

Accreditation Body Mentoring
February 2, 2007

1. Introduction

Bill Hall and David Caldwell presented slides to introduce topics. See slides. The purpose of the session is to identify issues to refer to other TNI boards and programs.

2. Proficiency Tests

The tables (matrix and analyte) are available on the website.

- Question: EPA will be publishing new methods with a 30 day implementation schedule. Since there will not be time to establish a history of proficiency tests, how will the proficiency testing requirement be met?
 - The Laboratory has to be proactive. It should monitor the proposed rules and get ready. The proposed rule has been out for over a year, so there is plenty of time to get ready.
 - For totally new methods, some adjustments may be made.
- There is a subcommittee working on method codes.
 - A draft with method codes will be ready to go out soon but it will not have technology. The problem is the technology has not been standardized. Need to decide on common terminology. Also combination technologies, and other variations are problematic. Need to decide and agree on how to handle this.
 - Florida has a technology and associated methodology. It is available if you want to request it.
- PT providers will provide electronic information. Contact your PT provided about this.
- If the analyte is in the sample, you have to report a number for it. PT providers have adjusted their limits and are now putting in things at a high enough level to ensure labs can detect it. The standard allows the lab to add a procedure to concentrate the sample in this type of case even if they do not normally do it.

3. Secondary Accreditations

- Some states do not have reciprocity but do have exemptions.
- There is an informal New England group that meets and discusses environmental issues. There is no reciprocity involved.