Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary

October 13, 2026

I Welcome and Roll Call:

Cody Danielson called the meeting to order at 1331 Eastern on October 13, 2026, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associates present: Tiffany Carey, Anagha Chitre, Bryan Disch, Hannah Herrick, Rachel Hook, KeShawne Ingram, Tammy Kreutzer, David Lo, Ashley Roberts, and Chelsea Smith. Paul Junio attended as Program Administrator.

II Approval of Agenda

Cody asked for any comments on the agenda. Maria Fayard asked to discuss an issue that arose with incubator temperatures. That will occur as new item V. Hearing no comments regarding the agenda, it was approved by consent.

III Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from September 8 were sent late and not reviewed, so they were not put up for a vote of approval.

IV Discuss Long Beach Meeting Agenda

The committee will be meeting Wednesday morning in Long Beach. The plan is to discuss the Response to Comments / Updates made in Module 5. Pending any persuasive comments, it is possible that this will be the final Standard. Paul was asked for the status of Implementation Guidance; he will check on that.

V Incubator Temperatures

Maria Fayard commented that she had a laboratory assessment where microbiology incubator temperatures were out of range and there was no corrective action documented right away. There are requirements for taking the temperature 4 hours apart, and for incubation at temperature for a specified time. Hannah suggested we come up with a practice that works - not as a requirement, but so we can verify acceptable data. Can we address that in the standard somehow? Maria said that the equilibrium requirement can't help due to the inability to alter the incubation time. Robin stated that the equilibrium requirement shows when data should be good. Tina suggested having a corrective action that occurred in real time and not down the road, but this is part of quality systems and data usability. It's up to the end user to determine what's OK. Nigel stated incubators aren't made like they used to be, and that it's a QMS issue knowing your equipment with the equilibrium test. Robin said you need to have a plan for when the system doesn't work properly. Maria asked if you have to qualify or notify clients or regulators? Liz said the assessor aspect is that temperatures have to be taken twice per day at least 4 hours apart. Continuous monitoring should have a procedure as opposed to just picking 2 temperatures that meet the requirement. do you need to use each temperature that is recorded? The methods don't address it so it's left to the

lab's decision. Paul read the requirements from QSM 6.0 for refrigerators, commenting that they're not great for microbiology, but might need to be considered. That manual requires an adjustment if the temperature is out for two hours or by more than two degrees. Maria pointed out that it's unfair to people who use data loggers because their monitoring is more frequent and thus they know when they fall out and can be penalized for it. KeShawne asked what people are using min/max thermometers for and could that help. The response was that they are valuable for tests which are incubated for longer periods, such as 4-7 days. No conclusions were met, but this highlighted an issue that needs discussion.
Cody asked if there was an extension granted for the comment period. Paul said that the NELAP AC and NELAP EC requested one and that it was granted. There isn't a specified deadline as this module won't be the limiting step in getting the revised TNI Standards completed.

VI Review Current Comments to DS (NOTE – comment numbers are the order received, but comments are being reviewed on the basis of their appearance in the Standard)

67 – Throughout the document, analyte of interest is used. The commenter suggested that 'of interest' isn't necessary. The Committee determined it wanted to review these on a case-by-case basis and will return to this comment.
66 – Sections 1 & 2 should be formatted similarly with the other Technical Modules. Paul will confirm with Ilona and Bob and see what can be done.
24 – NP - Request to add definitions for Reagent Water, Dilution Water and Sterilization Batch – terms are used in context in their respective sections of the Standard.
25 – E – Definition changed to 'sources of water (such as rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater) that provide water to public drinking water supplies and private wells.'
62 – NP – request to add 'to detect' to the definition of test reagent. Committee felt it wasn't necessary as definition includes 'to analyze'.
27 – E – Second sentence of 5.1 deleted. 'For example, performance of a satisfactory initial demonstration of capability.'
68 – E – Last sentence of 5.2.1 deleted as redundant and found elsewhere. 'A positive control demonstrates that the medium can support the growth of the target organism(s)/analyte(s) of interest, and that the medium or test reagent produces the specified or expected reaction to the target organism(s)/analyte(s) of interest.'
69 – E – Changed 'measurement system' to 'method'
28 – NP – request to clarify what is meant by annual. That term is defined in the proposed Module 2 as 'A period of 12 months, not to exceed 13 months'.
29 – NP – request to change first sentence of 6.1.3 to include personnel as follows: 'no significant changes in instrument type, method, or personnel'. The beginning of the section already states 'an individual', so the committee felt this was redundant.
18 – E – Suggested change in 6.2 made for clarity 'Except in cases of an individual with close supervision as described in Section 6.1.1, an initial DOC must be made prior to using any method and at any time there is a change in instrument type, personnel or method, or any time that a method has not been performed by the laboratory or analyst in a twelve-month period.'
11 – NP – Suggested change in 6.2.2 a of 'the target organism(s)/analyte(s) of interest must be prepared to a known concentration internally or purchased at a certified concentration from a certified supplier and then diluted in a volume of matrix appropriate for use and the method' rejected as the draft language doesn't prevent the suggested change.

Having reached the end of the scheduled time, the meeting adjourned at 1500 Eastern. Discussion will begin at Comment 12 for the next meeting.

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*	X
Robin Cook	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us	2027	X
Cody Danielson (Chair)		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com	2028	X
Maria Fayard	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov	2029	X
Maria Friedman	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com	2028	
Matt Graves	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com	2028	X
Silky Labie	ELCAT	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net	2029	X
Liz Lesold	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov	2027*	X
Brian Mercer	Brian Mercer	Lab	bmercer@plantation.org	2027*	X
Patsy Root	IDEXX Water	Other	patsy-root@idexx.com	2027*	
Robert Royce	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov	2028	X
Tina Shidel	Pace Analytical Services - Ormond Beach	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com	2027*	X
Katie Strothman	Eurofins	Lab	katie.strothman@et.eurofinsus.com	2029*	X
Elizabeth Turner	Eurofins	Lab	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsus.com	2029*	
Paul Junio	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org		X

* - eligible to serve another term