

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary
Minneapolis, MN – Summer Meeting

August 1, 2023

1. Roll Call:

Cody, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm Eastern on August 1, 2023, in Minneapolis, MN. Voting Members Present: Silky Labie, Cody Danielson, Elisa Snyder, and Matt Graves. There were about 55 attendees in the meeting room.

The Committee still has room for one more voting committee member - AB or Other.

Cody prepared a presentation she used to provide information – see Attachment A.

2. Revised DRAFT Standard

The Committee finished voting on the Response to Comments Summary document. There were persuasive comments so there will be a new DRAFT Standard posted after the Summary document has posted for 30 days.

Cody reviewed slides to show the comments and the Committee's response. See Attachment A. The table also includes the changes being made to the revised DRAFT Standard.

There were no additional comments.

3. Understanding Microbiology Series Training

Four (4) parts of the series are done, and Part 5 is left. This part will get into the test methods and common analysis issues.

It has taken a year and has been a lot of work to put this training together. The Workgroup developing it has been meeting every other week.

4. Implementation Guidance – Equilibrium

Temperature Equilibrium

In a Temperature Distribution Study, you are looking for cold and hot spots. See Attachment A.

Equilibrium Testing Implementation Guidance will not be needed when the new Standard is completed, but it is helpful with current 2016 Standard.



Forum on Environmental Accreditation TNI Microbiology Expert Committee

January 10th,
2023
San Antonio, TX

What you see thru
the microscope



What bacteria sees





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2023 Forum on Environmental Accreditation

Microbiology Expert Committee

Meeting Agenda
January 10th, 2023

1. Welcome and Roll Call

2. Membership

3. Overview of 2022 Accomplishments and 2023 Goals

4. Proposed Revised DS Language for 3 formal comments

5. Update regarding Dates for 5-part Understanding Microbiology Training Webinar Series

6. Open Discussion



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Meet the Microbiology Expert Committee

Name	Role	Organization
Cody Danielson	Chair	Expert Committee member
Robin Cook	Vice Chair	Expert Committee member
Hunter Adams	Voting Member	We have a mix of lab and non-lab stakeholders
Jody Frymire	Voting Member	Other
Ashley Larssen	Voting Member	Lab
Christabel Monteiro	Voting Member	Lab
Enoma Omoregie	Voting Member	Lab
Elisa Snyder	Voting Member	Other
Amy Hackman	Voting Member	AB
Robert Re...	Voting Member	Other
J...	Voting Member	Other
Graves	Voting Member	AB
Maria Friedman	Voting Member	AB
Ilona Taunton	Program Administrator	The NELAC Institute



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Microbiology Expert Committee

2022 Accomplishments

Worked on response to Volume 1 Module 5 DRAFT Standard comments

Completed 2 SIRs (423, 425)

Developed "Understanding Microbiology" Webinar Series

Supported Quality Management System's efforts to finalize language for Technical Manager/Technical Expert

2023 Goals

Complete Volume 1 Module 5 update

Provide "Understanding Microbiology" Webinar Series


Continue to respond to Standard Interpretation Requests

Prepare Implementation Guidance regarding Incubator Equilibrium checks

Continue to support Quality Management System's efforts to finalize language for Technical Manager/Technical Expert



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Proposed Revised DS Language

DRAFT STANDARD TEXT


1.7.3 Quality Control

1.7.3.1 Quality, Selectivity, and Sterility of Standards, Reagents, Materials, and Media


d) Reagent Water

ii. The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for disinfectant residual, conductivity, total organic carbon, and heterotrophic bacteria plate count monthly (when in use), when maintenance is performed on the water treatment system, or at startup after a period of disuse longer than one month. Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory.

iii. The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, and Zn) and the Bacteriological Water Quality Test (to determine presence of toxic agents or growth promoting substances) annually. An exception to performing the Bacteriological Water Quality Test shall be given to laboratories that can supply documentation to show that their water source meets the criteria, as specified by the method, for High Quality (Type I) or Medium Quality (Type II) reagent water. Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory.



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Proposed Revised DS Language

COMMENT


Please add the word accredited either before or after the word certified lab in the Micro Module Also I have been more specific that the certified/accredited lab be certified/accredited for the specific tests being performed by the laboratory. This statement is not a requirement.(Why is this statement made in the standard if it is not a requirement?) 1.7.3.1.d.ii and iii "Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory." I suggest the following: Suggested change: "Analysis must be performed by a certified/accredited laboratory for the tests being measured or requested from another laboratory."

COMMENT

Section 1.7.3.1(d) Subsections (ii) and (iii) mention that if the specified water quality tests are performed by an outside laboratory, that laboratory has to be "certified" (accredited?) for the tests in question. What if the laboratory performs the tests in-house? Does it have to be certified for the water quality analytes tested? Suggestion for improvement: Add a NOTE or additional requirements to Subsections (ii) and (iii) to read as follows: "NOTE: If the laboratory performs these tests itself internally, the laboratory does not need to be accredited for these tests when performed for the purpose of reagent water quality monitoring."

