Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary

February 8, 2022

1. Roll Call:

   Cody, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern on February 8, 2022 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associates present: Carl Kircher, Anagha Chitre, Joe Guzman, KeShawne Ingram, Nigel Allison, Stacey Chmura, Svetlana, Thekkekalathil Chandra and Tiffany.

   Cody welcomed the new voting members – Robert Royce (AB), Amy Hackman (AB) and Matt Graves (Other – PT Provider). She also thanked Jessica Hoch for her 6 years of service.

2. Membership

   Cody Danielson's stakeholder group has now officially been changed to Laboratory.

   Second term members were voted in by email:
   A motion was made by Amy to approve Cody Danielson, Jody Frymire, Lily Giles and Mary Robinson for a second term on the Committee. The motion was seconded by Ashley and unanimously approved (on 2/8/23: Amy, Jody, Robert, Elisa, Christabel, Hunter, Robin, Cody, Vanessa, Enoma).

   A motion was made by Jody to have Cody continue as Chair and Robin as Vice-Chair. Christabel seconded the motion and there was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

   New Membership vote by email:

   A motion was made by Hunter on 2/8/23 by email to add Matt Graves as a voting member to the Microbiology Expert Committee. The motion was seconded by Enoma and unanimously approved (on 2/8/23: Amy, Elisa, Hunter, Jody, Ashley, Cristabel, Cody, Enoma).

   A motion was made by Elisa on 1/4/23 by email to add Amy Hackman and Robert Royce as voting members to the Microbiology Expert Committee. The motion was seconded by Jody and unanimously approved (on 1/14/23: Elisa, Jody, Ashley, Mary, Hunter, Enoma, Jessica, Cody).

3. SIR 423 and 425

   SIR 423 was completed by email and voted on – see below.

Standard	2016 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M5
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	1.7.3.6.d

Describe the problem:
In a recently published SIR of V1M5: 1.7.3.b.i, the interpretation allows the media performance testing language of "at a minimum with first use" to be applied by the laboratory as "before first use, or with the first used". V1M5: 1.7.3.6.d states that each batch of ready-to-use lot of medium and each batch of medium prepared in the laboratory shall be tested with at least one or more known negative and positive culture control 'prior to first use of the medium".

These sections do not specify that the culture controls must be performed "by the laboratory" (as stated in V1M5: 1.7.3.1.a for sterility checks), nor do they specify "the laboratory shall perform" the culture controls on media (as stated in V1M5: 1.7.3.1.a.i for sterility checks). V1M5: 1.7.3.6.d states that the media must be tested with known positive and negative culture controls prior to first use, but not why whom.

Are positive and negative culture controls that have been performed by the media manufacturer for pre-prepared, ready-to-use medium or medium prepared in the laboratory, or both acceptable to meet this TNI requirement?

Committee Comment:

Response:
The laboratory performing the sample analysis, except where specified in Section 1.7.3.1.d.ii and Section 1.7.3.1.d.iii, shall perform and document the quality of the reagents and media used as appropriate for the analytical method. Using the example provided, each sister laboratory is required to perform their own testing with positive and negative culture controls. This quality control check must be performed at each location of use.

A motion was made by Hunter on 1/25/23 to approve SIR 423 as written in Cody's email (see above) sent 1/25/22. The motion was seconded by Jessica on 1-25-22 by email.
Vote:
Cody – For 1/25/22
Jessica – For 1/25/22
Vanessa – For 1/25/22
Christabel – For 1/25/22
Elisa – For 1/25/22
Hunter – For 1/25/22
Robin – For. 1/25/22
Mary – For 1/25/22
Enoma – For. 1/25/22
Ashley – For 1/25/22

The motion was approved.

A new SIR was received:

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 laboratory performing the sample analysis, except where specified in Section 1.7.3.1.d.ii and Section 1.7.3.1.d.iii, shall perform and document the quality of the reagents and media used as appropriate for the analytical method. Using the example provided, each sister laboratory is required to perform their own media performance checks. This quality control check must be performed at each location of use.

Cody provided the following voting record on 2/8/23 by email to support the approval of the response for SIR 425.

