

Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 22, 2020 1:30 pm Eastern

1) Welcome and Introductions

Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A. Minutes of September 24 were approved with Aaren abstaining due to her absence at that meeting.

2) New Member Application

Stacie Crandall applied for membership in LASEC and her application was shared with the meeting reminder. There was no discussion, but two members who could not attend had emailed before the meeting in support of her application. Mike moved and Silky seconded that her application be accepted, and approval was unanimous. The Board Chair has already affirmed her election to membership.

3) Approval of Revisions to SIR Management SOP 3-105

The edits requested at the September meeting were presented for approval. Several typos were noted, and one additional section where the reference to the SIR Subcommittee needed to be changed to show that it is no longer hypothetical. With those changes, Dorothy moved and David seconded that the revised document be approved, and the vote was unanimously in favor. These more recent edits (Revision 5.1) were made into the "tracked" version of changes made from Rev. 4.0 to Rev. 5.0, for ease of review, and the tracked version of 4.0 accompanied the "clean" version of Rev. 5.1 to Policy Committee for review, thus simplifying that secondary review for Policy.

3) Conference Plans and Attendance

Maria explained that conference in January will now be virtual and that the dates have been changed to January 25-28. Registration will open in early November, and the LASEC session is planned for Thursday morning, January 27.

4) Mentor Session and Assessment Forum Planning

The Mentor Session is planned for Tuesday afternoon (1/26, 1-4 pm DST). Dorothy, Silky and Michele Wade are juggling the tentative plans from last month, since it will be a shorter session (3 hours with a short break) and on a different date, which may impact availability of the planned speakers. Dorothy asked about MDL spreadsheets, and should receive three of them, one from CA, one from VA and one that Silky uses in training courses. The planned topics may need to be shifted, with possibly one being eliminated:

- New MDL procedure (overview plus statistical calculations) – 90 minutes
- TNI calibration procedure (1 speaker) – 30 minutes
- PT planning (managing dates, residuals, ABs and PT vendors) – 60 minutes

The Assessment Forum is scheduled for Thursday afternoon (1/27, 1-4 pm CST). The topic will be emerging contaminants, with Judy and Janice Willey pulling together the

session. PFAS will be a major focus of this session, and the TNI News section has a post requesting speakers for this session and others, please see <https://nelac-institute.org/news.php?id=4364>

5) Appeal of Validity Decision for SIR 389

SIR 389 was submitted on September 28, and reviewed by the Chairs of LASEC and the NELAP AC in accordance with the SIR Management SOP's procedure. The response letter returned to the submitter on October 4, explaining that the Chairs had determined it not to be a valid SIR on the basis that the standard is clear, as written. The submitter appealed the decision with an email dated October 13, and then, after finding a typo in the original appeal, submitted a revised appeal on October 14.

SIR 389 references the 2016 TNI ELS Standard V1M4 §7.1.1.1, and asks "The Standard states that all initial calibrations must be verified by a second source. If a method requires a surrogate or internal standard, do the surrogates and/or internal standards also need to be verified by a second source?" Subsection (n) states "All initial calibrations shall be verified with a standard obtained from a second manufacturer or a separate lot prepared independently by the same manufacturer" which the Chairs believed to be clear, but the submitter requested that the Chemistry Expert Committee make that determination, rather than the Chairs during initial review.

After the appeal was received, Maria discovered a nearly identical SIR in a relatively new bar on the SIR page of the website, "Combined Interpretations of the 2003, 2009 and 2016 TNI Standard that apply to the 2016 TNI Standard", which contains a SIR (number untraceable, unfortunately) that states

- **Question:** Does the requirement for second source standard include calibration curves for surrogate compounds?
- **TNI Response:** Surrogates are intended to provide a measure of recovery for every sample matrix (D.1.1.3.3 a). A second source check is designed to assure that the analytes of concern are being correctly identified and quantified. Since surrogates are not analytes of concern, and may be held at a constant level in a calibration curve, they are not required to be verified by a second source. The 2003 and 2009 standards have identical language. This section was slightly reworded in 2016 and a definition of "lot" was added to V1M2: Lot: A definite amount of material produced during a single manufacturing cycle, and intended to have uniform character and quality. The SIR still has some relevance in further explaining this issue."

Thus, what seemed to be clear in the language of the 2016 Standard has already been determined to not hold for surrogates, while the need for second source verification of internal standards has apparently not yet been addressed.

With that background, further discussion took place about CA does require second source for both surrogates and internal standards, and that the response letter to the submitter did, in fact, contain an interpretation when interpretations should come only from the relevant Expert Committee. In this instance, the question of need for second source verification for internal standards is still outstanding and should be determined by the Chemistry committee.

