

**SUMMARY OF THE
TNI CHEMISTRY EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING**

AUGUST 8, 2017

The Committee met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at 9:00 am Eastern, during the Forum on Environmental Accreditation in Washington, DC. Chair Valerie Slaven led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Francoise Chauvin, NYC DEP (Lab)	Present
Eric Davis, Austin Water Utility (Lab)	Present
Deb Gaynor, Phoenix Chemistry Services (Other)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Neptune (Other)	Present
Scott Siders, PDC Labs (Lab)	Present
Valerie Slaven, Consulting Services (Other)	Present
Gale Warren, NYSDOH (Accreditation Body)	Absent
Colin Wright, Florida DEP (Lab)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Absent

2 – Previous Minutes

At the end of the meeting, Shawn moved and Scott seconded that the minutes of the July 5 meeting be approved. All present voted to approve the minutes as written.

3 – Finalizing the Checklist for the 2016 Chemistry Module

Since much of the Chemistry module was unchanged from the 2009 version, only the modified sections were updated. Val noted that the revised checklist being reviewed is for the already-approved 2016 module, with the approved technical edits, and not including the additional revisions currently in progress.

Edits were made in real time, projected onto the screen, using the revised version of the checklist that was distributed to committee members on August 7, 2017. Most of the edits were formatting, concerning the separation of text where multiple options are available in the standard, with intent to be consistent about how the “choose-one” choices could be displayed (as “or” choices) versus portions where all listed options are mandatory (as “and” items.) Most language that had been “grayed-out” will have the gray shading removed.

4 – Text Revision for V1M4, in Process

Five comments from the standard “outline,” published on June 26, 2017 as required in SOP 2-100 v2, had been received. These comments were shared with the committee on August 7, and prior to the Environmental Measurement Symposium in August.

The first commenter addressed was a recommendation to add an additional sentence to §1.5.2.2.2 [before the (a) subsection] – “If no such samples are received during four consecutive quarters, then the laboratory shall analyze one LOQ verification sample for that quality system matrix(ces), method(s), and analyte(s) on at least one instrument annually.” This comment prompted a protracted discussion with the following seemingly conflicting points, but no resolution. Eventually, the discussion was tabled and the next comment brought up. The following are comments provided at the meeting by participants.

- Language added to §1.5.2.1.1 seems to have addressed this by requiring a minimum of seven samples over the course of a year

- §1.5.2.1.2 appears to require quarterly Limit of Quantitation (LOQ) verifications for routine samples, and the LOQ verifications may be used to generate a detection limit (DL)
- NELAP ABs believe that the DL and LOQ are not set for each instrument but for the overall laboratory. The Chair countered that these are set “per instrument.”
- The DL and LOQ must be run every year on one (or all “applicable) instruments (i.e., annually.)
- At present, there is no requirement to run verifications annually.
- Even if the lab is not running routine samples, it must perform demonstration of competency (DOC) along with LOQ verification annually for each analyte. If samples are run routinely, then the LOQ verification must be performed quarterly.
- Several NELAP ABs will not maintain a laboratory’s accreditation for a method/analyte combination if the LOQ verification is not performed annually
- Perhaps a note should be added to specify that if the ongoing DOC is not required then a new DL will be needed before samples are run, after a lapse.
- All initial DOC/LOQ studies must include every analyte.
- If Proficiency Test samples (PTs) are run, then essentially “samples” are being run; the concern is where no PT is available for a particular analyte.

The second comment submission addressed was that the current language in §1.5.2.1.1 permits a lab to prepare all 7 reps on one day and analyze all 7 reps the following day and still meet this requirement, and inquires whether this was the intent (instead of being prepared and analyzed over multiple days.) The commenter suggested alternative language to clarify. This may be adopted as an “editorial change” subject to committee consideration at its next meeting.

This second commenter also recommended a definition of “annual” to clarify the phrase “over the course of a year” in §1.5.2.1.2. Those present were uncertain whether “annual” is included in the TNI glossary under development. NOTE: The CSDEC Chair has been advised of the need to define annual, as well as week, and day. The second comment also asked that the term “current conditions” in §1.5.2.2.1(b) be replaced with “testing instrument conditions.” Consensus of the committee was not to make this change.

Discussion began, on a third commenter’s submission, concerning the language in §1.5.2.1, Detection Limit, specifically “DL determinations are not required for methods/analytes for which a detection limit is not applicable such as pH, color, odor, temperature, titrimetric, or dissolved oxygen.” Historical background of this language was also offered, to make the point that “titrimetric” is an adjective and not a noun, thus not a test itself, in support of removing that term from the list of examples. Committee members present agreed that it would be better to omit the term “titrimetric” from this section.

5 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at noon Eastern time. The next meeting will be a conference call on October 4, 2017.