Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary

March 10, 2020

1. Roll Call:

Kasey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35pm Eastern on March 10, 2020 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associate: Laura Higgins, Carl Kircher, Robin Cook, and Dwayne Burkholder.

The February meeting minutes were distributed by email for review. A motion was made by Cody to approve the February 4, 2020 minutes with a correction to the title of the picture example. The motion was seconded by Mary and it was unanimously approved.

Kasey asked that Committee members let her know if they have taken the recorded Committee training. She will be following up by email.

Kasey reviewed the agenda for the meeting. The agenda was modified to add approval of the minutes and adding the discussion of a new SIR (371).

2. SIR #301 – Implementation Guidance Document

The following language was developed by the Committee:

> The standard requires that a blank be done every 10 samples. What denotes a sample?
>
> A sample may be defined as, a portion of material to be analyzed that is contained in single or multiple containers and identified by a unique sample identifier, used to generate a result. For the purposes of Module 5 serial dilutions are defined as a single sample. A serial dilution does not create new samples. There is no need to analyze a blank in the middle of a serial dilution series for any given sample as may be the case if it were to be done every 10 plates.
> As such, the requirement is to analyze a method blank every 10 samples for each filtration unit used on a manifold in a filtration series, which may include single or multiple filtration units. This would apply to every filtration unit on the manifold if there were more than one being used in a filtration series.
>
> Each filtration unit on a manifold needs to have its own series of method blanks in order to provide information about that unit. While a method blank is intended to gauge the technique of the analyst, it is also used to determine if

contamination takes place. Therefore, when multiple filtration units are used simultaneously in a filtration series, each one would need to be considered.

For example, if a laboratory is using 3 separate filtration units on a 3 filtration unit manifold, then a method blank is required for each of the 3 filtration units at the beginning, after every 10 samples, and at the end of the filtration series. This would result in a minimum of at least 6 blanks for that filtration series.

3 Filtration Unit Manifold example:

Discussion:

Deb Waller commented on the language by email:
So to the handwritten note that I left with you related to the SIR for the blanks. My note should only have included sample duplicates or matrix spikes (and MSDs if required by method) and not the OPR or any IPR work since this required to be done before any sample testing.

So every ten samples including quality control samples (i.e. sample duplicates or matrix spike samples).

I would have included any MS samples as a separate sample in my run and after listening to Robin at the meeting on sample duplicates would also include those in my 10 sample count as individuals.

It was determined the comment had no impact.

A motion was made by Cody and seconded by Michael to approve the Implementation Guidance language above. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. SIR 371

SIR #371 was referred to the Microbiology Expert Committee on January 16, 2020:

Standard	2016 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M5
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	1.7.3.1 e)

Describe the problem:
The standard mentions dilution water quality monitoring for both pre-purchased and lab-prepared water, to include buffer water and/or peptone water. If lab-prepared dilution water is being sterilized from High Quality (Type I) reagent water that is not buffered, is the pH monitoring required? If so, what pH range would be acceptable for before/after measurements? Deionized water should be ~pH 7, however there is no requirement listed.

Committee Comments:

Response:

Discussion:

Look at Method 9050 C.

Elisa – Every month they check the water. The pH is checked.

Vanessa asked about an initial DOC. The term "adequate" is used. Should this Committee define "adequate"? In the discussion today, she is concerned that the language is too flexible when using the term "adequate".

Robin answered Vanessa's question by email during the meeting:

Robin Cook, 3-10-20:

If the method or regulation does not specify an initial DOC, the following procedure is acceptable. It's the responsibility of the laboratory to document that other approaches to initial DOC are adequate.

I think this is an important to see this part. If you read through that whole section there are multiple procedures. If the method does not have one, then the next to be used should be the examples in the std. The instance that you referenced would mean that there is no method requirement and that they one of the examples in the std and it didn't work. The use of another instance not in the method or std should only be a last resort. You as an assessor can say it is not adequate and use the other part of this section to support it. Tell them they have to use one of them if they have not. They also have to be able to support it scientifically.

Kasey noted that as long as the lab is following the procedures in their SOPs or Quality Manual, it should be fine. There is nothing in the Standard that defines it for the lab.

Kasey will DRAFT the initial language and send it to the Committee for further email discussion.

3. Summary of Changes to the Standard

Kasey shared the copy that was in the Newport Beach minutes. These were ideas that came up during the meeting, but perhaps not all will need to go into the Standard.

She reviewed the items on the table:

Original Text	**Suggested Change**	**Justification**
Include reference and language.	*Don't need to work on specific language - just summarize change needed.*	*Why does this need to be changed/updated?*
	Filtration series blanks	Needs clarification
	Specific Conductance vs Conductivity	Need to update language
	Flexibility for new methods	Ex. Legionella
	IRT requirements	Update to match methods 9020B(jax)
	QC checks and Parent locations	Clarification of require. (jax)

Original Text	Suggested Change	Justification
	1.7.3.7 Demonstration of procedure	Define procedure for cleaning/verifying cleanliness, contact plates/swabs
	Efficacy of Cl2 checks	Concentrations in sample bottles? Single check at 15 or > Chlorine checks have to be quantifiable. Can't just check to see that it is clear. Strips could be used for checks – though some ABs won't let you use them.
	Sampling accred.	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 What is Module 2 going to do with Sampling? Does this affect the other modules too? Is there info related to micro sampling that needs to be added to the Micro Standard? Need to consider this.
	Replicate/Duplicate	Clarify difference
	2016: 1.6.1.2 DOC frequency	Timing of IDC/DOC
	1.7.3.6 viability checks	Captured in QC checks?
1.7.3.7.B.v.	Temperature Distribution	Clarification needed, define requirements? Difference should not vary more than method tolerance.
	Exemptions section	Technical manager.

Jax – it came up while in Jacksonville.

Kasey, Cody, Mary and Robin will work on the table before the next meeting. Ilona will send an example table from Radiochemistry.

4. Membership

Kasey noted that Cody has been helping with a number of activities and is interested in being the Committee's Vice-Chair. There was no other interest in this role.

Elisa made a motion to approve Cody for Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Mary. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Action Items

See Attachments B and C for updates to action items.

6. New Business

Robin thanked everyone for all the help the last 7 years as Chair. It was noted that we look forward to continuing work with Robin as an associate.

7. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be held by teleconference on April xx, 2020 at 1:30pm Eastern.

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:27pm Eastern. Cody – motion Second – Michael Unanimous.

Attachment A

Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Kasey Raley (Chair) (2020*) **Present**	Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.	Lab	KaseyRaley@eurofinsUS.com
Michael Carpinona (2022*) **Present**	NJ DEP	AB	Michael.Carpinona@dep.nj.gov
Cody Danielson (Vice-Chair). (2022*) **Present**	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Jessica Hoch (2022) **Present – joined in 1:57pm Eastern**	TCEQ	Other	Jessica.Hoch@Tceq.Texas.Gov
Lily Giles (2022*) **Present**	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Mary Robinson (2022*) **Present**	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Michael Blades (2021*) **Absent**	ERA	Other	mblades@eraqc.com
Jody Frymire (2022*) **Absent**	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2020*) **Present**	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Elisa Snyder **Present**	City of Austin – Austin Water Division	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Hunter Adams **Present**	City of Wichita Falls – Water Purification	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Enoma Omoregie (2021*) **Absent**	NYCDEP	Other	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) **Present**	ESC	Lab	cmonteiro@esclabsciences.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) **Present**	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B
Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
1	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Dan Hickman.	Deb	TBD	
19	Provide EPA interpretation on temperature readings to Ilona. She will have it posted on the website.	Robin	1/31/14	
74	Send questions for ABs regarding method codes to Robin.	ALL	3/15/18	
76	Provide an update on what has been done with the databases after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.	Jennifer	4/10/18	
78	Forward link to PDFs on DW website with rule, method and analyte information.	Jennifer	3/31/18	
81	*Addition: Forward response to SIR 331 to Lynn Bradley.*	*Robin*	*11/13/18*	
83	Send out resumes for all applicants to the committee.	Robin	12/10/18	Send before 1/8/19.
84	Send out copy of Charter.	Robin/Ilona	12/10/18	
87	Contact Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey about Technical Manager requirements.	Robin	5/14/19	
92	Complete Standard Change Form and send to Committee for review at next meeting.	Kasey	10/4/19	10/8/19: Still in progress.
93	Prepare guidance language for SIR 301 and submit to LASEC.	Kasey	11/12/19	10/8/19: Kasey will prepare DRAFT language.
94	Review Committee Member applications.	All	12-10-19	
95	Send SIR #301 implementation guidance language to Lynn Bradley.	Kasey	4/1/20	
96	Draft language for a response to SIR 371. Distribute to Committee for email comment.	Kasey	4/1/20	

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
97	Expand on language in Standard Change Summary Form. Use Radiochemistry document as an example.	Kasey, Cody, Mary and Robin	4/13/20	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter (if needed) in November 2019.	n/a	Ongoing