To resolve the appeal, Maria requested a motion ruling on the validity of SIR 389. Silky moved and Jack seconded that SIR 389 should be sent to Chemistry Expert Committee for an interpretation of the standard. All present voted in favor. SIR 389 will be submitted to the Chemistry Expert Committee for a response.

Another point made during the discussion was that having two AB representatives (as the LASEC Chair is currently an AB stakeholder) determining validity may be less than ideal, since ABs normally DO make such decisions in implementing the standard in daily practice of assessment and accreditation. While the appeal process could be relied upon, that is less than ideal, as the initial decision should be made with clarity and conveyed to the submitter. Participants agreed that we should try a pilot of having a committee member of either the lab or "other" stakeholder category (initially, the LASEC Vice Chair) review all decisions where SIRs are determined to be not valid. This will not be incorporated into the SOP yet, but as a trial to see whether it is beneficial.

There was no new business. Dorothy moved and Silky seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

6) Next Meeting

The November and December teleconference meetings of LASEC have been rescheduled due to the holidays. The next meeting will be **Thursday, November 19, 2020, at 1:30 pm Eastern time**. An agenda and documents will be provided prior to the meeting. The SIR Subcommittee will meet immediately after the full committee meeting, if needed.

The December meeting will be on Thursday, December 17, with the SIR Subcommittee meeting immediately after the full committee meeting if any SIR responses are ready for review.

Attachment A TNI LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SYSTEMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROSTER

	NAME	EMAIL	Term End Date	INTEREST	AFFILIATION	S/H CATEGORY	PRESENT
1	Maria Friedman, Chair-Elect	gamfriedman@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)	SIRs	CA ELAP	AB	Yes
2	Dorothy Love, Vice Chair	dorothylove@eurofinsus.com	1/22 (2nd term)	Mentor Session	Eurofins Environmental	Lab	Yes
3	Aaren Alger	Aaren.s.alger@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)		Alger Consulting & Training	Other	Yes
4	David Caldwell	david.caldwell@deq.ok.gov	1/23 (first term)	Assmt. Forum, SIRs	OK DEQ	NELAP AB	Yes
5	Sumy Cherukara	Cherukara.sumy@epa.gov	1/23 (2nd term)		EPA R2	Other	No
6	Stacie Crandall	scrandall@hrsd.com	1/24 (first term)		Hampton Roads Sanitation Distr.	Lab	No
7	Mike Delaney	mike@mikedelaney.org	1/23 (first term)		Retired (MWRA)	Other	Yes
8	Jack Farrell	aex@ix.netcom.com	1/22 (first term)	Mentor Session	Analytical Excellence	Other	Yes
9	Silky Labie	elcatllc@centurylink.net	1/21 (first term)	SIRs	ELCAT	Other	Yes
10	Bill Hall	George.Hall@des.nh.gov	1/22 (first term)		NH ELAP	NELAP AB	No
11	Harold Longbaugh	harold.longbaugh@houston.tx.gov	1/23 (2nd term)	SIRs	Houston Lab	Lab	Yes
12	Louise McGinley	louise.mcginley@tceq.texas.gov	1/22 (first term)	SIRs	TCEQ	NELAP AB	Yes
13	Michele Potter	michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	1/21 (first term)		NJ DEP	NELAP AB	No
14	Scott Siders	siders6six@yahoo.com	1/21 (first term)	Mentor Session	Retired	Other	No

Associate Members

	Myron Gunsalus	ngunsalus@kdheks.gov			KS Lab Director	NELAP AB	No
	Adam Kinion	info@radellc.org			RADE LLC	Lab	No
	Carl Kircher	carl.kircher@doh.state.fl.us		SIRs	FL DOH	NELAP AB	No
	Mitzi Miller	mitzi.miller@moellerinc.com		Mentor Session and Assessment Forum	Dade Moeller	Other	No
	Judy Morgan	Judy.Morgan@pacelabs.com		SIRs, Assessment Forum	Pace Analytical	Lab/FSMO	No
	William Ray	Bill_Ray@williamrayllc.com			Wm Ray Consultants	Other	No
	Mohan Sabaratnam	msabaratnam@iasonline.org			IAS	AB (non-gov.)	No
	Nick Straccione	nstraccione@emsl.com		Mentor Session	EMSL	Lab	No
	Gale Warren	gigwarren@gmail.com		SIRs	Retired (NYDOH)	Other	No
	Program Admin. Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org					Yes