SIR 425			
	Motion	Second	Vote
Hunter	x		
Ashley		x	
Cody			Aye
Robin			Aye
Lily			Aye
Jody			Aye
Vanessa			Aye
Robert			Aye
Amy			Aye
Enoma			
Jessica			
Mary			Aye
Elisa			Aye
Christabel			Aye

4. Training Course

Cody asked the Committee to brainstorm ideas for an "Understanding Microbiology Class":

- Do it live but also record it for purchase/recorded later
- Outside labs could use separate, smaller periods of time talking about techniques and another one on QC elements. Smaller shorter classes.
- Everyone seems to be in favor of a series of shorter courses
- What would we cover initially?
- Would this be like the general chemistry series? Could folks only purchase one of the trainings versus the series. Ilona said it would depend on what it looks like in the end. Gen chem was a yes, radiochemistry was five 8 hour classes and cannot be purchased separately because it is being used as assessor training
- Lack of basic knowledge of basic micro- what it is, technique, we should start with basics. Then get into methods and programs
- Start with a basic class- determine what that entails
- Could this count for technicians that want to move towards a technical manager (however named) role?

Cody shared Radiochemistry's training online.

Cody reviewed the suggested abstract for the class and ideas of what to cover

What would you include in a basic class – people can email ideas also.

Include something about sample transport.

Include some QC and regulatory -

Cody will send information by email to the entire committee for more comments. Will be further discussed next month.

4. Comments to Posted DRAFT Standard

Cody shared comments she received in San Antonio:

Comment to Reagent Water 1.7.3.1.d.ii and iii

If lab doesn't want to do it bc they don't want a metals analyzer/hpc media, if they choose not to do this, they are allowed to send to another lab

As suggested, would be a significant change to the standard, as a lab doesn't need to be certified lab if doing in house

Carl says to use the NOTE to say the lab itself doesn't need to be accredited

Maybe we can try:
"Analysis must be performed by a certified/accredited laboratory for the tests being measured or requested from another laboratory." Then add what Carl said as "the exception will be 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."

Comments to uniformity of temp 1.7.3.6.b.v

SM9020B SM latest version to see what it says about temperature distribution

What we have is innocuous, as is SM. SM does talk about maintaining appropriate and uniform temps.

Put in what it is being used for to check for cold and hot spots

Comment to 1.7.3.1.a

Already a requirement to have a SOP for all faucets of lab operations in M2, and this would cover procedure for sterility testing

Jessica says that proper use of support equipment M2 could be used, but people might use this differently. All support equipment and reagents must be used by manufacturer's guidelines

There are not manufacture's instructions for DS TSB, so in order to make it they need to go against the manufacturer's.

Comments to 1.7.3.3

Jennifer Best said that if she puts on her EPA lawyer hat, the "when possible" is not enforceable and would need to go.

Robin said the intent was that the analysts that cannot count that same sample, can they not run Micro for a full month until they can count. Can the ones that don't count at the same time, can they go with the primary analyst and count a different one

The cert manual says "all available analysts" so we think we may go with that language and drafted something like it in the excel spreadsheet.

Comments 1.7.3.6.b.i and other (comment 5)

We cite 5.5.13.1 which covers more than "yes it is a thermometer" plus there is no def for calibration verification

Consider adding language that all verifications in 1.7.3.6 be done according to Volume 1 Module 2.

5. New Business

None.

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be by teleconference on March 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 3:04 pm Eastern.

Attachment A

Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Cody Danielson (Chair) (2022*) **Present**	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Lily Giles (2022*) **Present - Phone**	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Mary Robinson (2022*) **Absent – Add 2:30pm**	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) (2024*) **Absent**	City of Daytona Beach, EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Ashley Larssen (2024*) **Present (joined 1:56pm Eastern)**	KC Water	Lab	ashley.larssen@kcmo.org
Jody Frymire (2022*) **Present**	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2023) **Present**	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Elisa Snyder (2023*) **Absent**	City of Austin – Austin Water Division	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Hunter Adams (2023*) **Present**	City of Wichita Falls – Water Purification	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Enoma Omoregie (2024) **Absent**	NYC DOHMH	Lab	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2024) **Present**	Pace National, Analytical	Lab	christabel.monteiro@pacelabs.com
Robert Royce (2025*) **Present**	New Jersey	AB	Robert.royce@dep.nj.gov
Amy Hackman (2025*) **Present**	PA	AB	ahackman@pa.gov
Matt Graves (2025*) **Present**	ERA	Other	Matt_graves@waters.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) **Present**	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B
Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
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	
113	Complete Response to Draft Comments Process	All	Ongoing	
114				

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
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.