COMMENT

There is not an accredited method that can meet the silica criteria for type I or type II water.



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Proposed Revised DS Language

DS TEXT	REVISED DS CHANGE
1.7.3.1.d.ii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for disinfectant residual, conductivity, total organic carbon, and heterotrophic bacteria plate count monthly (when in use), when maintenance is performed on the water treatment system, or at startup after a period of disuse longer than one month. Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory.	1.7.3.1.d.ii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for disinfectant residual, conductivity, total organic carbon, and heterotrophic bacteria plate count monthly (when in use), when maintenance is performed on the water treatment system, or at startup after a period of disuse longer than one month. Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory. If the laboratory performs these tests internally for the purpose of reagent water quality monitoring, the laboratory does not need to be accredited for these tests. When these tests are not performed internally, subcontracted work must meet the requirements of VIM2 Section 4.5.5.

REVISED DS LANGUAGE WITH CHANGES ACCEPTED

1.7.3.1.d.ii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for disinfectant residual, conductivity, total organic carbon, and heterotrophic bacteria plate count monthly (when in use), when maintenance is performed on the water treatment system, or at startup after a period of disuse longer than one month. If the laboratory performs these tests internally for the purpose of reagent water quality monitoring, the laboratory does not need to be accredited for these tests. When these tests are not performed internally, subcontracted work must meet the requirements of VIM2 Section 4.5.5.

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Proposed Revised DS Language

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1.7.3.1.d.iii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, and Zn) and the Bacteriological Water Quality Test (to determine presence of toxic agents or growth promoting substances) annually. An exception to performing the Bacteriological Water Quality Test shall be given to laboratories that can supply documentation to show that their water source meets the criteria, as specified by the method, for High Quality (Type I) or Medium Quality (Type II) reagent water. Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory.	1.7.3.1.d.iii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, and Zn) and the Bacteriological Water Quality Test (to determine presence of toxic agents or growth promoting substances) annually. An exception to performing the Bacteriological Water Quality Test shall be given to laboratories that can supply documentation to show that their water source meets the criteria, as specified by the method, for High Quality (Type I) or Medium Quality (Type II) reagent water. Analysis may be performed by another certified laboratory. Subcontracted work must meet the requirements of VIM2 Section 4.5.5.

REVISED DS LANGUAGE WITH CHANGES ACCEPTED

1.7.3.1.d.iii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, and Zn annually. Subcontracted work must meet the requirements of VIM2 Section 4.5.5.

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Proposed Revised DS Language

REVISED DS LANGUAGE WITH CHANGES ACCEPTED

1.7.3.1.d.ii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for disinfectant residual, conductivity, total organic carbon, and heterotrophic bacteria plate count monthly (when in use), when maintenance is performed on the water treatment system, or at startup after a period of disuse longer than one month. If the laboratory performs these tests internally for the purpose of reagent water quality monitoring, the laboratory does not need to be accredited for these tests. When these tests are not performed internally, subcontracted work must meet the requirements of VIM2 Section 4.5.5.

1.7.3.1.d.iii: The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, and Zn annually. Subcontracted work must meet the requirements of VIM2 Section 4.5.5.

VIM2 4.5.5 LANGUAGE

4.5.5 When a laboratory subcontracts work, this work shall be placed with a laboratory accredited to this Standard for the tests to be performed or with a laboratory that meets applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for performing the tests and submitting the results of tests performed. The laboratory performing the subcontracted work shall be indicated in the final report. The laboratory shall make a copy of the subcontractor's report available to the client when requested.

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Understanding Microbiology Training Series

- This series focuses on microbiological testing of environmental samples.
- It will not train to the TNI Standard, but rather will cover basic and advanced microbiological principals and how to implement the requirements of VIM5 of the 2016 TNI Standard.
- Analysts and assessors seeking to expand their knowledge beyond the Standard can do so by learning in-depth information on microbiological testing.
- Course topics:
 - Part 1: Introduction to Microbiological Analytes, Lingo, Techniques and Technologies
 - Part 2: Microbiological Testing Supplies, Equipment and Instrumentation
 - Part 3: Microbiological Quality Control Testing
 - Part 4: Microbiological Testing Media and Reagents
 - Part 5: Microbiological Testing Methods

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Understanding Microbiology Training Series

- Part 1 was presented live in August 2022 at the Environmental Measurements Symposium
- Parts 1-5 will be announced as webinars shortly. Plan is for them to take place live on the 3rd Thursday of each month
- Tentative schedule:
 - Part 1: February (4 hours)
 - Part 2: March (90 minutes)
 - Part 3: April (90 minutes)
 - Part 4: May (90 minutes)
 - Part 5: June (3 hours)

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ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE MICROBIOLOGY EXPERT COMMITTEE?

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MEC Contacts

Please feel free to reach out to the Microbiology Expert Committee:

CHAIR	Cody Danielson	cody.danielson@deq.ok.gov
VICE-CHAIR	Robin Cook	cookrobin@codb.us
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR	Ilona Taunton	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

If you are interested in joining the Committee as an Associate or Voting member, please fill out an application. We would love to have you as part of our team!

