

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

**August 9, 2018**

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:40pm Central on August 9, 2018 in New Orleans. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 members present.

2. Volume 1 Module 2 Section 5.2.6.1.c

Robin gave a background discussion on the Technical Manager Requirements rework that the committee has been working on. The committee has been trying to make it more inclusive of all the micro tests without making it more prescriptive.

Deb gave the history of references she used to generate the new suggested wording on display and that she based most of it on her own state of NJ requirements. Tiered approached with it starting out sophisticated, having a middle ground, and then a baseline for 4 hours of Micro credit and lots of experience.

Kasey noted that the QS committee had already mentions the need for an either or on the Microbiology and Biology credit hours requirement to make it less confusing.

Opened for discussion to the floor:

Paul Junio noted the requirements need to be clear and at the same time have the ability to capture emerging technologies. He thought the first paragraph need to contain higher technologies in the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph.

Patsy noted the committee is trying to aim for a balance between the education and experience.

Robin noted that the 1.2 scope will cover any state requirement that will supersede the standard.

Ken Lancaster was ok with the graded approach, but thought it needed to be clearer from an AB standpoint.

Robin asked the room if we should just keep the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Certain requirements are built into the higher level methods, i.e. qPCR and Giardia/Cryptosporidium. The risk of promoting someone to Technical Manager that did not meet the specific method requirements would fall on the laboratory.

Mike Blades asked why we need an education requirement at all, and why experience would not supersede the education requirements entirely.

Paul Junio noted he felt that not being prescriptive enough would force an AB to make the decision each time, instead of being clear and concise. He also asked why we have a 2 year equivalent listed.

Robin noted that the two year equivalent is carry over from the QS section of the standard. She explained the new wording of the TM requirements should allow the labs to put the best employees into the position. Currently, the way it is worded, it does not allow that to always happen, i.e. entero.

Deb Waller noted the EPA DW Manual requires 4 hours of Micro course work.

Katherine Roach noted that not all courses are 4 hours long and that she did not like the idea of hours being listed in the standard. Who decides then which hours count or are accepted, and there can be a huge grey area when naming conventions are different. Deb Waller noted the Primary AB would be the one required to evaluate personnel records.

Paul Junio noted QS is trying to make things less prescriptive.

Ken Lancaster asked that one be able to audit to what it says. The standard needs to provide a baseline of qualifications to audit to what can experience cover for vs. education.

Robin noted that the feedback we were getting made the committee feel like we are on the right track for the updates that need to be made. Asked that people also email their comments to the committee for consideration.

Katherine Roach said she thought the language was fine, but that we need to take the 'extras' out.

Jordan Thorngren thought it needed to be more sensitive to WET testing people who may not have the micro background.

Patsy Root suggested the requirement be an Associate's degree or higher, with 1 course in Micro or 3 years' experience with 1 course in micro. The one class providing a lot of the best lab practices needed for the lab.

Robin Cook likes the idea of making open to other people in the field that may not have the same background, but noted that what Micro lab people do is important, valid and pursuant to public health.

Paul Junio suggested a combination of experience and education, which would help balance the biology requirement.

Ken Lancaster thought the standard should be specific on what courses are allowable to meet the requirement, i.e. online or collect, etc.

Katherine Roach discouraged the use of the words 'lab' course.

Patsy Root suggested the new language say 'course' and why not allow for an AWWA or course or the like.

Katherine Roach stated that her AB did not allow a Perkin Elmer course.

Ken Lancaster stated that what is not excluded from the standard is allowed by the standard.

Deb Waller stated that without the coursework, how can you say that you have the full understanding of how to do your job. The reason for being prescriptive is to be sure the TM will understand not just what they currently do, but new issues which may arise. Robin Cook noted that 20 years of experience does not mean that someone does their job well.

### 3. Lunch with NELAP AC/EPA Representatives

Robin gave a brief overview of the discussion with the AC regarding the Method Codes. The AC seemed very receptive to moving forward with simplification of the Method Code list.

### 4. Open Discussion

Thekkekalalathil Chandrasekhar asked the panel why the QC for Quant does not match MTF as far as requiring dups, replicates, batching, and stated that his sub labs do not do the QC

Patsy Root and Robin reiterated that what QC you choose above the method and standard requirements, is your choice, and contract with sub labs need to be set up front to meet individual requirements.

### 5. Action Items

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

## 6. New Business

Robin emailed an issue raised by the PT Expert Committee regarding reporting of less than values. She asked that everyone review it and respond by email. This can be further discussed next month.

## 7. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be held by teleconference on September 11, 2018 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 pm Central.

**Attachment A  
Participants  
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Robin Cook (Chair) (2019) <b>Present</b>	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	<a href="mailto:cookr@codb.us">cookr@codb.us</a>
Patsy Root (2019) <b>Present</b>	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc	Other	<a href="mailto:patsy-root@idexx.com">patsy-root@idexx.com</a>
Lew Denny (2021*) <b>Present</b>	Flowers Chemical Laboratories – North	Lab	<a href="mailto:lewdenny@comcast.net">lewdenny@comcast.net</a>
Jessica Hoch (2019*) <b>Absent</b>	TCEQ	AB	<a href="mailto:Jessica.Hoch@Tceq.Texas.Gov">Jessica.Hoch@Tceq.Texas.Gov</a>
Deb Waller (2019) <b>Present</b>	NJ DEP	AB	<a href="mailto:debra.waller@dep.nj.gov">debra.waller@dep.nj.gov</a>
Dwayne Burkholder (2019) <b>Absent</b>	Pennsylvania DEP	AB	<a href="mailto:dburkholde@pa.gov">dburkholde@pa.gov</a>
Michael Blades (2021*) <b>Present</b>	ERA	Other	<a href="mailto:mblades@eraqc.com">mblades@eraqc.com</a>
Brad Stawick (2019*) <b>Absent</b>		Lab	<a href="mailto:Brad.stawick@stawicklabbmgmt.com">Brad.stawick@stawicklabbmgmt.com</a>
Kasey Raley (Vice-chair) (2020*) <b>Present</b>	Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.	Lab	<a href="mailto:KaseyRaley@eurofinsUS.com">KaseyRaley@eurofinsUS.com</a>
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2020*) <b>Absent</b>	Florida DOH	AB	<a href="mailto:Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov">Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov</a>
Gary Yakub (2020) <b>Absent</b>	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	<a href="mailto:gyakub@envstd.com">gyakub@envstd.com</a>
Enoma Omoregie (2021*) <b>Absent</b>	NYCDEP	Other	<a href="mailto:eomoregie@health.nyc.gov">eomoregie@health.nyc.gov</a>
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) <b>Absent</b>	ESC	Lab	<a href="mailto:cmonteiro@esclabsciences.com">cmonteiro@esclabsciences.com</a>
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	n/a	<a href="mailto:Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a>

**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	
79	Work on method code list for 9222B and D, 9215 and 9223 and send to committee before next meeting.	Robin, Kasey and Dwayne	6/12/18	Complete
80	Prepare DRAFT language for Micro Technical Manager Requirements for discussion at next meeting.	Deb	7/10/18	Complete

