

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

**April 14, 2020**

1. Roll Call:

Kasey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern on April 14, 2020 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 members present. Associate: Chris Fuller, Laura Higgins, Robin Cook, Jennifer Best (Leave at 2pm Eastern), Carl Kircher and Dwayne Burkholder.

Kasey reviewed the March meeting minutes on Webex. Some members were not able to log-in to Webex, so Kasey decided to approve the minutes by email and will send an email vote out after the meeting.

*(Addition: A motion was made by Hunter on 4-16-20 by email to approve the March 10, 2020 as written. The motion was seconded by Jessica on 4-16-20 by email and there was no further discussion.*

*Vote:*

*Mary – For (4/20/20)*

*Jessica – For (4/20/20)*

*Cody – For (4/20/20)*

*Hunter – For (4/20/20)*

*Elisa – For (4/20/20)*

*Mike Blades – For (4/20/20)*

*Lily Giles – For (4/20/20)*

*Vanessa – For (4/20/20)*

*Michael Carpinona – For (4/21/20)*

*Jody Frymire – For (4/23/20)*

*The motion passed and the minutes have been approved.)*

Kasey asked that Committee members let her know if they have taken the recorded Committee training. She will be following up by email.

Kasey reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

2. SIR 371

SIR #371 was referred to the Microbiology Expert Committee on January 16, 2020:

**Standard**

2016 TNI Standard

Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)

V1M5

Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)

1.7.3.1 e)

**Describe the problem:**

The standard mentions dilution water quality monitoring for both pre-purchased and lab-prepared water, to include buffer water and/or peptone water. If lab-prepared dilution water is being sterilized from High Quality (Type I) reagent water that is not buffered, is the pH monitoring required? If so, what pH range would be acceptable for before/after measurements? Deionized water should be ~pH 7, however there is no requirement listed.

**Committee Comments:**

**Response:**

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Discussion:

Comments on email were reviewed and a response was developed:

The standard is specific in stating that dilution water shall be monitored for pH. Dilution water includes, but is not limited to, buffer water and/or peptone water. The acceptable pH range would be dependent upon what method(s) the dilution water is being used for, or determined by the laboratory and documented in the SOP/QAM.

There were some concerns expressed on the call about whether this should have been accepted as an SIR. Ilona noted that the committee can determine that an SIR is not an SIR. If that is the case, the Committee can insert information into the comments and send it back to LASEC explaining the issue. The Committee thinks the Standard is clear and that the inquirer is reading the Standard incorrectly.

There was confusion on what the inquirer was asking. Kasey brought up the Section 1.7.3.1.e. The Standard includes all 3 of those things. The inquirer is reading the standard incorrectly.

The committee will submit the following to LASEC:

**Committee Comments: We do not believe this to be an SIR. Committee Comments below.**

**The standard is specific in stating that dilution water shall be monitored for pH. Dilution water includes, but is not limited to, buffer water and/or peptone water. The acceptable pH range would be dependent upon what method(s) the dilution water is being used for, or determined by the laboratory and documented in their SOP/QAM.**

A motion was made by Cody that the comments above are complete as written and the SIR is not considered an SIR. The motion was seconded by Hunter and unanimously approved.

### 3. Summary of Changes to the Standard

Robin, Mary and Cody worked on the table presented last month. Kasey pulled it up on Webex and made changes directly in the table as the Committee discussed each item (see Attachment D).

The committee will continue working on the table in May.

### 5. Action Items

See Attachments B and C for updates to action items.

### 6. New Business

None.

### 7. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be held by teleconference on May 12, 2020 at 1:30pm Eastern.

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

Kasey adjourned the meeting at 2:54 pm Eastern. Cody – motion Second – Christabel Unanimous.

