

**Summary of the Laboratory Accreditation
Systems Committee Meeting
July 11, 2008**

1. Roll call: Attendance is recorded in Attachment A.

The meeting of the TNI Laboratory Accreditation Systems Committee (LASC) was called to order by June Flowers, Chair, on July 11, 2008 at 11 AM EDT. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

2. Minutes

Minutes of June 13 were approved. June will forward to the TNI webmaster for posting on the website.

3. Standards Review and Acceptance SOP

June reviewed the draft prepared by Jerry Parr based on discussion from the last call. There was some reluctance to finalize the SOP without “testing”. June asked for any additional comments to be submitted by the end of the following week.

4. Review of new TNI Volume 1: Module 1

The LASC began review of the new TNI standards V1:M1. Comments are recorded in Attachment B. June asked for additional comments to be emailed the following week. All PT standards will be reviewed before consulting with the expert committee.

4. Standards Interpretation

The standards interpretation request form is live on the website and June indicated that she will be tabulating the inquiries received to date for action by the appropriate party.

5. The next meeting of the LASC will be August 8, 2008, at 11:00 am EST.

The LASC will meet on Thursday, August 14 at 9:00 am in Washington, DC.

Attachment A
PARTICIPANTS
TNI

LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE

Member	Affiliation	Contact Information
Ann Marie Allen - present	Massachusetts, Non-nelap AB	T: 978-682-5237 x333 E: ann.marie.allen@state.ma.us
Jo Ann Boyd – present	Southwest Research Institute, Lab	T: 210-522-2169 E: jboyd@swri.org
Lance Boynton - present	Absolute Standards, Inc., PT	T: 203-281-2917 E: lancebovnton@mac.com
Brooke Connor - absent	USGS	T: 303-236-1877 E: bfconnor@usgs.gov
Lewis Denny - present	Florida DOH, AB	T: 904-791-1587 E: lew_denny@doh.state.fl.us
George Detsis - present	Department of Energy, Government	T: 301-903-1488 E: george.detsis@eh.doe.gov
Dan Dickinson - absent	New York DOH, AB	T: (518) 485-5570 E: dmd15@health.state.ny.us
June Flowers – Chairperson present	Flowers Chemical Laboratories, Inc., Lab	T: (407) 339-5984 x212 E: june@flowerslabs.com
Terri Grimes - present	Pinellas County Utilities, Municipal Lab	T: 727-5822302 E: trimes@co.pinellas.fl.us
Dan Hickman - absent	Oregon DEQ, AB	T: 503-229-5983 x252 E: hickman.dan@deq.state.or.us
Marvelyn Humphrey - present	USEPA Region 6, EPA	T: 281-983-2140 E: humphrey.marvelyn@epa.gov
Roger Kenton - present	Eastman Chemical Company,	T: 903-237-6882 E: rogerk@eastman.com
Judy Morgan - present	Environmental Science Corporation, Lab	T: 615-773-9657 E: jmorgan@envsci.com
Jack McKenzie - present	Kansas DHE, AB	T: 785-296-1639 E: imckenzi@kdhe.state.ks.us
Dale Piechocki- present	Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., Lab	T: (574-472-5523 E: dale.r.piechocki@us.ul.com
Ilona Taunton – present	TestAmerica Analytical Testing Corp., Lab,	T: 828-712-9242 E: िताuton@testamericainc.com
Carol Batterton - present	TNI Program Administrator	T: 830-990-1029 E: carbat@beecreek.net
Jerry Parr	TNI Executive Director	T: 817-598-1624 E: jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B

Comments and Questions from LASC on new TNI Standards Volume 1 Module 1: Proficiency Testing

3.18 Definition of suspension is inconsistent across volumes. The definition in V1M1 may not be workable for ABs. See V2M1:3.20, V2M2:3.19, and V2M3:3.19

3.18 Suspension: The temporary removal of a laboratory's accreditation for a defined period of time, which shall not exceed six months or the period of accreditation, whichever is longer, in order to allow the laboratory time to correct deficiencies or area of non-conformance with the standard.

4.1.2 This is inconsistent with V2. Use of non-accredited PT provider vs. recognized PT provider may cause confusion.

4.1.2 The PT samples used for initial accreditation shall be obtained from any PTPA-accredited PTP as part of a TNI-compliant study. If a PT sample for an accreditation FoPT is not available from any accredited PTP, the laboratory shall obtain the PT sample from any non-PTPA-accredited PTP.

See V2M2: 5.2.2:

5.2.2 When PT samples are not available for the FoPT from any PTPA recognized PT provider at least twice per year, the Primary AB shall require the laboratory to analyze the PT samples in the minimum time frame in which the PT samples are available from any PTPA recognized PT provider.

4.1.3 Inconsistent with 6.1 in the same volume. Why is this more restrictive than current standard? Tracking PT analysis date may not be workable for ABs.

4.1.3 When the PT samples used for initial accreditation were analyzed by the laboratory prior to the date of application, the analysis dates of the PT samples for the same accreditation FoPT shall be no more than eighteen months prior to the application date of accreditation, with the analysis date of the most recent PT sample having been no more than six months prior to the application date for accreditation. Otherwise, there shall be at least fifteen calendar days between the analysis dates of successive PT samples for the same accreditation FoPT.

6.1 When the laboratory receives a "not acceptable" performance score from a PTP or a Primary AB, the laboratory shall perform corrective action. The requirements for corrective action are described in Volume 1, Module 2.

When the laboratory receives an evaluation of not acceptable for an accreditation FoPT in any study, the laboratory may choose to re-establish successful history for the accreditation FoPT with a PT sample from any study. The following requirements shall apply to the PT sample used to re-establish successful history:

- a) The PT sample shall be obtained from any PTPA-accredited PTP.
- b) The laboratory shall ensure that there are at least fifteen calendar days between the analysis dates of successive PT samples for the same accreditation FoPT.
- c) The PT sample shall be analyzed and reported in accordance with the requirements described this Module.

4.2.2 What is the purpose of experimental PTs? ABs do not deal with them consistently.

4.2.2 When a laboratory is accredited for a field of accreditation for which the FoPT is an experimental FoPT, the laboratory shall analyze two PT samples for the experimental FoPT per year within the same time frames specified for accreditation FoPT. However, successful performance of the experimental PT is not a requisite for continued accreditation.

5.2 PT sample reporting requirements may be difficult to implement. **Can we state a specific reason?**

5.2 PT Sample Reporting Requirements

5.2.1 The laboratory shall evaluate and report the analytical result for accreditation or experimental FoPT as follows:

- a) For instrument technology that employs a multi-point calibration, the laboratory shall evaluate the analytical result to the value of the lowest calibration standard established for the test method used to analyze the PT sample. The working range of the calibration under which the PT sample is analyzed shall be the same range as used for routine environmental samples.
 - i. A result for any FoPT at a concentration above or equal to the lowest calibration standard shall be reported as the resultant value.
 - ii. A result for any FoPT at a concentration less than the lowest calibration standard shall be reported as less than the value of the lowest calibration standard.
- b) For instrument technology (such as ICP-AES or ICP-MS) that employ standardization with a zero point and a single point calibration standard, the laboratory shall evaluate the analytical result to the limit of quantitation (LOQ) established for the test method used to analyze the PT sample. The LOQ for the FoPT shall be the same as used for routine environmental samples.
 - i. A result for any FoPT at a concentration above or equal to the LOQ shall be reported as the resultant value.
 - ii. A result for any FoPT at a concentration less than the LOQ shall be reported as less than the value of the LOQ.

Note: The definitions and requirements for calibration and limit of quantitation are included in Volume 1, Module 2.

5.2.3 The laboratory shall report the analytical results for accreditation and experimental FoPTs to the PTP on or before the closing date of the study using the reporting format specified by the PTP.

5.2.4 On or before the closing date of the study, the laboratory shall authorize the PTP to release the laboratory's final evaluation report directly to the laboratory's Primary AB.