Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary

July 12, 2022

1. Roll Call:

   Cody, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern on June 14, 2022, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 voting members present. Associates present: Dwayne Burkholder (leave at 2pm), Anagha Chitre, Thekkekalathil Chandra, Carl Kircher, Joe Guzman, Paul Junio (leave at 2pm), and Brian Mercer.

   The May minutes were distributed. A motion was made by Maria to approve the May 10, 2022, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jody and unanimously approved.

2. Crystal City, VA – Summer Meeting

   Voting members that will be present – Maria, Robin, Cody.

3. Comments to Posted DRAFT Standard – Vote

   Comments #1, #4 and #11 should be voted on together.

				Quality Systems for Microbiological Testing V1M5 Disclaimer: The NELAC Institute (TNI) accepts no liability for the content of any comment on a standard. Any views or opinions on a standard are solely those of the commenter and do not necessarily reflect those of TNI			
Comment Number	Vote & Justification Persuasive/Non-Persuasive	Editorial (Y/N)	Section/Clause	Comment	Committee Action	Date Addressed	Committee Comment
#	P	Y	1.2.3.4	Whatever they said	What was done	When	Related info/justification for decision
1	P		1.7.3.1.d.ii and 1.7.3.1.d.iii	*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."*	1.7.3.1.d.ii: … Analysis may be performed by another ~~certified~~ laboratory that is in compliance with these standards. 1.7.3.1.d.iii: … Analysis may be performed by another ~~certified~~ laboratory that is in compliance with these standards.		"Certified laboratory" is not used anywhere else in the Standard. Changed language incorporated into new language for Comment #4 and Comment #11
4	P		1.7.3.1.d.ii and 1.7.3.1.d.iii	*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."*	1.7.3.1.d.ii: … Analysis may be performed by another ~~certified~~ laboratory that is in compliance with these standards. If laboratory only performs these tests for the purpose of reagent water quality monitoring, the laboratory does not need to be accredited for these tests. 1.7.3.1.d.iii: … Analysis may be performed by another ~~certified~~ laboratory that is in compliance with these standards. If laboratory only performs these tests for the purpose of reagent water quality monitoring, the laboratory does not need to be accredited for these tests.		The intent is not for the laboratory to be accredited for these tests when performing internal testing. Includes language changes from Comment #1.

11	P		1.7.3.1.d.iii	*There is not an accredited method that can meet the silica criteria for type I or type II water.*	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 laboratory that is in compliance with these standards. 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.~~		Moved the last sentence to immediately after the metals and bacteriological water quality test to clarify that the monitoring applies to those tests only (not silica). Includes language changes from Comment #1. There is an ASTM method for silica, and also some states certify to an SOP.

Dwayne Burkholder sent an email today with some information about their state program relative to the discussion of Comments 1, 4 and 11.

Some ideas for today's discussion. This is how PA deals with this in our state regulations (wording is a little different). I will only be able to join the call until 2PM.

1. The metals analyses and total organic carbon analysis may only be performed by an environmental laboratory accredited under this standard for those fields of accreditation. I would suggest these be done by a laboratory that is accredited and holds accreditation for these methods.

2. The heterotrophic plate count and bacteriological water quality test ratio analyses described in shall be performed by an environmental laboratory accredited under this module/chapter for the appropriate field of accreditation.
   I could go back and forth on whether accreditation itself should be required for these. In PA we require accreditation for both for the purposes of reagent water testing. However, I would suggest that at a minimum a laboratory that is accredited for a microbiology FOA be required. This would mean that the laboratory doing the testing is looked at by an AB and they can review the procedures used.

3. Disinfectant residual, specific conductivity, etc may only be performed by an environmental laboratory accredited under this standard. This one is a little more problematic but in this case I would suggest that at a minimum a laboratory that is accredited for the TNI standard (or the chemistry/microbiology module) be required. Again the idea being the AB can look at the procedures used.

Paul Junio noted that you are not allowed to imply accreditation that does not exist. Be careful of the unintended consequences.

Robin commented that this means a small micro laboratory will have to seek accreditation for things they don't need to run accredited. They will need to purchase and run PTs, etc …

Robin knows that states will have some of their own requirements, but we need to set what is the minimum to ensure quality data. Need to be mindful of unintended consequences. We don't want to add an extra layer of accreditation to smaller labs.

Cody reviewed where the group is on these three comments.

Robin commented that maybe an exemption could be granted for internal lab analysis. Though this language could be a problem if a state doesn't want to grant it.

Robin and others questioned how much water testing really needs to be done.

The Committee modified the language that will be presented to the attendees in Crystal City to get feedback. The input could be helpful in reaching a consensus.

4. Microbiology Workgroup Update

It turned into a 5 Part Series. Part 1 will be given in Crystal City and will be 3 hours.

PART 1: Introduction to Microbiological Testing

This first course will provide participants with a general understanding of microbiological testing, techniques, method scopes and limitations, Quality Control, and technologies.

PART 2: Microbiological Testing Supplies, Equipment, and Instrumentation

This course will provide participants with information on common microbiology equipment, instrumentation, and supplies. Verification of equipment, instrumentation and supplies will also be covered.

PART 3: Microbiological Quality Control Testing

This course will provide participants with information on microbiological quality control samples, trend analysis and control culture maintenance.

PART 4: Microbiological Testing Media and Reagents

This course will provide participants with information on creation and verification of microbiological testing media and reagents.

PART 5: Microbiological Testing Methods

This course will provide participants with in depth information on microbiological testing methods.

Cody showed the preliminary slides for Part 1.

Ilona noted that it is important to line the break up with the time the coffee will be out. She will look into that time and get back to Cody.

People are interested in what the cost will be for Groups. They can contact Ilona.

5. New Business

None

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be in person in Crystal City, VA on Wednesday, August 3, 2023 , 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 2:45 pm Eastern.

Attachment A

Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Cody Danielson (Chair) (2025) **Present**	Oklahoma	Lab	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Matt Graves (2025*) **Absent**	ERA	Other	Matt_graves@waters.com
Lily Giles (2025) **Absent**	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Amy Hackman (2025*) **Present until 2pm**	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) (2024*) **Present**	City of Daytona Beach, EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Ashley Larssen (2024*) **Present**	KC Water	Lab	ashley.larssen@kcmo.org
Jody Frymire (2025) **Present**	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Jessica Hoch (2025) **Present**	TCEQ	Other	Jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.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) **Present at 2pm**	xxx	Lab	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2024) **Absent**	Pace National, Analytical	Lab	christabel.monteiro@pacelabs.com
Robert Royce (2025*) **Present**	New Jersey	AB	Robert.royce@dep.nj.gov
Maria Friedman (2025*) **Present**	California	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) **Absent - Recording**	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	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.
114	Provide Technical Specialist Feedback to QMS – Debbie Bond	All	7/14/22	Complete
115	Finish request to update response to SIRs 423 and 425	All	6/30/22	Complete

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.