

**Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee
SIR Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2024 1:30 pm Eastern**

1) Welcome and Introductions

In Maria's absence, Debbie welcomed everyone to the meeting. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent (see Attachment B), and attendance is recorded in Attachment A. The minutes of the August 15, 2024, meeting were approved by unanimous vote after a motion by Aaren, seconded by Silky.

2) SIR 423

The 9-9-24 Response from the MEC cited "V1M5 1.7.3.1 states, "The laboratory shall demonstrate and document that the quality of the reagents and media used is appropriate for the test concerned including, but not limited to, test conditions and incubation times." The quality control elements within the section, which include the positive and negative culture controls described in section 1.7.3.6, Selectivity, are requirements for the individual accredited laboratory facility. These elements are required to demonstrate and document the individual laboratory's performance.", but section 1.7.3.1 and 1.7.3.6 do not specify that the laboratory where the media is being used has to perform the testing. Thus the interpretation that the lab perform the positive and negative media checks in-house becomes an added requirement not based on the specific language found in the standards.

Silky participates in the Microbiology Committee and explained that this conflict is "fixed" in the draft language of the revised V1M5. Unfortunately, this "fix" may not be taken into account with this current issue.

Since the standards in question are not specific enough and there has been so much on-going disagreement over the question, the submitter (a subcommittee member) verbally agreed to withdraw SIR 423, since the identified conflict is addressed in the new revision.

3) SIR 494

This SIR asks "Please clarify if the requirement to test each pre-prepared, ready-to-use lot of medium and each batch of medium prepared in the laboratory is with a mix of pure positive culture controls, which would be the equivalent to a raw sewerage sample, or if the test is with a pure positive controls conducted separately for each culture."

Participants noted that it would be better to quote or cite the specific applicable language of the standard instead of paraphrasing the requirement and asked that the response specifically reference §1.7.3.6.c of V1M5. In discussing responses from Microbiology, participants requested that MEC cite very specific sections of the standards rather than offer narratives or paraphrases. Harold moved and Silky seconded that SIR 494 be returned to Microbiology with a specific request to reference §1.7.3.6.c in the response, and also to make a generic request that the committee cite specific standards when creating SIR responses. The vote is shown in the table below

Voter	Motion to Return Response to Micro for revision per motion – SIR 494
Maria	Absent
Aaren	Yes
Debbie	Yes
Stacie	Absent

Bill	Yes
Silky	Yes
Harold	Yes
Super-Majority Approval Met?	5 of 7 in favor – 71% Motion approved

4) SIR 425

At the April 2024 LASEC meeting, SIR 425 (media checks) was tabled until SIR 423 (media checks) could be resolved, since the question asked is nearly identical in both SIRs. With additional meeting time remaining, participants wanted to revisit SIR 425, and Lynn quickly emailed the most recent response to subcommittee members.

One participant noted that the original response to SIR 425 (December 2023) hinted that using the manufacturer’s test is acceptable, but the Accreditation Council asked for reconsideration of that, and the April 2024 response stated that the lab must perform media checks. The relevant sections of the standard are the same as SIR 423 (above), and participants concluded that the question cannot be answered with the current language of the standard.

Aaren moved and Bill seconded that SIR 425 be returned to Microbiology with a request to consider modifying its response to say that the question cannot be answered with the language in the standard as it now reads. The results of the vote are shown below:

Voter	Motion to Return Response to Micro for revision per motion – SIR 425
Maria	Absent
Aaren	Yes
Debbie	Yes
Stacie	Absent
Bill	Yes
Silky	Yes
Harold	Yes
Super-Majority Approval Met?	5 of 7 in favor – 71% Motion approved

5) New Business

There was no new business. The meeting adjourned.

6) Next Meeting

The next scheduled SIR Subcommittee meeting will be on **Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 1:30 pm Eastern**. If there are no SIRs to review, members will be notified in advance of the meeting date; otherwise the SIRs will be sent with the agenda.

Attachment A

PARTICIPANTS – SIR SUBCOMMITTEE OF LASEC

	NAME	EMAIL	LASEC Term end date	INTERES T	AFFILIATION	S/H CATEGOR Y	PRESENT
1	Maria Friedman, Chair	gamfriedman@gmail.com	1/26 (2nd term)	SIRs	CA ELAP	Non- NELAP AB	no
2	Aaren Alger	Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com	1/26 (2nd term)	SIRs	Alger Consult- ing & Training	Other	Yes
3	Debbie Bond, Vice Chair	DBOND@southernco.com	Associat e	SIRs	Alabama Power	Lab	Yes
4	Stacie Crandall	stacie.crandall@nelac- institute.org	Associat e	SIRs	TNI	Other	No
5	Bill Hall	George.W.Hall@des.nh.gov	1/25 (second term)	SIRs	NH ELAP	NELAP AB	Yes
6	Silky Labie	elcatllc@centurylink.net	1/25 (second term)	SIRs	ELCAT	Other	Yes
7	Harold Longbaugh	harold.longbaugh@houstontx. gov	1/25 (3rd term)	SIRs	Houston Lab	Lab	Yes
	Program Admin. Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac- institute.org					Yes

Attachment B – Agenda

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (August minutes attached)
- Review of Responses for SIRs 423 and 494 (both attached, plus prior response to SIR 423 that was returned by the NELAP AC)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn