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## Source Audit Program

### Sen-SSAS-tional News:

#### An update from the TNI SSAS Expert Committee

Sheri Heldstab, Chair, TNI SSAS Committee



The EPA's Stationary Source Audit Program is still suspended due to a lack of a second Accredited Audit Sample Provider. Meanwhile, in the third quarter of 2020, the Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS) Expert Committee ("the Committee") continued to meet at twice its normal frequency.

Earlier this year, the Committee finished writing Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 6-100, "Conducting Pilot Studies for New Concentration Ranges and Acceptance Limits for Source Sampling Audit Samples." This SOP has been reviewed by the Consensus Standards Development Expert Committee and is now a Provisional SOP. As soon as the TNI Board of Directors approves the SOP, it will become available to the public. The Committee intends that this **SOP will be used to lower concentration ranges for Method 26 analytes**, and encourage the creation of new method/analyte combinations that are not currently on the SSAS Table.

In addition to finalizing SOP 6-100, the Committee continues to revise SOP 6-101, "SSAS Table Management". This SOP governs how, why, and when changes to the SSAS Table are made. Any Participant in the Source Sample Audit Program may submit a Change Request Application to the SSAS Committee Chair. The Committee reviews the application to determine whether the request is Persuasive or Non-persuasive. If the request is Persuasive, the committee will perform a formal review of the application and take action(s) as appropriate.

Action(s) may include: contacting audit providers to determine the feasibility of the request; addition or removal of a method; addition or removal of an analyte; changing the NELAC (TNI) Analyte Codes; changing concentration ranges, units, acceptance criteria, and Audit Sample Reporting Limits (ASRL); changing footnotes; changing group headers; changing effective dates; and, correcting typographical or formatting errors. The SOP also delineates the communication between the Committee and the Requestor, and timelines within which such communication must occur.

The SSAS Table includes Methods, Analytes, Concentration Ranges, and Acceptance Criteria. To view the current SSAS Table, go to:

[https://nelac-institute.org/docs/comm/ptair/table/SSAS%20Table%20Rev.%205\\_4-15-2014\\_final.pdf](https://nelac-institute.org/docs/comm/ptair/table/SSAS%20Table%20Rev.%205_4-15-2014_final.pdf)

After SOP 6-101 is completed, the Committee plans to review and revise the current SSAS Volume, all modules, including the requirements for Testers, Providers and Labs.

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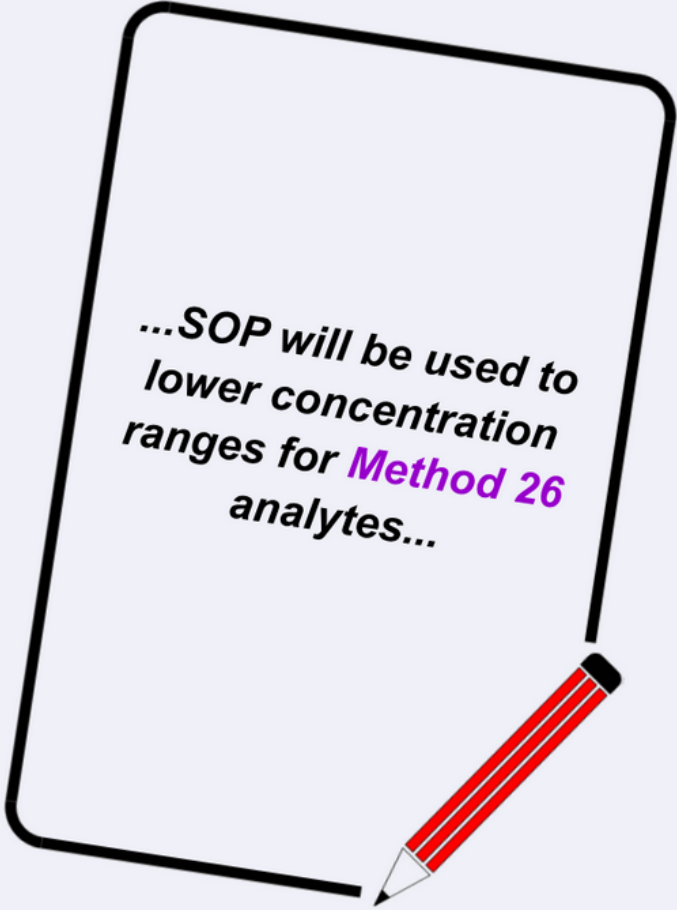
#### An update from the TNI SSAS Expert Committee

The TNI SSAS Committee is a Voluntary Consensus Standards Body (VCSB) as defined by the EPA: "The VCSB shall operate in accordance with the procedures and requirements in the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-119, (Federal Participation in the Development and Use of Voluntary Consensus Standards and in Conformity Assessment Activities)," [40 CFR 60.8(g)(4)]. Circular A-119 defines a VCSB as having the following attributes: "(i) openness; (ii) balance of interest; (iii) due process; (iv) an appeals process; and (v) consensus..."

Currently, the Committee is comprised of stakeholders representing Laboratories, Testers, Regulators, Accrediting Bodies, and a Provider. **The Committee would like to have more Testers represented.** By the nature of the work, Testers cannot always attend the conference calls. This means that the Tester community is not consistently represented on the Committee. If you are a Tester and are interested in becoming a member and adding your voice to the policies and procedures that govern the Audit Program, please email [sheldstab@chesterlab.net](mailto:sheldstab@chesterlab.net).

The TNI SSAS Committee encourages stakeholder participation on conference calls, whether they are members of the Committee or not. If you would like to participate, please contact:

[sheldstab@chesterlab.net](mailto:sheldstab@chesterlab.net)



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