

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

May 14, 2019

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern by teleconference on May 14, 2019. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 7 members present. Associate Members: Sarah Bortz and Jennifer Best. Guest: Aaren Alger.

The March and April meeting minutes were distributed to the Committee for review. Kasey moved to approve the March 12, 2019 and April 9, 2019 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Mary and approved by all members on the call today. The approval will be finished by email.

(Addition: The vote was completed during the June 11, 2019 meeting:

Votes:

Robin – For

Michael C – For

Cody – For

Lew – For (by email)

Jessica – For

Lily – For

Michael B – For

Jody – For

Kasey – For

Vanessa – For

Enoma – For

Christabel – For

Mary – For (by email)

The motion passed.)

2. Method Codes

Robin presented the Method Code table on Webex that Patsy worked on and distributed to the NELAP AC. Aaren Alger (Chair, NELAP AC) joined the call today.

Aaren noted that the PTPEC proposed an FoPT table update. There were new analyte codes for DW Microbiology to separate multi-well and multi-tube methods. The NELAP AC thinks it is not appropriate to have different codes for different methods/technologies. People are asking for method codes when they want to add analytes to a method. Dan asked the NELAP AC to weigh in on this and the NELAP AC does not want to see this.

Unique revisions need unique codes. If it is the same method ... perhaps it doesn't need a new code for a new revision number.

Aaren noted that perhaps we should look at how the method is being reported?

Robin gave an example: 9215 – Heterotrophic plate count. There are two different media options in the method. Do you need separate codes because you use different agars. Both are in the method. Aaren doesn't think you'd need separate codes. Pennsylvania is not tracking the different agars – they are tracking Method 9215. Is this a survey question for the ABs?

Vanessa noted that Florida is looking at the methods because there is such confusion with the method codes. There are just too many codes. It has messed up their electronic database.

Aaren would like to scratch what we have and go back to the CFRs and methods and start over. Robin noted that the method is the same with some revisions of a method, but there may have been changes to the QC. An accreditor does need to know which QC they need to check for when assessing the lab.

The ABs have decided to mandate that the labs use the current version to keep it simple. She hopes that this will eliminate labs using different editions. Robin noted this can be a problem with permits.

At a Federal level, they can't make a lab use the most current method. All it takes is one lab to complain they are being made to buy another instrument, etc... This would completely stop this. Jennifer asked what Pennsylvania would do if a new version comes out and there is something they didn't like in it? Aaren responded that EPA would have to approve it first and then if they had a problem, they would choose not to offer accreditation for it. She realizes that secondary accreditation would need to be discussed in this new light.

Mary commented that Indiana expects labs to use the most current method version. They do track what media a lab is doing.

Robin asked Jennifer the following question - If you have a method that you know has errors in it, wouldn't EPA not approve it ... so states don't have to approve it? Jennifer responded that there is a problem when it has been published. They try to do a thorough review to prevent such a thing from happening. Jennifer disagrees with removing unique codes for revisions because she does not think the methods are equivalent. An assessor needs to know what version the lab is running so they can prepare for the assessment.

Aaren would like to see that there is a code for the method for the year the method was approved and then find a way to note what version of the QC the labs are using. Jennifer did a crosswalk for Standard Methods that would help with this, but she is not sure it was put online. She will check. Standard Methods does not put all their versions online. She

also gave an example with 9230B where a media is mentioned that is no longer available. They changed it online to 9230B-04. It was never in a print version. How do you get the current version if you don't have an online subscription? Standard Methods says what is online is the same as what is in print.

Aaren asked if the lab is using the most recent version online ... is the QC the same as the printed version? Jennifer commented that the year noted is the year Standard Method's approved it. 9223 in the print version should be the same as 9223-16 online. If you purchase 9223 online, you should also wind up with 9220 in your cart to provide the QC. The 9220 may have a different year than 9223. It should give the correct 9220 and not an older version with a different QC scheme.

Standard Methods does not allow changes to the online methods. The changes can only be made when a new revision is prepared.

Robin reviewed what is in Patsy's table. She also mentioned that Dan thought things could get worse before they get better. It is now harder to get new Method Codes. EPA is developing their own list that they can share with TNI. They can't use TNI's codes because there are a lot of codes they can't use. For example, there are codes linked to lab SOPs.

Aaren thinks TNI should have their own codes so that NELAP ABs can use them to facilitate reciprocity between state lines. It's not to meet EPA needs or non-NELAP AB needs. She thinks TNI should stop trying to be all things to all people. Jennifer sent Robin a draft of what EPA is looking at currently. EPA has talked about doing a crosswalk to TNIs codes.

Aaren suggested that EPA only approve the print copy Standard Methods and not the online versions. Aaren said more labs prefer to buy the printed copy – it is cheaper to buy the book than to pay for the online subscription. Jennifer thinks that soon there will no longer be a printed copy ... only online. Jennifer appreciates receiving comments and will continue to share them with Standard Methods. Robin would prefer to only have one or the other ... not both.

Jennifer noted that SM is having a meeting in June. There is a new managing editor. Give feedback to Jennifer so she can share it at this meeting.

Robin wants to be sure they are moving in the right direction and doesn't want to do a lot of work that is not necessary.

Robin is planning to put this on the agenda for Jacksonville. She would like to leave Kasey well equipped to continue moving forward in this area.

3. Standard Update

Ilna provided an update on Standard's development in Quality Systems. This Committee will need to update their Standard for Standard references, any SIRs not addressed, etc ... Robin would like Kelsey to drive the bus on this process. This may also be a topic for Jacksonville.

4. Technical Manager

Robin shared a copy of what QS is currently looking at for Technical manager. Robin asked if a similar approach for Micro could work.

There still could be some issues with reciprocal accreditation. Could add something about proving your case and what documentation would need to be sent to prove the case? Could the same paperwork go to each state? Can you send the same packet to the next state?

This takes care of the issue of people that don't have all the education. Robin will take the QS example and modify it for Microbiology. She will then send it to the committee for email comments. She would like to have this complete before the next QS Meeting which is on June 10, 2019. QS would like to finish up the Technical Manager discussion in June.

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 June 11, 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 3:03pm Eastern. (Motion: Kasey Second: Mary 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*) Absent	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Lew Denny (2021*) Absent	Flowers Chemical Laboratories – North	Lab	lewdenny@comcast.net
Jessica Hoch (2019*) Absent	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*) Present	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Gary Yakub (2020) Absent	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	gyakub@envstd.com
Enoma Omoregie (2021*) Absent	NYCDEP	Other	comoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) Present	ESC	Lab	cmonteiro@esclabsciences.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
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	Complete
86	Email DRAFT Technical Manager requirements discussed at 4/9/19 meeting.	Robin	5/14/19	Complete
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	
89	Robin will update the Technical Manager language and send it to the Committee for comment by email. She would like something to present to QS by their 6/10/19 meeting.	Robin All	6/10/19	

