

**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary**

October 14, 2014

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm EST by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 members present. The following associate members were also present: Jennifer Best (EPA).

Past minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Associate members need to let Robin and Ilona know they own a copy of ISO 17025 so they can be included in distributions of the draft working standard updates.

2. Standard Review

Robin reviewed the comment summary with the committee members and compared the changes made in the standard. All changes were made and there was no further discussion unless noted below.

Section 1.6.2.2 b)

Added “currently”.

Comment 20 - Section 1.7.5 a) i)

Determination: Persuasive (See earlier comment on 9/16/14)

Add text: Samples must either be thermally preserved or analyzed within 15 minutes of collection.

Robin would like to keep the text about nestling in ice. Jennifer noted that this is not a DW requirement – it is not that specific.

The text below 1.7.5 a) was added to 1.7.5 a).

Dwayne commented that we need to make sure this text does not conflict with other parts of the standard.

The committee needs to keep in mind the concern about driving samples around waiting for them to come down to temperature – this should not be done. Does this need to be noted in the standard?

Section 1.7.5 a) now reads as:

- a) Samples that require thermal preservation shall be considered acceptable if the arrival temperature of a representative sample container meets the method or mandated temperature requirement. Samples must either be thermally preserved or analyzed within 15 minutes of collection. Samples that are delivered to the laboratory on the same day they are collected may not meet the requirements of this section or the method, if the time frame between collection and delivery is too short for the cooling process to complete. In these cases, the samples shall be considered acceptable if the samples are received on ice with evidence that the cooling process has begun

Robin would like people to carefully review the changes in this section and send comments to her.

Sterility Checks - Sections 1.7.3.1 a) and a) iii)

This was ruled non-persuasive. The committee discussed alternative options. In Canada an ISO 17025 lab buying from an ISO 17025 vendor does not have to do a sterility check. Why do we have to do this in the US? Isn't the TNI standard based on ISO 17025? Robin commented that the ABs and EPA do not want to make this change.

Jennifer noted that ISO 17025 does not meet all the technical specifications of their program. The details of this comment are beyond the scope of this call. She feels strongly that this comment is not appropriate and would cause lots of red flags if it were incorporated into the Standard.

This will be left as non-persuasive.

Robin asked the group if they are willing to take a step back and put the Modified Working Draft Standard through a comment process. She asked for comments: Dwayne agrees - the changes made in relation to the comments were extensive. Others commented that they think the standard is in good shape. Robin would like everyone to think about this and the committee will make a decision at the next meeting.

Comment 22 - Section 1.7.5 b)

Determination: Non-Persuasive?

Robin's lab would reject the sample. She thinks the comment is non-persuasive.

Dwayne agrees the sample should be rejected.

Robin commented that in Module 2 it states the samples will be rejected or appropriately preserved. She does not think this needs to be repeated in this section.

Changes were made to Section 1.7.5 b):

- b) Microbiological samples from known chlorinated sources (such as wastewater effluent), unknown sources where chlorine usage is suspected (such a new client or a new source) and all potable water supplies (including source water) shall be checked for absence of chlorine residual in the laboratory unless all of the following conditions are met:
 - i) the laboratory can show that the received sample containers are from their laboratory or have been appropriately tested and documented;
 - ii) sufficient sodium thiosulfate was in each container before sample collection to neutralize at minimum 5 mg/l of chlorine for drinking water and 15 mg/l of chlorine for wastewater samples;
 - iii) one container from each batch of laboratory prepared containers or lot of purchased ready-to-use containers is checked to ensure efficacy of the sodium thiosulfate to 5 mg/l chlorine or 15 mg/l chlorine as appropriate and the check is documented;
 - iv) chlorine residual is checked in the field and actual concentration is documented with sample submission.
- c) Samples not meeting the requirements of this section must either be rejected or appropriately qualified.

Comment 23 – Section 1.7.5 b) iv)

Determination: Non-persuasive.

It's covered in the exceptions and by the flexibility of the standard.

Robin would like everyone to think about Comment 20 and 22 for further discussion at the next meeting. The committee will add another meeting this month in order to get this done and ready for more comment.

3. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items were reviewed and updated.

4. New Business

None.

5. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be October 28th at 1:30pm EST.

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

Robin adjourned the meeting. The meeting ended at 3:04 pm EST.

**Attachment A
Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information	
Robin Cook (Chair) Present	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	(386)671-8885	cookr@codb.us
Patsy Root (Vice-chair) Present	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc	Other	(207)556-8947	patsy-root@idexx.com
Karla Ziegelmann- Fjeld Present	Microbiologics, Inc	Other		kfjeld@microbiologics.com
Donna Ruokonen Present	Microbac Laboratories, Inc	Lab	(219)769-8378 Ext 110	druokonen@microbac.com
Colin Fricker Absent	Analytical Services, Inc	Lab		colinfricker@aol.com
Deb Waller Absent	NJ DEP	AB	(609)984-7732	debra.waller@dep.state.nj.us
Dwayne Burkholder Present	Pennsylvania DEP	AB	(717)346-8213	dburkholde@pa.gov
Mary Robinson Present	Indiana State DOH	AB	(317)921-5523	mrobinson@isdh.in.gov
Elizabeth Turner Absent	North Texas Municipal Water District	Lab	(972)442-5405 Ext 535	eturner@ntmwd.com
Po Chang Absent	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	AB	(512)239-4876	Po.chang@tceq.texas.gov
Gary Yakub Absent	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	(610)935-5577	gyakub@envstd.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	(828)712-9242	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter in October 2014	n/a	