

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

June 9, 2015

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40pm EST by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. There were no associate members on the call.

Po is retiring and will stay on the committee as an “Other” member. Jessica Akins is interested in joining the committee as an “AB”. Robin has been in contact with her and hopes to see her application soon.

2. Chicago Meeting

Robin asked who will be attending the meeting in Chicago: Donna, Deb, Patsy, Mary and Robin. Not attending: Po, Dwayne, and Karla.

Chicago’s agenda will include reviewing and responding to comments on the VDS and working on the Small Lab Handbook.

Hotel rooms are filling up quickly. They will be sold out in the next day, so make your reservation today.

Ilona will request a conference phone for Po, Karla and Dwayne so they can participate in VDS discussion.

3. Voting Draft Standard

Robin reminded everyone that they need to vote on the VDS before July 4, 2015. If 2/3 of the committee does not vote – the VDS will not pass.

Robin noted if comments are given when voting – please provide suggested changes to the language as part of the comment.

4. SIR #285

Robin thinks the language states it only applies to plate methods. Deb noted that NJ expands it to include multiple well because the language states “for example”. This leaves it wide open.

Robin added notes to the SIR Committee Comment section to try to capture the previous discussions:

The intention was for all enumerated methods to have duplicate counts so that all enumerative methods can be evaluated for consistency between analysts. Follow up with SM indicates that the intention was only to include membrane filtration methods. This would then exclude heterotrophic plate counts with regard to SM but the language in the std suggests that it should be included. The TNI 2015 std will be edited to include clarification across all enumerated methods.

“I agree that in the case of this SIR and the current std it is only colonies, but should it always be? The overriding issue is “can all of the analysts interpret positive results in the same way?” Do all of the analysts see the same number of positive tubes or fluorescence? As I told Patsy, for Enterolert there are different shades of fluorescence (blue, green and white). Had I not done this in my lab, I would not have known that I needed to retrain an analyst. I am of the opinion that enumerated means enumerated. Can a different/multiple analyst(s) give you consistent results over all the enumerated methods? The only way to know for sure is to have the all of them interpret the same tubes or colonies or positive wells and compare the results”

Deb asked if the response should state what is currently in effect and then state how this is changing in the 2015 Standard. Patsy noted that Standard Methods is not changing. Deb stated that duplicates are required for quantitative analysis.

Robin reminded everyone that the discussion is regarding duplicate analyst counts – not running the samples in duplicate. Robin reviewed the 2009 Standard language to confirm this. This means the point is to make sure analysts are reading the counts the same. The purpose of this language is not to compare methods.

Po noted that the current Standard discusses colony counts and this is different from enumeration. You have to go with methods where you are producing a colony count. Robin noted that this is why the 2015 Standard was changed.

There is general agreement that the 2009 Standard applies only to membrane filter and plated media methods. Deb suggested stating the current Standard requirements and let them know that the Standard going forward addresses the issue.

Dwayne commented that this approach is fine. He added that the wording in Standard Methods could always be cited. This section of the Standard can be interpreted different ways depending on how colony is defined.

Deb will Draft a response and send it to Robin to pass around for further comments. A final version will be sent out for vote.

5. Small Lab Handbook

The Small Lab Handbook is a product of the Quality Systems Expert Committee, but they are asking for this committee to put the microbiology chapter together.

Robin asked people to keep track of examples of things they've seen or used in the lab that are helpful – please note it for inclusion in the Handbook. These examples should be passed along to Robin. The committee may be able to start looking at these in Chicago.

There were a number of requirement questions when comments were received on the Working Draft Standard and the Modified Working Draft Standard. These questions would be good starting points for Examples.

6. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items were reviewed and updated.

7. New Business

- None.

8. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be face-to-face in Chicago on July 14th at 9am Central Time (10am EST).

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

Robin adjourned the meeting. The meeting ended at 2:26 pm EST.

Attachment A
Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information	
Robin Cook (Chair) Present	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	(386)671-8885	cookr@codb.us
Patsy Root (Vice-chair) Present	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc	Other	(207)556-8947	patsy-root@idexx.com
Karla Ziegelmann- Fjeld Present at 2:15	Microbiologics, Inc	Other		kfjeld@microbiologics.com
Donna Ruokonen Present	Microbac Laboratories, Inc	Lab	(219)769-8378 Ext 110	druokonen@microbac.com
Colin Fricker Absent	Analytical Services, Inc	Lab		colinfricker@aol.com
Deb Waller Present	NJ DEP	AB	(609)984-7732	debra.waller@dep.nj.gov
Dwayne Burkholder Present	Pennsylvania DEP	AB	(717)346-8213	dburkholde@pa.gov
Mary Robinson Present	Indiana State DOH	AB	(317)921-5523	mrobinson@isdh.in.gov
Elizabeth Turner Absent	North Texas Municipal Water District	Lab	(972)442-5405 Ext 535	eturner@ntmwd.com
Po Chang Present	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	AB	(512)239-4876	Po.chang@tceq.texas.gov
Gary Yakub Absent	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	(610)935-5577	gyakub@envstd.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	(828)712-9242	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	
4	Review Handbook and Method Codes before next meeting.	ALL	5/7/13	Handbook Complete.
12	Research possible effects of using bromine and whether it needs to somehow be included in the Standard. Does not look like it.	Deb	November 2013 Meeting	
19	Provide EPA interpretation on temperature readings to Ilona. She will have it posted on the website.	Robin	1/31/14	
41	Prepare Draft Response to SIR for committee review.	Robin	3/10/15	Extended to April meeting. Cancel – See Action Item 47.
45	Send VDS for final clean-up to Jan.	Ilona	ASAP	Complete
46	Send VDS to William for posting on the TNI website for vote.	Ilona	ASAP	Complete
47	Draft response to SIR #285 and send to Robin for distribution and voting.	Deb Robin	6-16-15	

