreditation programs, but this may be needed by NGABs. Two options – delete this subsection or explain how to meet it, decision uncertain.

§4.5 – Financing and Liability

Consensus was to eliminate this section.

Additional sections are marked for consideration to either clarify or eliminate, but time was expired at this point. Review will resume at §4.6, Accreditation Schemes.

4. Resume Voting on Persuasiveness of Comments

There was no longer a quorum, so voting was not possible. The meeting was adjourned.

3. Next Meeting

The next planned teleconference meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 1:00 pm Eastern**. A new Vice Chair will need to be elected at this meeting.

Aaren asks that committee members unable to attend please notify her and Lynn prior to the meeting date.

Attachment 1 LAB Expert Committee Roster

Name/Email	Term ends	Affiliation	Present?
Aaren Alger, Chair Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com	1/30/2026 (2nd term)	Other – Alger Consulting & Training	Yes
Socorro Baldonado sbaldonado@mwdh2o.com	1/30/2026 (2nd term)	Lab – Metropolitan Water District, La Verne, CA	No
Nilda Cox nilda.cox@et.eurofinsus.com	1/30/2025 (2nd term)	Lab – Eurofins Eaton Analytical LLC	Yes
Bill Hall george.w.hall@des.nh.gov	1/30/2026 (1st term)	AB – NH DES	No
Sviatlana Haubner Sviatlana.Haubner@cincinnati-oh.gov	1/30/2025 (1 st term)	LAB – Cincinnati Metropolitan Sewer District	No
Michella Karapondo Karapondo.michella@epa.gov	1/30/2025 (1st term)	Other – EPA OGWDW TSC/Cincinnati	Yes
Michael Perry michael.perry@lvwd.com	1/30/2026 (2nd term)	Lab – Southern Nevada Water Authority	Yes
Zaneta Popovska zpopovska@anab.org	1/30/2025 (2nd term)	AB – ANAB	Yes
Millie Rose Millie.Rose@illinois.gov	1/30/2028 (1st term)	AB – IL EPA	No
Amy Steuerwald amy.steuerwald@health.ny.gov	1/30/27 (1st term)	AB – NY DOH	Yes
Program Administrator: Lynn Bradley Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org	N/A		Yes
Associate Members:			
Paul Bergeron Paul.bergeron@la.gov		AB – LDEQ	No
Debbie Bond dbond@southernco.com		LAB – Alabama Power	Yes
Yumi Creason ycreason@pa.gov		Other	No
Taryn Hurley taryn.hurley@deq.ok.gov		AB – OK DEQ	No
Paul Junio paul.junio@pacelabs.com		LAB – Pace Labs, Inc.	No
LeeAnn Kline lkline@mjureider.com		M J Reider Associates	Yes
Ryan Lerch Ryan.lerch@deq.ok.gov		AB – OK DEQ	Yes
Marlene Moore mmoore@advancedsys.com		Other – Advanced Systems, Inc., Newark, DE	No
Mei Beth Shepherd, Vice Chair mbshep@sheptechserv.com		Other – Shepherd Technical Services	No
Nicholas Slawson nslawson@a2la.org		AB – A2LA	No
Ilona Taunton Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org		Other – TNI Program Administrator	No
Cathy Westerman cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov		AB – VA DCLS	Yes

Attachment 2 – LAB Expert Committee Meeting Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (August minutes attached)
- Discussion of Items in Draft Module from Requested Full Review (see attached draft V2M1, marked from Aaren's review – yellow needs clarification, green to be considered for deletion – further comments sought from committee members)
- Resume Voting on Persuasiveness of Comments (see attached spreadsheet)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn