

Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Monday, June 15, 2026
12:30 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Kristin Brown, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting at 12:30pm Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – a quorum was met. Paul Junio (LAMS Administrator) was a guest.

The agenda was reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.

The May meeting minutes were distributed for review. A motion was made by Tramecha to approve the May 18, 2026, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Millie and unanimously approved.

2. Standards Review

Comments will be collected directly on the Change Summary document provided with the Module 2 Standard on the post for comments on the TNI website. Ilona will send out a link to a shared document on Teams for everyone to add their comments to. You will be able to see everyone else's comments as you enter yours. The Module 5 Standard comment document will be sent out after the July meeting so the Council can focus on V1M2 this month.

Cathy noted that Module 2 is very well written but very dense, requiring careful reading and consideration. She encouraged everyone to begin reviewing early rather than waiting until the deadline. Most of Cathy's questions had to do with the ISO/IEC language.

Carl shared that he had participated in the ISO/IEC 17025 development process and complimented the Quality Management Systems Committee for effectively incorporating the ISO/IEC language while expanding it to address environmental laboratory needs. His is up to Section 7 in his review. He encouraged reviewers to pay particular attention to the support equipment requirements in Section 6.4.6 and noted that the QMS Committee is working on a Crosswalk between the Draft Standard and the 2016 Standard.

Ilona explained that the crosswalk is intended to map every requirement from the current standard to its location in the revised version. She also noted that the QMS Committee is identifying topics where guidance documents may be needed, particularly for areas involving new ISO terminology or significant procedural changes. Internal audits were identified as one likely guidance topic. The QMS Committee is also planning to do a complete training on the new Standard and not just highlight changes from the 2016 Standard.

Module 7 (WET) and Volume 2 (LAB) will likely not be available until after Houston. Module 3 (Asbestos) has reopened their Standard and Module 4 (Chemistry) will be working on their Response to Comments through the end of the year.

Ilona noted that CSDP is considering a reorganization of the Standard.

3. Method Codes

Paul Junio (LAMS Administrator) joined the meeting to discuss proposed changes to laboratory method codes. The primary objective is to eliminate duplicate method codes that differ only by publication edition. Because LAMS already contains separate fields for revision date and edition, including the edition within the method title creates unnecessary duplication.

His proposal is:

- New method codes would not be created simply because a new edition of Standard Methods is published if the method itself has not changed.
- New codes would only be created when a method has actually changed or when a specific request justifies creating a separate code.
- Existing revision date and edition fields would continue to identify the applicable version.

Cathy expressed concern that creating new codes upon request could still result in multiple codes representing identical methods, Michele added that her program has moved away from referencing edition numbers and instead relies only on revision years.

Christopher asked whether requests for new method codes should require review or approval by ABs before being created. Paul cautioned that method codes are also used outside TNI ABs.

Paul noted that some duplicate method codes exist because external requirements distinguish methods that are technically very similar. As an example, ColiSure and Colilert are both chromofluorogenic methods but require separate method codes because they are treated as distinct methods by regulation. He emphasized that although he would prefer fewer method codes, some duplication cannot be eliminated.

Paul commented that he will request a usage report from William to better understand which method codes are actively used before considering any cleanup effort.

The discussion turned to the possibility of retiring or making infrequently used method codes inactive rather than deleting them. Michele suggested that many older Standard Methods editions could potentially be consolidated, while Carl noted that some older AOAC, ASTM, and USGS methods may rarely be requested and could be candidates for inactive status. Paul noted that any inactive process would require changes to LAMS so inactive codes remain searchable and are not inadvertently reused. The Council agreed that usage data would help identify codes that could potentially be retired or archived while allowing them to be restored if needed.

The Council discussed improvements to the method code request process. Suggestions included:

- Adding fields to the request form identifying the requesting AB or sponsor.
- Requiring additional justification when requesting new method codes.
- Automating notifications when requests are completed.
- Developing a more structured request workflow that captures information before new codes are created.

Paul stated that the current request form includes requester information, method details, technology, and matrix but does not identify the requesting AB. He will look at adding that.

Paul reported that he has had 48 requests since the beginning of the year for method codes. He noted that many requests involve laboratory-specific SOPs rather than published methods. He estimated that there are currently more than 300 laboratory SOP method codes.

Paul agreed to obtain a usage report, develop potential cleanup recommendations, and bring those recommendations back to the committee for future discussion.

4. SIR 499 Discussion

Carl Kircher introduced discussion of SIR 499 concerning whether preservatives are required in method blanks and associated laboratory fortified samples.

The current proposed SIR response states that preservatives are not required unless the analytical method specifically requires them. Carl explained that the original question referenced EPA Method 524.2, which explicitly requires preservatives for volatile organic samples. He suggested considering the issue more broadly by comparing it with metals methods such as EPA 200.7 and 200.8, where preservatives are generally not required for laboratory control samples.

Carl stated that if the committee agreed preservatives are not required for those comparable situations, he would support the existing SIR response and change his previous position.

Carissa Robertson indicated that her team had voted against the proposed response but had only recently received the discussion materials and was not prepared to discuss the issue during the meeting. She agreed to review Carl's comments with her team so they could revisit the issue.

The committee agreed to defer further discussion of SIR 499 until the next meeting after additional review.

5. Roundtable Discussions

There were no updates.

6. New Business

- Carl asked whether any issues had arisen regarding the terminology "trans-chlordane" versus "gamma-chlordane" following implementation of the current FoPT table. He noted that available references indicate the two names refer to the same compound and wanted to confirm that no certification or proficiency testing issues had developed.

Ilona recalled previous discussions on the topic during PTPEC activities, and Kristin stated that she had not heard of any new concerns. The committee agreed that the issue does not currently appear to present a problem.

- Kristin reminded members that registration is open for the upcoming TNI conference in Houston and encouraged members to register.

7. Next Meeting

The next NELAP AC meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2026, at 12:30 PM Eastern.

Kristin adjourned the meeting at 1:45PM Eastern.

Attachment 1 - Roster

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Carl Kircher T: 904-791-1574 E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Legge (904)791-1582 E: Paul.Legge@flhealth.gov	No
IL	Millie Rose T: 217-557-0220 E: mildred.rose@illinois.gov	Yes
KS	Carissa Robertson Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov (785) 291-3162	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Harrison paul.harrison@ks.gov (785) 296-1656	No
	For information purposes: Amy Suggitt Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov	Yes
	For information purposes: Matthew Jones Matthew.jones@ks.gov	No
	Timothy Canfield	No
LA DEQ	Tramecha Rankins E: tramecha.rankins@la.gov 225-219-3247	Yes
	Paul Bergeron E: paul.bergeron@la.gov	No
MN	Windsor Molnar Windsor.Molnar@state.mn.us 651-201-3702	Yes
	Alternate: Cody Tennant E: cody.tennant@state.mn.us	Yes
	Lynn Boysen lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	No
NH	Brian Lamarsh (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 Brian.M.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov	No

NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
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OR	Steve Jetter T: 503-505-2672 E: steven.jetter@oha.oregon.gov	No
	Alternate: Lizbeth Garcia 971 865 0443 E: Lizbeth.garcia@dhsoha.state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Ryan Pangelinan E: Ryan.pangelinan@dhsoha.state.or.us	No
PA	Annmarie Beach E: anbeach@pa.gov T: 717-346-8212	No
TX	Tina Trevino tina.trevino@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	Steve Gibson (512) 239-1316 Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
UT	Kristin Brown T: (801) 965-2540 F: (801) 965-2544 E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	Yes
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	Yes

	Alternate: Shane Wyatt shane.wyatt@dgs.virginia.gov	No
NELAP AC PA and EC	Ilona Taunton Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org	Yes
EPA Liaison	Michella Karapondo Karapondo.michella@epa.gov	No
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AR	Olivia Johnson Olivia.johnson@arkansas.gov	Yes
NV	Jasmine Curiel jcuriel@ndep.nv.gov	Yes
WV	Justin Carpenter justin.d.carpenter@wv.gov	No