



Accreditation Body Committee

THE NELAC INSTITUTE
Washington D.C. 2008
Jeff Flowers Chair





Charter Tasks

- The mission of the TNI Accreditation Body Committee is to develop and support accreditation standards by engaging industry experts in a consensus-based standards development process.





Charter Tasks

- Support accreditation standards with appropriate training, guidance and other materials to facilitate implementation and adoption of these standards on a national level.





Charter Tasks

- To foster the mutual recognition of laboratory accreditation by Accreditation Bodies.





Committee Members

- Jeff Flowers, Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Chair
- Sharon Mertens, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- Stephen Arms, FL DOH
- Daniel Dickinson, NY State DOH
- Linda Geddes, MWH Laboratories
- Steve Stubbs, TX Commission on Environmental Quality
- Joe Aiello, NJ DEP
- Lynn Bradley, USEPA OEI





Recent Accomplishments

- Finalized Dispute Resolution SOP
- Prepared Comparison Table between Chapter 6 and ISO 17011





Current Tasks

- Comparison of Volume 2 (V2) Accreditation Body Requirements to NELAC Chapter 6 (Chap 6)





Significant Differences

- Chap 6 continues to be the Recognized Standard, but must be updated
- V2 based on ISO 17011
- V2 is more specific than Chap 6
- V2 gives greater flexibility
- V2 provides clarity





AB's Point of View

- V2 does not require any fundamental change in operations.
- V2 allows the flexibility necessary to run a regulatory program without undue prescriptiveness.





AB's Point of View

- Unnecessary requirements have been removed, for example:
 - Follow-up assessments within 30 days of receipt of the lab's CAR
 - Technical advisory committees





V2 Gives Greater Flexibility

- Shifts prescriptive language related to timelines and recognition to NELAC Board Policy and SOPs
- V2 preserves good NELAC specific components from Chap 6 through the use of Clause Notes
- Accreditation Body Quality System components such as Management System & Review, Internal Audit, and Responsibilities are better defined in V2





V2 Gives Greater Flexibility

- Consistent with ISO 17011
- V2 can fit with any administrative structure
- Chap 6 was tied to the now nonexistent NELAP Structure





V2 Gives Greater Flexibility

- Provides increased flexibility for the AB's processes. During implementation, many of the formerly rigid requirements for timelines and reporting processes will become part of policies and SOPs, which are more easily adapted to changing circumstances.





V2 Provides Clarity

- The AB role and required practices are consolidated into a single volume with 3 modules instead of being scattered throughout multiple Chapters of the 2003 standard.





Other Benefits

- Chap 6 was a national standard; V2 is an international standard
- Clarified AB management system requirements for quality
- Quality manual requirements are simpler and less prescriptive





Other Benefits

- SOPs and Policies allow simpler adaptative process
- V2 provides a means of nonconformance corrective action. This gives the AB a chance to solve problems with its management that Chap 6 did not provide





Finally

It's much easier to develop and modify the following as procedures and recognition agreements - not the multi-year process involved in standards acceptance:

- Recognition
- Primary and secondary accreditation
- Oversight and evaluation of the accreditation bodies
- Procedures, timelines and other program specific requirements that belong in policies and SOPs





Current Tasks

- Identify SOPs and Policies to be added and name the Group that is producing them
 - Input from LASC
 - Input from NELAP Board





Current Tasks

Guidance Document production

- Items such as current checklists, templates that may need updates
 - AB checklists
 - Application Completeness
 - Technical Evaluation
 - Draft Report Template





Future Tasks

Define the Elements for producing a New Recognition System

- **Proposed Affiliate Associate AB Recognition Program**
- **Affiliate AB (AFAB)** Wants to be an AB in the Future, but not ready due to state issues
- **Associate AB (ASAB):** Not ready to commit to AB Status, wants to stay informed of matters and remain in the loop





Future Tasks

- **Other types of Programs to recognize**
 - **Allied Body AB (ABAB)**
 - Recognizes the TNI standard as fulfilling needed requirements
 - not issuing Lab Accreditation

- **Any others?**





Future Tasks

- Lost an active member
 - Jeff Goodwin, Manatee County, FL
Utility Operations
- Need new member(s)
 - Preferably from Other and Lab
Categories





Forum

Questions or Comments?





Future Plans?

- Produce SOPs and Model Policies to allow implementation by TNI Board and LASC to:
 - Establish an effective system for the recognition of accreditation bodies
 - Develop an effective system for having states participate in the program without having to become Accreditation Bodies
- Monthly conference calls, 3rd Tuesday, 12 PM EST

