

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

**December 12, 2023**

1. Roll Call:

Cody, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:38pm Eastern on December 12, 2023, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 12 members present. Associates present: Tiffany Carey, Antoine Chamsi, Thekkekalathil Chandra, Stacey Chmura, Carl Kircher (phone only), Deanna Kiska, Elizabeth Lesold, and David Lo. Paul Junio attended in the absence of Ilona Taunton as the scribe for minutes.

2. Previous Meeting Minutes

*Following the meeting. Cody emailed Revision 2 of the November 14 Meeting Minutes. The motion to approve was made by Elisa and seconded by Silky on 12/14/23. Aye (12/14/34) Silky, Jessica, (12/15/23) Robin, Hunter, Elisa, Christobel, Cody (12/18/23) Bob, Maria Fayard. The minutes were approved via sufficient email votes on 12/18/23.*

3. SIR 471 was submitted via email for a final review. No changes were offered. Following a motion by Ashley and a second by Hunter, the SIR response was approved. Voting in favor were Hunter Adams, Robin Cook, Cody Danielson, Maria Fayard, Maria Friedman, Matt Graves, Jessica Hoch, Silky Labie, Ashley Larssen, Christobel Monteiro, Robert Royce and Elisa Snyder. There were no negative votes or abstentions.

4. TNI Forum on Environmental Accreditation – Columbus, OH

Cody asked the Committee Members who would be attending the meeting in person. Robin, Cody, Maria Friedman, Silky and Ashley indicated that they would be attending.

5. Status Update

A – The comment period is open for another 4 days or so. No comments have been received at this point. It had been suggested to hold off on a final vote of the Standard until after the Conference. TNI has expressed a preference for posting the Standard prior to the Conference so that people can review it and bring comments, if needed, to the Conference. Given that direction, Robin suggested distributing the Standard after the meeting for review. Cody will do that, and the committee will vote on approval of the Standard at the January 9 meeting.

B – Temperature Distribution Guidance – This will be changed to Implementation Guidance, along with that for Temperature Equilibrium. The two are closely related and are difficult to separate or exist without the other. Temperature Distribution has been approved by the committee and will be formatted by Cody, distributed for vote following that formatting, and then sent to LASEC for their review. Temperature Equilibrium is still in edit.

C – MEC Membership – Cody discussed the membership changes that will be happening following the Forum in Columbus. Christabel and Enoma will be rotating off, having served two

3-year terms. Assuming Ashley and Robin are interested and approved for their second 3-year terms, there would be 3 openings on the committee. Cody will contact those who have previously applied to join to confirm their continued interest. [*EDIT – the term dates for Elisa and Hunter have been corrected in Attachment A to these minutes.*]

6. In the interest of having the discussion while a super majority was still present, SIRs 423 and 425 were discussed next on the agenda. Cody noted that the last sentence in SIR 423 had been changed due to feedback from the SIR Subcommittee. SIR 425 has the same language. The discussion was as follows:

Deanna commented that the clinical world has a list of exempt and non-exempt media due to extrapolated failure rates.

Robin said this could be an uphill battles as some ABs wouldn't accept that possibility. The current version of Module 5 would allow it. The proposed revision is against it, but is clearer in its requirements.

Cody added that more can be done with the draft Module 5 as it is still in edit, and that what we're doing hasn't worked.

Maria Fayard pointed out that the EPA Drinking Water Manual requires this, which means that it doesn't apply to wastewater testing.

A motion was made by Robin and seconded by Silky to approve SIRs 423 and 425 as they were emailed. Voting to approve were Robin, Cody, Maria Fayard, Maria Friedman, Matt, Jessica, Silky, Ashley, Christobel, Robert and Elisa (Hunter had left the meeting at this point). There were no nays or abstentions.

#### 7. SIR 471

Based on this SOP, the Committee will review the autoclave section (1.7.3.6 b) ii) in the draft Module 5 to see if any changes need to be made. Comments made – the last sentence referencing  $PV=nRT$  is not a requirement, and could be clarified by changing can to may, or adding language such as 'in the absence of other documentation'. Sections 1 & 2 are 'too much' and need some editing due to the QC already being done. Robin suggested striking the first sentence in "1", and sentences 2 & 3 in "2". Jessica asked how this would affect waste. The answer is that waste is addressed elsewhere, and isn't truly covered in this Standard. Verifying the performance of the autoclave is as it relates to media, and not waste (with media preparation already covered in other areas of Module 5). Silky thinks that the portion in "1" dealing with 'initial performance' likely needs to stay. She will send a comment on that to Cody.

#### 8. Additional Comments and Questions

Cody will email action items separately following the meeting.

#### 9. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be on January 9, 2024 at 1:30 PM Eastern by Teams. Paul will set this meeting up and send invitations to all. The meeting will be scheduled for 90 minutes.

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 3:07 pm Eastern.

Attachment A

**Participants  
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

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

\* - eligible to serve another term

**Attachment B  
Action Items – MEC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
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**

	<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 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.