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Stationary Source Audit Sample Program

An update from the TNI SSAS Expert Committee

Contributed by Sheri Heldstab, Chair, TNI SSAS Committee



The Stationary Source Audit Sample (SSAS) Committee has been working towards getting final approval of SOP 6-100, which would allow for the lowering of Audit Sample Concentration Ranges, and SOP 6-101, which delineates the process to make changes to the [SSAS Table](#).

The Committee has also been doing some reorganizational housekeeping within the umbrella of TNI. Historically, the Committee was created by professionals with backgrounds in Water and Wastewater Proficiency Testing Samples (PTs), as these individuals are highly knowledgeable in statistical analyses as pertains to acceptance limits of unknowns analyzed by laboratories.

As the SSAS Program matured, the significant differences between Stationary Source Audit Samples and Proficiency Testing Samples became more apparent. During this past quarter, the PT Expert Committee voted unanimously to remove the SSAS Committee from its scope of work. The SSAS Committee is now a free-standing Committee with the ability to make changes in the administration of the SSAS Program upon consensus agreement of the Experts on the Committee.

Immediately prior to the EPA’s suspension of the SSAS Program, the Committee had started to revise the SSAS Volume. This Volume is the Standard that describes all the requirements and aspects of Audit Sample production and use. When the Program was suspended, the Committee’s work on these modules was put on hold until other business could be attended to. At this point in time, the Committee is ready to resume its work on the SSAS Volume.

The Committee has solicited public feedback and has reviewed the feedback with a goal to make the Volume as clear, concise, and unambiguous as possible. In addition, the Committee plans to add a few new requirements to the Volume in the interests of achieving the best possible results from the Audit Samples.

Currently, the SSAS Committee is actively seeking Source Samplers who would like to be members of the Committee. Due to the nature of source sampling, it is rare for every source sampler currently on the Committee to be available for the Committee’s conference calls. If you have a desire to have your voice heard, the Committee’s next meeting will begin revising the requirements for Audit Sample manufacture, handling, and analysis. By becoming a member of the Committee, you have the ability to advocate for reasonable and scientifically sound changes in the program.

TNI and the TNI SSAS Committee encourage stakeholder participation on conference calls. The Committee’s regularly scheduled conference call is on the third Monday of each month at 2:00 pm Eastern. Each call lasts 1 ½ hours. Contact the Committee Chair (sheldstab@chesterlab.net) if you are interested in participating.

