

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

November 14, 2023

1. Roll Call:

Cody, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40pm Eastern on November 14, 2023, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associates present: Tina Buttermore, Bryan Disch, Joe Guzman, Carl Kircher (phone only), Deanna Kiska, Regina Klepikow, Elizabeth Lesold, David Lo, Brian Mercer, and Chandra Thekkekalathil. Paul Junio attended in the absence of Ilona Taunton as the scribe for minutes.

2. Previous Meeting Minutes

No minutes were approved during this meeting.

(Addition: A motion was made by Elisa on December 6, 2023 by email to approve the 12/13/22, 1/10/23, 3/14/23, 4/11/23, 5/9/23, 6/13/23, 7/11/23, 8/1/23, and 10/10/23 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Hunter on December 6, 2023 and was unanimously approved.

Votes - All 12/6/23 by email: Robin, Hunter, Cody, Maria Fayard, Jody, Silky, Christabel, Elisa, Ashley, and Enoma.)

3. Status Update

A – The Response to Comments document should be ready for the January meeting. *[EDIT – a discussion during the CSDP EC call pointed out that it might be best to post the Draft Standard Revision 2 after the Columbus meeting in case any comments are made there that could result in a change in the Standard language (this could alleviate another Draft being presented). No decision has been made on this topic]*

B – SM9000 is looking for volunteers interested in working on 9223B. If interested, contact Nathan Edman NEdman@awwa.org , Elizabeth Turner Elizabeth.Turner@et.eurofinsus.com , or William Lipps wclipps@shimadzu.com

4. SIR 471 (a free-form capture of the conversation follows)

Historically this formula was used to show that if there were no leaks, you only had a single variable and that was sufficient to verify that it was working. Is the question as asked valid as an SIR? Paul read the criteria and it seemed to meet the criteria.

What does Standard Methods say, and does it address autoclave leaks sufficiently? The answer seems to be yes.

Do we still need this in the new Standard? If so, we need to address this for clarity, and if not, it should be deleted.

The old SIR was brought up, and it was shown how variables are limited; $PV=nRT$ can be limited to one variable. If you read the pressure and know the rest, you can verify the reading against the calculation.

There was at least one AB that had pushed back on this. Even with external vendors providing the service, it may not be documented that this was reviewed. If only a temperature is documented, this is why the equation was added back. Saturated steam isn't an ideal gas. It was pointed out that the deviation with saturated steam is small enough that T and P are close enough, such that with no leaking seals you have reached the designed pressure. Isn't it primarily temperature that matters?

It's important to know both for 'canning' purposes. Pressure valve must read appropriately. If done by external party, what is documented. It shouldn't be enough to say we looked at it. Even with a constant v and having reached the appropriate T, the laboratory has to verify valve regardless of equation.

Consensus was that there needs to be documentation that the pressure valve was reviewed. We want consistency among the ABs.

Consensus was that the predicted reading and gauge reading ought to match if all other variables are known. There are sufficient checks that we should consider the need this check in the next revision of the standard.

ACTION - Cody will draft language for SIR 471 and send to committee for comment/approval, along with pointing out the potential removal of this from the Standard (to draw forth any comments/concerns)

5. Finalize Temperature Distribution Document

There was a brief confusion regarding issues related to Temperature Distribution as opposed to Equilibrium. Some comments that were included in the Distribution document are being moved to the Equilibrium document. The committee was in agreement that the Temperature Distribution Document was ready for approval. A motion was made by Maria Fayard and seconded by Silky Labie to approve it. All present voted in favor. Cody will prepare the proposal and forward it to Paul.

6. Continue Work on Equilibrium Testing Document

A discussion ensued regarding equilibrium testing that delved on method validation. Reference was made to a 'timing allowance' that isn't described in the method literature (i.e., the difference between Colilert and Colisure isn't due to pre-warming of samples, they are two different formulations). These minutes do not capture this discussion as it was determined after the fact that the line of questioning was inappropriate in this venue. It was subsequently addressed among the affected parties.

Cody has the action items necessary to continue the development of the document. This will be discussed during the December meeting. Robin suggested that it could be helpful to tell people why this study matters. The goal wouldn't be to educate people via Module 5, but to point out the value in understanding incubation conditions.

7. Additional Comments and Questions

None due to timeframe of the meeting.

8. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be on December 12, 2023 at 1:30 PM Eastern by teleconference.

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

Having reached the end of the time allotted for the meeting, Cody adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm Eastern.

Attachment A

**Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Hunter Adams 2026 Absent	City of Wichita Falls	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) 2024* Present	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Cody Danielson (Chair) 2025 Present	Oklahoma DEQ	Lab	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Maria Fayard 2026* Present	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov
Maria Friedman 2025* Absent	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com
Jody Frymire 2025 Present	IDEXX Laboratories	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Matt Graves 2025* Present	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com
Jessica Hoch 2025 Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	Other	jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Silky Labie 2026* Present	ELCAT, LLC	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net
Ashley Larssen 2024* Absent	KC Water	Lab	ashley.larssen@kcmo.org
Christabel Monteiro 2024 Present	Pace Laboratories	Lab	christabel.monteiro@pacelabs.com
Enoma Omoregie 2024 Absent	NYC DOHMH	Lab	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Robert Royce 2025* Present	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov
Elisa Snyder 2026 Absent	City of Austin - Austin Water	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Ilona Taunton Program Administrator Absent	The NELAC Institute	NA	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Paul Junio TNI Scribe Present	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org

* - eligible to serve another term

**Attachment B
Action Items – MEC**

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
104	Implementation Guidance for Temperature Distribution and Equilibrium.	Committee	TBD	See note in 5/11/21 minutes. 4/11/23: Working on Temperature Distribution. 7/11/23: Working on Equilibrium
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. 5/9/23: Webinar Series has started. 5 Parts.
113	Complete Response to Draft Comments Process	All	Voting is complete.	5/10/22: Voted on Comments: 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 6/14/22: Voted on Comments 5 and 6. 2/14/23: Final vote on 1, 4 and 11. 4/11/23: Need to post the document.
114	Work on Questions for the Credentialing Exam	Cody		Get to Jerry as soon as possible.

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 Paul Junio.		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.