

**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary**

April 13, 2021

1. Roll Call:

Kasey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern on April 13, 2021 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 12 members present. Associates present: Carl Kircher, Amy Hackman, Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, Chris Fuller, Antoine Chamsi, and Debbie Bond.

The March minutes were distributed by email for review. A motion was made by Robin to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as written with the elimination of Jessica Jensen's duplicate name in attendance. The motion was second by Cody and unanimously approved. The minutes will be posted on the TNI website.

The new Expert Committee training has been completed and will be available soon. Voting Committee members and the Chairs must attend the training and it is optional for associate members. Let Kasey know when you take the class.

Kasey reviewed the agenda for the meeting and no changes were made.

2. Charter

The Charter is now due June 1, 2021. The Decision Making section can be removed.

Iлона added some language from SSAS regarding documentation that the Committee will consider.

Robin made a motion to accept the Charter as amended and with the agreement that the formatting will be fixed. The motion was seconded by Cody and unanimously approved.

3. Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs)

SIR 406

Standard	2016 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M5
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	1.7.3.1.b
Describe the problem:	
V1M5: 1.7.3.1.b.i states, "All media shall be tested for performance (e.g., for selectivity, sensitivity, sterility,	

growth promotion, and growth inhibition). These tests shall be performed at a minimum with first use."

Is the intention to require that the 'minimum' testing MUST be performed during/with first use, or is 'before first use' acceptable?

Committee Comment:

Response:

Kasey, Cody and Robin commented that they do not think this is an SIR. Paul Junio also sent an email with the same comment.

Iлона read the new LASEC procedure in Provisional SOP 3-106 (Effective 3/18/21):

- 5.5.6 If upon review of the SIR, the assigned committee disagrees with the decision that the submission is a valid SIR, the expert committee should return a response stating that the language of the standard is clear, with a justification for that disagreement.
- 5.5.7 The SIR Subcommittee shall consider the expert committee's disagreement at its next meeting. If the Subcommittee agrees with the expert committee's justification, the submitter will be notified of the change in the decision about the validity of the SIR submission.
- 5.5.8 If the SIR Subcommittee does not accept the expert committee's justification as adequate reason to declare the SIR submission invalid, then the disagreement shall be treated in as an appeal in the same fashion as if the submitter disagrees with an invalid submission decision, and such appeal will be presented to the entire LASEC at its next meeting and the decision of the full LASEC shall be final. If the determination of the validity of the SIR submission is changed to invalid, the submitter will be notified; if not, the expert committee will be requested to provide a response to the question presented in the SIR submission.

Some felt the submitter is confused. This testing can be done with first use or before first use. It is an easy question to answer, so the Committee will provide a response.

Response: Performance testing is required to be performed before the first use, or with the first use. The laboratory may determine the approach they prefer.

Roll Call Vote:

For: Kasey, Cody, Jessica, Robin, Ashley, Jody, Vanessa, Elisa, Hunter, Christabel, and Mary.

Against: 0

Abstain: 0

Voting members missing: Michael, Lily, Enoma, and Patrick.

The motion passed.

Lynn forwarded SIRs that were submitted, but not considered a valid SIR. She shared SIR 400:

Not-Valid SIR 400, Microbiology

Standard	2016 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M5
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	1.7.3.3

Describe the problem:

We have two questions related to this requirement:

1. Would the lab be comparing the SimPlate "well count" or the SimPlate "MPN/mL" that the well count equates to? For example for a plate that has 5 wells that fluoresce are we using the 5 "wells" as the count or the "10 MPN/ml" as the count?
2. How is the 10% difference calculated? For example, is it the mean of the samples +/- 5% for a total of 10% or is it the (max - min)/min, which would be more restrictive than dividing by the max, or is there some other recommended calculation to use?

Thanks for your assistance.

The second part of the question is a "how do you do" type of question. Robin commented that these types of SIRs may be of interest to the Small Laboratory Advocacy Group.