**Attachment A**

**Participants  
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Kasey Raley (Chair) (2023) <b>Present</b>	Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.	Lab	KaseyRaley@eurofinsUS.com
Michael Carpinona (2022*) <b>Absent</b>	NJ DEP	AB	Michael.Carpinona@dep.nj.gov
Cody Danielson (Vice-Chair). (2022*) <b>Present</b>	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Jessica Hoch (2022) <b>Present</b>	TCEQ	Other	Jessica.Hoch@Tceq.Texas.Gov
Lily Giles (2022*) <b>Present</b>	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Mary Robinson (2022*) <b>Absent</b>	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Michael Blades (2021*) <b>Present</b>	ERA	Other	mblades@eraqc.com
Jody Frymire (2022*) <b>Present</b>	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2023) <b>Present</b>	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Elisa Snyder (2023*) <b>Present</b>	City of Austin – Austin Water Division	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Hunter Adams (2023*) <b>Present</b>	City of Wichita Falls – Water Purification	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Enoma Omoregie (2021*) <b>Absent</b>	NYCDEP	Other	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) <b>Present</b>	ESC	Lab	cmonteiro@esclabsciences.com
Patrick Roundhill (2023*) <b>Absent</b>	New Leaf Management, LLC	Lab	patrickroundhill@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

**Attachment B  
Action Items – MEC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
1	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Dan Hickman.	Deb	TBD	
19	Provide EPA interpretation on temperature readings to Ilona. She will have it posted on the website.	Robin	1/31/14	
74	Send questions for ABs regarding method codes to Robin.	ALL	3/15/18	
76	Provide an update on what has been done with the databases after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.	Jennifer	4/10/18	
78	Forward link to PDFs on DW website with rule, method and analyte information.	Jennifer	3/31/18	
81	<i>Addition: Forward response to SIR 331 to Lynn Bradley.</i>	<i>Robin</i>	<i>11/13/18</i>	
83	Send out resumes for all applicants to the committee.	Robin	12/10/18	Send before 1/8/19.
84	Send out copy of Charter.	Robin/Ilona	12/10/18	
87	Contact Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey about Technical Manager requirements.	Robin	5/14/19	
92	Complete Standard Change Form and send to Committee for review at next meeting.	Kasey	10/4/19	10/8/19: Still in progress.
93	Prepare guidance language for SIR 301 and submit to LASEC.	Kasey	11/12/19	10/8/19: Kasey will prepare DRAFT language.
94	Review Committee Member applications.	All	12-10-19	Complete
95	Send SIR #301 implementation guidance language to Lynn Bradley.	Kasey	4/1/20	Complete
96	Draft language for a response to SIR 371. Distribute to Committee for email comment.	Kasey	4/1/20	Complete

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
97	Expand on language in Standard Change Summary Form. Use Radiochemistry document as an example.	Kasey, Cody, Mary and Robin	4/13/20	Complete
98	Send SIR #371 response to LASEC.	Kasey	4/30/20	



Micro Change Summary – Attachment D PDF will be inserted.

<b>Original Text+A3:I9</b>	<b>Suggested Change</b>	<b>Justification</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Include reference and language.</i>	<i>Don't need to work on specific language - just summarize change needed.</i>	<i>Why does this need to be changed/updated?</i>	



Original Text	Suggested Change	Justification	
<i>Include reference and language.</i>	<i>Don't need to work on specific language - just summarize change needed.</i>	<i>Why does this need to be changed/updated?</i>	
1.7.3.2.a. - ...At a minimum, the filtration series shall include a beginning and ending blank. The filtration series may include single or multiple filtration units, which have been sterilized prior to beginning the series.and 1.7.3.2.b - ...In addition, laboratories shall insert a method blank after every ten (10) samples or sanitize filtration units by UV light (254-nm) after sample filtration.	Specify filtration series blanks for serial dilutions and multiple unit manifolds. Language should match language in new guidance document	Needs clarification	<b>RC:</b> Guidance include some revision
1.7.3.1.d.ii - The laboratory shall monitor the quality of the water for disinfectant residual, specific conductance...	Specific Conductance vs Conductivity	Need to update language harmonize with other standards	<b>RC:</b> agreed
-	Flexibility for new methods	NA	Ex. Legionella
<del>1.7.3.7.b.vi.c - Labware that is washed and reused shall be tested for possible presence of residues that may inhibit or promote growth of microorganisms by performing the Inhibitory Residue Test initially and each time the laboratory changes the detergent formulation or washing procedures.</del>	IRT requirements	NA	Update to m checked 23r initially and agrees with Comm. Rev