

SUMMARY

TNI CHEMISTRY EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING

March 4, 2020

The Chemistry Expert Committee (CEC) met by teleconference on Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET. In the absence of the Program Administrator, the call was recorded and transcribed at a later date. The recording was deleted immediately after the meeting minutes were prepared. Chair Valerie Slaven led the meeting.

Roll Call

Valerie Slaven, PDC labs (Lab) – Chair	Present
Jay Armstrong, VA DGS (AB)	Present
Paula Blaze, NJ DEP (AB)	Absent
Eric Davis, Horizon (Other)	Absent
Deb Gaynor, Independent Consultant (Other)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Pace (Lab)	Absent
Max Patterson, UT DOH (AB)	Present
Charles Neslund, Eurofins (Lab)	Absent
Colin Wright, Florida DEP (Lab)	Present
Calista Daigle, Quality Consulting (Other)	Present
Tony Francis, Saw Environmental (Other)	Absent
Chad Stoike, ALS Global (Lab) – Vice Chair	Absent
Michelle Wade, A2LA (AB)	Present
Robert Wyeth, Program Administrator	Absent

The attached agenda (Attachment 1) was presented without any requested changes. A quorum was ultimately achieved but not until late in the meeting which necessitated the email ballot for approval of the February meeting minutes. Associate members Kelvin Yuen, Mike Delaney, Gale Warren, Arthur Denny and Nicole Cairns were also present for the call.

January Meeting Minutes

The January 8, 2020 minutes (Attachment 2) were approved by an e-mail ballot of all committee members and submitted to William for posting on the TNI website.

February Meeting Minutes

Due to the lateness of attaining a quorum, the February meeting minutes (Attachment 3) after corrections to the discussion of pH calibration and clarifications to the discussion on DOC, will be circulate to all committee members for an e-mail ballot to approve said minutes.

Technical Manager Discussion and Alternative Approaches to the Definition

Valerie began the discussion with a review of the information from the Newport Beach meeting in February. She also presented the proposed language this committee provided to the Quality Systems committee as relates to chemistry (Attachment 4). Discussions in Newport Beach presented numerous changes with no decisions having been made. There is considerable concern in the accreditation community as some laboratories have been cited and even lost accreditation for failures to meet the current requirements.

While the suggestions presented by the chemistry committee, and contained in Attachment 4, remain the recommendation from this committee, it was agreed that more work still needs to be done in efforts to provide a definition acceptable to all parties. It was further suggested and supported by this committee that we need to start the process of developing this definition by starting anew. The agreed upon first step would be to start with an understanding of “Duties and Responsibilities” for the Technical Manager. Further it was generally agreed that this “position” in question would be better characterized as a “technical expert, specialist or director”; replacing the confusing connotation of a “Manager”.

Other comments were expressed regarding the possible use of a tiered approach (multiple technical “managers” for different areas of a lab with potentially different required qualifications). All agreed however that technical expertise and experience along with an on-site presence (at a given frequency if not daily) is absolutely required. It was also stated that a minimum of a Bachelors Degree (in chemistry or a related discipline) would be required or it will not be acceptable to the ABs. It was also pointed out that the Standard cannot define how the organization will operate its facility. The laboratory’s Quality System must define the interactions within its facility to ensure effective operations and quality of its work product. Prior to initiation of detailed discussion on duties and responsibilities, committee members were reminded that roles and responsibilities and as important, authority for actions within a lab are administrative, operational and technical (including or along side of quality).

The chemistry committee began listing the duties of this “position” including method development, modification and validation; SOP review and approval; insurance of appropriate instrumental performance; Initial and Continuing DOC compliance; method compliance and Compliance with the TNI standard as relates to their responsibilities. It was also suggested that oversight of sample receipt from the perspective of analyzing what you are accredited for, should be this individuals responsibilities.

Michelle mentioned that California uses the concept of principal analyst and Jay stated that VA used the term principal scientist. Both committee members will attempt to gather more information from CA and VA respectively for the net committee meeting.

Valerie requested committee members to continue to develop their thoughts regarding duties and responsibilities of this technical manger (however titled) and bring those ideas to the April conference call.

The meeting of the committee concluded at 3:15 PM ET. The next scheduled conference call for the committee is Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET.

Attachment 1

Chemistry Expert Committee
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday March 4, 2020

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of February 2020 Minutes
3. Discussion of Technical Manager Requirements
4. Assignment for alternative approaches to Technical Manager Requirements

Attachment 2



CEC.minutes.1.8.20
20_draft.docx

Attachment 3



CEC.minutes.2.6.20
20_draft.2.docx

Attachment 4



Chemistry Technical
Manager 02052020.d

Chemistry

Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in environmental chemistry analysis shall be a person who possesses the following:

- i. a bachelor's degree from an accredited institute of higher education; and
- ii. two (2) years of experience in the analysis of samples representative of the analyses for which the lab seeks and maintains accreditation; and
- iii. twenty-four (24) college semester credit hours in a scientific discipline to include at least sixteen (16) credit hours in chemistry. All credit hours must be from an accredited institute; and
- iv. a passing score in a basic technical manager course. (If this does not become a requirement then this may count for 4 credit hours excluding chemistry)

Alternative Options

- i. A master's or doctoral degree in a scientific discipline may be substituted for one (1) year experience.
- ii. In addition to the two (2) years of experience listed above in ii each additional year of experience working in an environmental laboratory may be substituted for 2 credit hours.
 - a. Multiple years of substitution may be utilized, but each year substituted must be related to the learning of and proficiency across the scope of accreditation for analytical method/technique or instrumentation type. This will help ensure an increasing level of knowledge in environmental analyses (preparation and/or instrumentation) during that time period.
 - b. A minimum of 12 credit hours in chemistry must be college level course work from an accredited institute.
- iii. A technical manager course for organics and/or inorganics may be taken and passed in lieu of 4 credit hours each. A prerequisite for this course is a passing grade in the basic technical manager course.
 - a. Only 4 credit hour may be substituted for chemistry credit hours of college level course work. A minimum of 12 credit hours in chemistry must be college level course work from an accredited institute.

All of the current exemptions listed in Module 2 will still be applicable.

rewrite Jessica Jensen 02/05/2020- This is a rewrite attempt after comment received by the chair of Quality Systems, this represents the opinions of me as an individual and is not presented from the Quality Systems Committee.