Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary

September 8, 2026

I Welcome and Roll Call:

Cody Danielson called the meeting to order at 1330 Eastern on September 8, 2026, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 12 members present. Associates present: Yiping Cao, Tiffany Carey, Antoine Chamsi, Kai Chung, Bryan Disch, KeShawne Ingram, Bina Kapoor, Tammy Kreutzer, David Lo, Alma McCammond, Christabel Monteiro, and Elisa Snyder. Paul Junio attended as Program Administrator.

II Approval of Agenda

Cody asked for any comments on the agenda. Meeting minutes from July 21 were sent late and not reviewed, so they were not put up for a vote of approval *[EDITOR'S NOTE – meeting minutes were approved (following a motion by Patsy Root and a second by Liz Lesold – voting to approve on 9/25/26 – Nigel, Robin, Cody, Maria Fayard, Katie, Elizabeth; on 9/26/26 – Silky; on 9/28/26 – Matt, Liz, Brian, Bob, Tina]*. Following an announcement of the deadline for comments being extended to September 26, and a decision to discuss the Houston Conference before reviewing the QMS Exam questions, the agenda was approved by consent.

III Summary of Houston Meeting

Nigel provided the following summary of the conference in Houston:

Committee Introductions
- Introduced voting members in attendance
- Welcomed new voting members Elizabeth Turner and Katie Strothman
- One voting-member vacancy remains
- Reminder: virtual MEC meeting is the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. EST

Proposed Standard Changes
- Reviewed Paul Junio's Summary of Changes
- 21 proposed changes discussed
- Compared current language, proposed language, and justification
- Committee members helped explain the rationale behind the changes
- Section 4 was removed
- Technical Specialist requirements are addressed in Module 2
- Removal reduces redundancy
- Subsequent sections are therefore renumbered

TSB Growth Promotion
- Question: Should growth promotion require a pure reference culture such as ATCC?
- Committee position: No
- Growth can be demonstrated using appropriate positive microbiological material
- Examples discussed:
- Green-sheen colony from m-Endo
- Positive IDEXX well

- Turbid LTB/BGB tube
- Using an unknown/non-sterile source may better demonstrate the purpose of the sterility/growth check
- TSB should demonstrate its ability to support organisms it may realistically encounter

Monthly Duplicate Counts

- What happens when the laboratory does not encounter a positive sample during the month?
- Laboratory can produce its own positive
- Does not necessarily need to be a QC standard
- Question raised about refrigerating and reusing a positive the following month
- Conclusion: potentially acceptable with appropriate scientific justification
- No universal answer - the nature and stability of the positive matter

Dilution Water vs. Reagent Water

- Important distinction:
- Dilution water is derived from reagent water
- Reagent water is not necessarily dilution water
- Reagent water monitoring discussed:
- TOC
- HPC
- Conductivity
- Disinfectant residual
- Metals
- Manufacturer COA may satisfy monitoring requirements for reagent water used to manufacture PBW
- Laboratory-prepared reagent water used for IDEXX dilutions must be monitored as required
- Water used to rehydrate IDEXX snap packs for organism challenges was also discussed
- Position expressed: Yes - applicable monitoring requirements still apply

UV Intensity Measurements

- Audience questioned the usefulness of requiring UV intensity measurements
- Concern that the measurement may not provide meaningful information
- Patrick Leach offered to provide supporting data from his agency
- Potential future consideration: whether this requirement should be removed
- Paul Junio compared it conceptually to measuring voltage at the electrical outlet

Autoclave Temperature and Pressure Uniformity

- Question raised about requiring demonstrations of uniform temperature and pressure
- Argument: basic physics may already provide justification
- An autoclave cannot properly function with significant cold spots
- Pressure relationship also discussed in the context of the ideal gas law
- Possible item for future committee consideration/removal

Volumetric Glassware

- Discussion regarding the 2.5% volume acceptance criterion
- Distinction raised regarding Class B graduated cylinders
- Primary concern is not simply the glassware classification
- Glassware must:
- Be suitable/non-toxic
- Pass applicable BTB testing
- Meet the 2.5% acceptance criterion

Audience Participation

- Excellent audience involvement
- Open discussion is the committee's preferred format
- Helps develop a practical consensus standard
- Paul Junio's point: if a diverse group produces a standard that no single stakeholder gets everything they want from, the consensus process may be doing its job

Closing Message

- Encouraged the community to continue bringing questions to the MEC
- Cody's and Nigel's contact information were provided
- Important clarification:
- When answering questions individually, interpretations are the speaker's own
- They should not automatically be interpreted as the official position of the committee

IV Review Micro Portion of QMS Exam

The committee discussed the Microbiology questions that appear in the QMS Exam. This was brought on by a higher than expected failure rate on some of the questions. The individual questions and comments are NOT reproduced here so as to not make the questions available to anyone who is reading these minutes. Many of the questions were judged to be too detailed for the QMS exam, but applicable to a Microbiology Specialist. Some were kept but the language tweaked. All of the comments have been presented to Jerry Parr.

V Review Current Comments to DS

The Committee decided that since the comment period was still open, we could refrain from beginning a discussion on comments that have already been submitted. That process will begin with the next meeting scheduled for October 13. The meeting adjourned at 1502 Eastern.

Attachment A - Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Name	Organization	Stakeholder	Email	Term Expires	Present
Nigel Allison (Vice Chair)	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	Lab	nallison@lacsd.org	2028*	Yes
Robin Cook	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us	2027	Yes
Cody Danielson (Chair)		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com	2028	Yes
Maria Fayard	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov	2029	Yes
Maria Friedman	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com	2028	Yes
Matt Graves	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com	2028	Yes
Silky Labie	ELCAT	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net	2029	Yes
Liz Lesold	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov	2027*	Yes
Brian Mercer	Brian Mercer	Lab	bmercer@plantation.org	2027*	No
Patsy Root	IDEXX Water	Other	patsy-root@idexx.com	2027*	Yes
Robert Royce	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov	2028	Yes
Tina Shidel	Pace Analytical Services - Ormond Beach	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com	2027*	Yes
Katie Strothman	Eurofins	Lab	katie.strothman@et.eurofinsus.com	2029*	No
Elizabeth Turner	Eurofins	Lab	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsus.com	2029*	Yes
Paul Junio	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org		Yes

* - eligible to serve another term