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| **TNI SSAS EXPERT COMMITTEE: OUTLINE OF CHANGES AND IMPROVEMENTS** | | | |
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| **SSAS Volume 1: Module 1 (Providers)** | | | |
| The revised TNI SSAS Volume 1 Standard combines the requirements for Providers audit samples (Module 1), the Provider Accreditor requirements (Module 2) and the Participant requirements (Module 3). | | | | |
| Most of the normative language by The NELAC Institute (TNI) that is specific for the SSAS program has been retained or revised for clarity. | | | | |

| Section | Current Text | Proposed Text | Justification | Comments |
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| 6.3.1 | Providers shall prepare audit samples that are… | Audit samples prepared by Providers shall be… | Some Testers were interpreting the original verbiage to mean that Providers were required to manufacture audits for all methods - clarification of ambiguity. |  |
| [6.3.6] | [new text] | 6.3.6 The Provider may produce the audit in “whole sample” form (i.e., to be analyzed as received) or as a concentrate (i.e., requiring dilution or other preparation prior to any analytical steps being performed on the audit). | Clarifying statement which impacts Volume 1, Module 3. |  |
| 6.4.1 NOTE | NOTE: A Provider may, upon request, supply samples, similar in composition to audit samples, which have concentrations outside the ranges in the SSAS Table. By definition, such samples would not be considered audit samples, and are, therefore, outside the scope of this Standard. | [struck from module] | This text came from the water/wastewater PE program and does not apply to SSAS Program. |  |
| 6.5 NEW | [new text] | **6.5     Audit Sample Availability** |  |  |
| 6.5.1 NEW | [new text] | 6.5.1        At any given time, Providers shall have available a sufficient number of batches to ensure that the laboratories are adequately challenged. | This is a unique necessity for the SSAS Program. Water/Wastewater PE studies are conducted in an entirely different manner, and the language borrowed from their requirements was insufficient for the SSAS Program's needs. |  |
| 6.5.2 NEW | [new text] | 6.5.2       Each SSAS table concentration range may be split into three groups, the lowest third of the range (low), the middle of the range (mid), and the high end of the range (high). | Providers were struggling to meet the high demand for low concentration audits without having to also produce large numbers of lots of mid- or high-concentration audits that were not being used. By breaking the concentration ranges into three categories, the Providers can manufacture more lots of the concentration levels in high demand. |  |
| 6.5.3 NEW | [new text] | 6.5.3        Each sub-range (low, mid, high) if used, shall have a minimum of (X) unexpired batches available at all times. | Ensures that all concentration levels have adequate supply to meed demand at any point in time. |  |
| 6.5.4 NEW | [new text] | 6.5.4        Any sub-range, if used, which has greater than (X) requests in a rolling 12 month period must have additional batches made to provide the adequate challenge for laboratories. One batch per (X) requests in a rolling 12 month period is sufficient to meet this requirement. | Ensures that all concentration levels have adequate supply to meed demand at any point in time. |  |
| 6.5.5 NEW | [new text] | 6.5.5       All sub-range batches, if used, must have certified values sufficiently different from one another such that an adequate challenge to laboratories can be assured. | Decreases the likelihood that a lab will receive multiple audits with the same concentration. |  |
| 8.2 | The Provider shall provide instructions with each audit sample shipment, describing: | 8.2.a) UNCHANGED |  |  |
| 8.2.b) NEW | [new text] | b) that the audit sample be prepared and analyzed per the applicable methods in the SSAS Table; | Previously, the instructions accompanying the audit sample said to "analyze the audit" and omitted the word "preparation". As a result, some labs were not following the preparation steps of the method(s), and simply diluting the audit and running it with no preparation. This is a particular issue with Method 29, which has a lengthy and convoluted preparation prior to analysis. |  |
| 8.2.c) 2 | 2) The audit sample(s) I am reporting was/were analyzed in the same laboratory in keeping with module 3 of this standard under the same calibration, utilizing the same quality control standards, by the same analysts following audit sample instructions as the stationary source test samples. | 2) The audit sample(s) I am reporting was/were analyzed in the same laboratory following the requirements of module 3 of this standard. | This text was originally borrowed from the water/wastewater PE program.  It is not always possible for the laboratory to analyze the audit "under the same calibration, utilizing the same quality control standards, by the same analysts following audit sample instructions as the stationary source test samples." For instance, if 3 samples out of 12 need to be diluted in a different run with a different calibration, does the audit sample need to be run with those 3 diluted samples also? And if so, which audit result gets reported?   By referring back to Module 3 of the SSAS module (laboratory requirements), the new text removes this ambiguity. |  |
|  | [editorial changes] | other sections in 8.2 renumbered in keeping with above changes |  |  |
| 8.3 NEW | [new text] | **8.3**The Provider shall provide Data Reporting forms that will include: | This requirement should alleviate some of the issues encountered by laboratories and regulators with regards to: |  |
| 8.3.a) NEW | [new text] | a) name of the Facility; | Not knowing which project the audit is associated with |  |
| 8.3.b) NEW | [new text] | b) name of the Tester; | Not knowing which client the audit is associated with |  |
| 8.3.c) NEW | [new text] | c) name of the laboratory performing the analysis; and | Not knowing which laboratory the audit is associated with/laboratories receiving audits intended for different labs |  |
| 8.3.d) NEW | [new text] | d) name of the Regulatory Agency. | Regulators receiving audit results for projects being overseen by a different regulator. |  |
| 8.4.j | send an audit sample from the same manufacturing lot to the same Facility or Laboratory consecutively, or more than once in a calendar month, or more than eight (8) times in a twelve-month period. | [struck from module] | This is a carryover from the water/wastewater PE program and is outside of the control of the Provider, who can only monitor which Tester receives a given lot of audit.  The Tester is responsible for the timing by which the laboratory receives a given audit.  Most labs are working with more than one Testing Company, who are not coordinating their audit samples with each other. |  |
| 10.2.1 NEW | [new text] | 10.2.1 Acceptance limits shall be calculated by the provider per the current SSAS Table and shall be rounded to three (3) significant figures. | Clarifying significant figure usage in providing acceptance limits. |  |
| 10.2.2 NEW | [new text] | 10.2.2 The Provider shall evaluate audit sample results “as reported” by the laboratory. | Not all laboratories report to 3 significant figures. The Provider is not responsible for acceptance or failure based on the number of significant figures reported by the laboratory. |  |
|  | [editorial changes] | renumbered to 10.2.3 - 10.2.6 | editorial change |  |