



Laboratory Accreditation System Program Committee (LASC)

***THE NELAC INSTITUTE
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Committee Members

- ❑ June Flowers, Flowers Chemical Laboratories
- ❑ Anne Marie Allen, State of MA
- ❑ Jo Ann Boyd, Southwest Research Institute
- ❑ Lance Boynton, Absolute Standards, Inc.
- ❑ Brooke Connor, USGS / BQS
- ❑ Lew Denny, FL DoH
- ❑ George Detsis, DoE
- ❑ Dan Dickinson, NY DoH
- ❑ Terry Grimes, Pinellas County Utilities
- ❑ Dan Hickman, OR DEQ
- ❑ Marvelyn Humphrey, USEPA Region 6
- ❑ Roger Kenton, Eastman Chemical
- ❑ Judy Morgan, Environmental Science Corporation
- ❑ Jack McKenzie, Kansas DHE
- ❑ Dale Piechocki, Underwriters Laboratories
- ❑ Ilona Taunton, TNI Program Administrator





Mission

- To develop a system for the accreditation of environmental laboratories that consists of:
 - The policies and procedures, interpretations, and guidance documents used by accreditation bodies to implement a national environmental laboratory accreditation program, and
 - A national database, a forum for small labs, and a forum for non-NELAP states.





LASC Highlights

- LAS SOP 5-101: Standards Interpretation (NELAC 2003)
 - Describes the process to follow for inquiring an interpretation of the 2003 NELAC Standards





Web Inquiries

- “Request for Interpretation”
 - 15 inquiries so far
 - Reviewed at Assessors Forum (Tuesday past)
- New web form
- Response letter explaining process





Interpretation Requests

- Majority are labs with assessor conflicts
- Forward to appropriate Expert Committee or TAC
- Response will be consensus





Interpretation Process Review

- Introduce new web page of “Do’s and Don’ts” to proceed inquiry form, i.e.,
 - Do pass inquiry through assessor or AB
 - Don’t use process to circumvent them





LASC SOP 5-102

Review of accreditation standards for their suitability for use in TNI's National Environmental Accreditation Program (NELAP)





LASC Standards Review

- ✓ Members represent varied stakeholder interests: ABs, Labs, PTPs, federal agencies, data users and other interests.
- ✓ Expertise and balance to arrive at consensus recommendations.





Recommendation by LASC may include:

- a recommendation for adoption by the NELAP Board,
- a recommendation for adoption by the NELAP Board once a policy, procedure, guidance document or other document has been produced,





Recommendations cont.

- a recommendation for adoption by the NELAP Board provided a Tentative Interim Amendment has been used to change the standard using the provision for this purpose in TNI's Procedures Governing Development,





Recommendations cont.

- a recommendation that the standard be revised to address concerns brought forth by the LASC.





Discussion Process

- Respect for TNI Standards Development Process
- How do they differ from NELAC 2003?
 - Technical requirements
 - Cost increase/decrease to implement
- Get clear interpretation from expert committee





Implementation Issues

- New policies needed?
- Guidance document?
- Training courses, workshop or other outreach.





Timeliness

- Complete review of TNI standards by August 2009
- In the meantime, provide recommendations to the NELAP Board





PT Standards in Review

- V1:M1 for Laboratories
- V2:M2 for Accreditation Bodies
- V3 for PT Providers
- V4 for PT Oversight





Future Plans?

- Monthly conference calls, 2nd Friday, 11 AM EST
- Work with PT and NELAP Boards
- Work with Technical Assistance (TAC), and Accreditation Body (ABC), and On-Site committees





Thank You!
For more information
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