4. Email

Kasey shared an email from Minnesota as an FYI for MEC members. No action needs to be taken regarding this information.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has requested MNELAP to remove R2A media by Pour Plate in Standard Methods 9215B, and arsenic by EPA 200.7 for the analysis and reporting of drinking water samples under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). As a result, MNELAP will remove them from the list on September 1, 2021. Laboratories currently accredited for these FOTs must change their methods to an allowed method under the SDWA during the next renewal period.

I understand the arsenic issue as it relates to sensitivity of the method and the MCL, but not the micro one. Curious if any other AB received this request.

Here is a link to the newsletter:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/mnelap/news.html#noticelist>
[\[health.state.mn.us\]](https://www.health.state.mn.us)

5. Standard Development

Robin will work on her action item to move QC sections in the Standard.

Kasey confirmed that all webinar comments have been addressed.

Kasey will update the Summary of Suggested Changes table. It needs to have only three columns – the current text, the change made and the justification.

Iлона reviewed next steps. The next step is to let LASEC know about any SIRs that were considered during the Standard update.

The CSDP Program Administrator (Bob Wyeth) will need to be notified once the Summary of Suggested Changes document is complete, the DRAFT Standard is ready for posting and the LASEC has been notified about SIRs. Bob will file the appropriate forms with ANSI.

The DRAFT Standard and Summary of Suggested Changes will be posted on the website for comment for 90 days from the website posting. Any comments received will need to be addressed using the procedures in SOP 2-101 (Procedures Governing Standards Development) – Section 5.4. A Response to Comment form will be used to track all comments.

Kasey expects to be voting on the DRAFT Voting Standard in June or July.

6. Action Items

See Attachments B and C for updates to action items. Kasey will send Robin today's copy of the Standard so she can work on her action item.

7. New Business

Kasey will check with Lynn Bradley to see what happened to the guidance document information she sent on April 1, 2020.

8. Next Meeting and Close

The next regular teleconference will be on May 11, 2021 at 1:30pm Eastern. Kasey has a meeting on May 11th so Cody will host the next call.

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

Kasey adjourned the meeting at 2:53 pm Eastern. (Motion: Ashley Second: Cody Unanimous approval.)

Attachment A

Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Kasey Raley (Chair) (2023) Present	Pace Labs	Lab	kasey.raley@pacelabs.com
Michael Carpinona (2022*) Absent	NJ DEP	AB	Michael.Carpinona@dep.nj.gov
Cody Danielson (Vice-Chair). (2022*) Present	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Jessica Hoch (2022) Present	TCEQ	Other	Jessica.Hoch@Tceq.Texas.Gov
Lily Giles (2022*) Absent	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Mary Robinson (2022*) Present	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Robin Cook (2024*) Present	City of Daytona Beach, EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Ashley Larssen (2024*) Present	KC Water	Lab	ashley.larssen@kcmo.org
Jody Frymire (2022*) Present	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2023) Present	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Elisa Snyder (2023*) Present	City of Austin – Austin Water Division	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Hunter Adams (2023*) Present	City of Wichita Falls – Water Purification	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Enoma Omoregie (2024) Absent	NYCDEP	Other	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2024) Present	Pace National, Analytical	Lab	christabel.monteiro@pacelabs.com
Patrick Roundhill (2023*) Present: Joined 2:30 Eastern	New Leaf Management, LLC	Lab	patrickroundhill@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

**Attachment B
Action Items – MEC**

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
76	Provide an update on what has been done with the method codes and database after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.	Jennifer	4/10/18	6/9/20: Ask Jennifer for a follow-up. 11/9/20 – Not available for a follow-up. 1/12/20 – update – Complete Leave on Backburner/Reminder list.
104	Implementation Guidance for Equilibrium.	Committee	TBD	
105	Discuss definition of Lot with Chair of CSDP EC.	Kasey Paul Junio	2/11/21	Started, but ongoing.
107	Move sections of Standard into new places.	Robin	3/8/21	In progress.
108				

