

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

April 9, 2019

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern by teleconference on April 9, 2019. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associate Members: Elisa Snyder and Jennifer Best.

The March 12, 2019 meeting minutes were distributed to the Committee, but not reviewed for approval yet.

2. SIR 301

Robin distributed the language and voting results from the last meeting to all Committee members and a concern was raised. The language was updated and will be voted on again today.

The language being proposed for vote today is:

The requirement is every 10 samples. This would apply to every filter funnel on the manifold if there were more than one being used. There is no intent to do a blank in the middle of a serial dilution series for any given sample as may be the case if it were to be done every 10 plates.

A motion was made by Kasey to approve the language above. The motion was seconded by Enoma and unanimously approved. Robin will forward the SIR response to Lynn Bradley.

3. Technical Manager

Robin reviewed the history of the work done previously and the issues involved in preparing new requirements for Technical Managers.

The Technical Manager requirements are written in Module 2. Quality Systems has asked for input on the requirements for microbiology. Jessica (Chair, Quality Systems) has shared the language they are now looking at. She would like to hear more about requirements and is not concerned about specific language because Quality Systems will work on specific language to be consistent.

Robin reminded everyone about the exception currently in the Standard, so smaller wastewater facilities are already covered.

It was suggested to say physical and biological sciences degree. Robin asked if Biochemistry is OK? Some think this would fit under physical? Jennifer noted that Natural Sciences might be another option.

It was noted that if experience is substituted for some education, maybe a Bachelors degree doesn't have to be the only option. Jennifer had a personal experience where someone didn't have the trouble shooting capabilities without the degree. There will always be exceptions. This person could run the tests, but she shouldn't have been running samples that require any type of in depth investigation. She didn't have enough background. Fundamental principles need to be understood. It's hard to make a one size fits all description. Jennifer would prefer to see a listing of technologies eliminated.

Mary noted that it is important to know what they did in the laboratory when you look at experience. She noted that the state does have primacy and should have final say. Robin asked what recourse the lab has if a state disagrees with their choice of Technical Manager? Jennifer noted that a Standard cannot be written that conflicts with the state authority. The labs recourse is to go up the ladder to attempt to get approval of the person, but ultimately it is up to the state.

Jennifer thinks the investigative component of a degree is needed. There may be exceptions, but normally it should be required. The states need to take the responsibility if they leave a Technical Manager in place that may not be ideal. The EPA regions need to be sure this is happening. A training plan could be in place to help the Technical Manager gain strength in areas of weakness. The state needs to decide the person is competent and work with the lab.

What if there was an option that if the person doesn't meet the written requirements, the lab has to prove to the AB that the person is competent. Prove the person is capable. Jessica noted that this puts the states in the position to determine the requirements. Would that be a problem with reciprocity?

Robin likes what the Committee has been working on for "normal" requirements, but wants to be sure there is something for the exceptions.

Jennifer suggested language along the lines of: Should other circumstances arise, the laboratory should work with their AB to obtain permission ...

The lab needs to either meet the requirements or have documentation that is submitted to the AB for approval.

There were still concerns about raised about reciprocity. Can the states agree to accept the decision from another state? Some states are more particular? Is there another process

that needs to be put in place to get the approval from all relevant states. This would be similar to a lab needing to be compliant to “local” requirements.

New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey seem to have particular requirements ... so Robin will check in with these states.

Robin will work on this and send a DRAFT to the Committee for review before the next meeting.

4. Action Items

See Attachments B and C for updates to action items.

5. New Business

None.

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be held by teleconference on May 14, 2019 at 1:30pm Eastern.

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

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:28pm Eastern. (Motion: Kasey Second: Christabel Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A

**Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Robin Cook (Chair) (2019) Present	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Michael Carpinona (2022*) Absent	NJ DEP	AB	Michael.Carpinona@dep.nj.gov
Ron Coss (2022*) Absent	Orange County Sanitation District	Lab	RCoss@OCSD.COM
Cody Danielson (2022*) Present	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Lew Denny (2021*) Absent	Flowers Chemical Laboratories – North	Lab	lewdenny@comcast.net
Jessica Hoch (2019*) 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
Michael Blades (2021*) Present	ERA	Other	mblades@eraqc.com
Jody Frymire (2022*) Present	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.com
Kasey Raley (Vice-chair) (2020*) Present	Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.	Lab	KaseyRaley@eurofinsUS.com
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2020*) Absent	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Gary Yakub (2020) Absent	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	gyakub@envstd.com
Enoma Omoregie (2021*) Present	NYCDEP	Other	comoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) Present	ESC	Lab	cmonteiro@esclabsciences.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Recording	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B

Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
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	
85	Send out updated Technical Manager Language	Deb	1/8/19 or week before Milwaukee	
86	Email DRAFT Technical Manager requirements discussed at 4/9/19 meeting.	Robin	5/14/19	
87	Contact Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey about Technical Manager requirements.	Robin	5/14/19	
88	Send SIR 301 response to Lynn Bradley.	Robin	5/14/19	

