

Highlights from 11/10/11 TNI Protozoan FoPT Subcommittee Meeting:

Attendees: Leah Villegas, Tricia Klonicki, Lisa McDonald, Jim Broderick, Carl Kircher, Ilona Taunton, and Eric Smith

Discussions and Possible Recommendations to Standards Committee:

1. PT frequency will remain two times a year.
2. Because the acceptance criteria is based on the mean and standard deviation of participating laboratories in each round, a PT provider must have a reasonable number of laboratories participating in the PT round. We suggest that a PT provider have a SOP describing how to develop acceptance criteria on a small data set.
3. PT Provider should be using a random number generator for spike values.

Proposed FoPT Table and related discussions:

Matrix	EPA Code	NELAC Code	Analyte	Conc. Range	Acceptance Criteria	NELAC PTRL
Drinking Water	-	2510	Cryptosporidium	50-200	Mean +/- 2SD (footnotes 17, 18, 19)	Not Applicable
Drinking Water	-	2545	Giardia	50-200	Mean +/- 2SD (footnotes 17, 18, 19)	Not Applicable

17) If the lower acceptance limit generated for Cryptosporidium or Giardia using the criteria contained in this table is less than (<) 10% of the assigned value, the lower acceptance limits are set at 10% of the assigned value.

18) If the lower acceptance limit generated for Cryptosporidium or Giardia using the criteria contained in this table is greater than (>) 60% of the assigned value, the lower acceptance limits are set at 60% of the assigned value.

19) If the upper acceptance limit generated for Cryptosporidium or Giardia using the criteria contained in this table is less than (<) 105% of the assigned value, the upper acceptance limits are set at 100% of the assigned value.

Discussion of Table:

Drinking Water: This refers to Drinking Water or Any Potential Source of Drinking Water. This table is not setting acceptance criteria for non-potable water.

EPA Code: I could not find an EPA code for these organisms...

NELAC Code: Requested from NELAC

Concentration range: We discussed making this range wider to allow for more possible spike values from a random number generator. Leah was asked to discuss the feasibility of the 50-200 concentration range with the current PT provider. The current PT provider is comfortable with this range and suggests that expense and labor increases if the concentration upper range is raised to 250 organisms.

Acceptance criteria: The mean +/- 2 standard deviations agrees with the Federal Register Notice. The footnotes clarify the values.

Footnote 17: There was a long discussion about this Footnote, because 10% of the assigned value could be less than the Method 1623 Acceptance Criteria for a Matrix Spike or OPR (if PT is in Reagent Water). It was decided by the group that the Method 1623 Acceptance Criteria is specific for the QC samples required by the Method and there is no need for the Method Criteria to extend to the PT acceptance criteria.

Footnote 18: This footnote will prevent labs which recover at least 60% of the organisms from failing a PT round. The group did feel it was unlikely that the mean -2SD would be higher than 60% at the current performance level, but the group was comfortable that a lab recovering 60% of the organisms should not fail.

Footnote 19: The Federal Register notice does not “fail” a laboratory for performing above the 2 standard deviation; however, additional reviews would be triggered, such as slide submission for review, proctored spike for the next PT event, or on-site review. These additional reviews may not be feasible for a State AB to support these tasks. We do not wish to punish a good lab, but the limits should fail a laboratory for a contamination issue. The footnote establishes an upper limit of 105% and any laboratory with a recovery above this value will fail the PT round. The committee discussed 100% and 110% and ultimately decided to split the difference.