

**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)  
Meeting Summary**

**October 11, 2022**

1. Roll Call:

Cody, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern on October 11, 2022 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 voting members present. Associates present: Tiffany Carey, Brian Mercer, Tina Buttermore, Debbie Bond, Chandrasekhar Thekkekalathil, Alma McCammond, Joe Manzella, Carl Kircher (left 2pm Eastern) and David Lo.

2. Technical Specialist Language

Cody distributed by email the proposed language that the Quality Management System (QMS) Expert Committee is working on. They have asked this Committee to review it to ensure it is not stricter than the current requirements. There was general agreement that it is not stricter.

Robin read through the comments shared by email. One comment was that the exemptions should be in Volume 2 (the AB Standard). Another question is about how is “successfully completed” defined. Robin thinks this should also be in Module 2 in the preamble in Section 5.2.6. It is relevant to all language. A passing grade is not consistent between different schools. For some it is a “D” and for some a “C”. QMS is working on this.

Debbie Bond noted that she talked to the LAB Expert Committee, and they don’t need to add anything to Volume 2 because their standard refers to Volume 1. They require access to the information. Debbie also noted that QMS is looking at bulleting all the requirements.

3. SIR 425 – Sent Back

Cody reminded everyone that the Committee added a sentence to the end of their response. The LASEC is asking that we delete that sentence. This was acceptable to the Committee.

A motion was made by Jody to accept the Response language below. The motion was seconded by Hunter. There was no further discussion. The vote will be done by email.

SIR 425

**Standard**

2016 TNI Standard

**Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)**

V1M5

**Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)**

V1M5, Section 1.7.3.1.b.i

**Describe the problem:**

A previous SIR dated 12/11/19 clarified the requirement for sterility checks to be performed by each location using the materials. "The laboratory location using the materials is responsible for performing the sterility check. Using the example provided, each sister laboratory is required to perform their own sterility check. A sterility check does not need to be performed until the items are received in their final location of use."

Does the same apply for media checks appearing in 1.7.3.1.b.i? In other words must EACH LABORATORY LOCATION using the same lot of media perform the performance checks defined in 1.7.3.1.b.i?

**Committee Comment:**

**Response:**

**The preamble, Section 1.7.3.1 states "The laboratory shall demonstrate and document that the quality of the reagents and media used is appropriate for the test concerned including, but not limited to, test conditions and incubation times".**

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The response will be reviewed by email and sent to the entire committee for a 2/3 Super Majority vote.

*(Addition:*

*Vote:*

*Hunter - For (Second) (10/11/22)*

*Robin – For (10/11/22)*

*Matt – For (10/22/22)*

*Robert – For (10/11/22)*

*Jody - For (Motion). (10/11/22)*

*Amy – For (10/11/22)*

*Cody – For (10/11/22)*

*Enoma – For (10/27/22)*

*Jessica – For (10/26/22)*

*Elisa – For (10/11/22)*

*Christabel – For (10/11/22)*

*Ashley – For (10/13/22)*

*The motion passed. Cody will send the update to Lynn Bradley (PA, LASEC).)*

4. Continue work on DRAFT Standard Comments

The Committee is still working through comments 1, 4 and 11. Amy and Dwayne are working on language to circulate to the Committee, but this has not been completed yet. Cody asked if anyone has any further comments. The last time this was reviewed there were different views on what language should be kept.

Robin commented that if you are doing it for yourself (pH, conductivity, etc), then there would be no advantage to being certified. If you are sending it out, the lab should be certified.

Do the words “when not performed internally” give the lab the flexibility to say you don’t need to be certified when done internally?

Need to look at whether all the testing is actually required given all the other testing required.

Cody will send the following information by email to get feedback and maybe a possible vote before the next meeting:

Proposed Revised DS language:

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. When these tests are not performed internally, subcontracted work must meet the requirements of V1M2 Section 4.5.5.

1.7.3.1.d.iii

The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for metals (Cd, Cr, Cu, Ni, Pb, and Zn) annually. When these tests are not performed internally, subcontracted work must meet the requirements of V1M2 Section 4.5.5.

The current DS language is:

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.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.

## 5. New Business

None.

## 6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be by teleconference on November 8, 2022 at 1:30pm Eastern.

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

Cody adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm Eastern.

Attachment A

**Participants  
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Cody Danielson (Chair) (2025) <b>Present</b>	Oklahoma	Lab	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Matt Graves (2025*) <b>Absent</b>	ERA	Other	Matt_graves@waters.com
Lily Giles (2025) <b>Absent</b>	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Amy Hackman (2025*) <b>Present</b>	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) (2024*) <b>Present</b>	City of Daytona Beach, EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Ashley Larssen (2024*) <b>Absent</b>	KC Water	Lab	ashley.larssen@kcmo.org
Jody Frymire (2025) <b>Present</b>	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Jessica Hoch (2025) <b>Absent</b>	TCEQ	Other	Jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Elisa Snyder (2023*) <b>Present</b>	City of Austin – Austin Water Division	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Hunter Adams (2023*) <b>Present</b>	City of Wichita Falls – Water Purification	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Enoma Omoregie (2024) <b>Absent</b>	NYC DOHMH	Lab	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2024) <b>Absent</b>	Pace National, Analytical	Lab	christabel.monteiro@pacelabs.com
Robert Royce (2025*) <b>Present</b>	New Jersey	AB	Robert.royce@dep.nj.gov
Maria Friedman (2025*) <b>Absent</b>	California	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) <b>Present at 2pm Eastern</b>	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

**Attachment B  
Action Items – MEC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
104	Implementation Guidance for Equilibrium.	Committee	TBD	See note in 5/11/21 minutes.
105	Discuss definition of Lot with Chair of CSDP EC.	Kasey Paul Junio	2/11/21	Started, but ongoing. 7/13/21: Remove
112	Develop Understanding Microbiology Course	Cody Committee	TBD	7/12/22: Ready for first class in VA.
113	Complete Response to Draft Comments Process	All	Ongoing	5/10/22: Voted on Comments: 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 6/14/22: Voted on Comments 5 and 6.

**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – MEC**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Update charter (if needed) every 5 years.	n/a	Ongoing
2	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Dan Hickman.		Moved to back-burner on 6/9/20.
3	Provide an update on what has been done with the method codes and database after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.		This was moved from the Action Items table.  Notes: 6/9/20: Ask Jennifer for a follow-up. 11/9/20 – Not available for a follow-up.