

**MINUTES OF
THE NELAC INSTITUTE'S
PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE
October 19, 2010**

Agenda Item 1: Standing Committee Operations

The Proficiency Testing (PT) Committee of The NELAC Institute (TNI) met by conference call on October 19, 2010 Committee Chairperson Kirstin McCracken led the call.

Call to Order: The teleconference was called to order at 1:34 PM ET.

The following committee members were present for this call:

Shawn Kassner
Joe Pardue
Scott Hoatson
Lisa Touet
Dan Tholen
Steve Arpie
Roger Kenton

The following associate members were present for this call:

Gary Dechant
Rachel Ellis

Agenda Item 1: Standing Committee Operation Items

When the call began, only 5 committee members were present. Without a 2/3 majority it was decided to approve minutes via email.

Agenda Item 2: Standards Interpretation Request #

Shawn forwarded the final proposed language for SIR # 118. Those present on the call reviewed the SIR and offered suggestions for spelling corrections. Without a 2/3 majority present it was decided to approve the SIR via email.

Agenda Item 3: TIA Status

Stacie reports via Kirstin that the WET Subcommittee is concerned that PT standard is punitive and the PT should not be associated with accreditation. At present time, the DMRQA PT samples are used and corrective action reports are prepared for PT failure but the PT samples are not tied to accreditation. Since the FoPT did not exist until recently, PT was not required for NELAC accreditation.

Gary asked if there were any metric on failure rates available for WET. If so, these could be used to assess potential impact of failures on accreditation.

Discussion ensued regarding current use of WET PT samples. Should they be accreditation FoPT or not? No answers were determined today.

Next steps: Stacie plans to schedule a subcommittee call with invites to Eric Smith, Chair of PT Executive Committee and to Kirstin, Chair of PT Expert Committee. The purpose of the call will allow for Eric to explain the reasons FoPT were developed and for Kirstin to gather comments from subcommittee members to take back to committee.

A decision on the WET TIA will be finalized by the committee during the November PTEC Call.

Agenda Item 4: Working Draft Standard

The committee needs to issue a new WDS to incorporate previously approved TIA. The WDS is scheduled to be finished for public comment by February 2011 for discussion at the Savannah conference.

Kirstin updated the committee on AC concerns regarding: Analysis Dates, Experimental PT, LOQ Scoring, and use of non-Accredited PT.

What are the concerns? Shawn pointed out that the committee needs to have written comments so we can specifically understand and respond to the AC concerns.

Based on information known so far, here is a summary of AC concerns for each item:

- Analysis date is extremely difficult and resource intensive for ABs to track. Closing dates are preferred.
- LOQ Reporting & Scoring: Some state regulations (NY and PA) are in conflict with the TNI standard.
- Accredited PTP: Some states can only accept results from accredited PTP so it is proposed that the clause be removed and that FoPT only be approved if there are accredited PTP. However some PTP cannot be accredited without FoPT.
- Experimental FoPT: Some states cannot require labs to run experimental PT and some states must use the results of these PT for accreditation decisions.

Those present discussed these concerns and the implications for the PT program. How do we develop a standard that meets everyone's needs? Can we develop a program that meets everybody's need? Who is working on this? Can there be a liaison between the committee and the AC?

Kirstin reported that the TNI Board is working with the AC on the issues and the committee can expect guidance before our next committee call which will be devoted entirely to this agenda item.

The committee talked about the recognition agreements between ABs and how non-NELAC ABs use the program. Kirstin asked Dan to comment on how the international community develops mutually acceptable solutions. Dan answered that internationally, PT requirements are minimal and customized to the need of the AB and the accredited body. A structure that he thought would probably not work in the United States. Rachel, Scott and Lisa all provided insight into this. In the US ABs cannot enforce requirements on laboratories unless the requirement is in the standard. This is the reason the NELAC (and TNI) standard are so specific and cannot be more general like ISO.

The committee talked about the WDS and implications of opening the WDS to items other than TIA. Roger asked if we needed to issue the WET TIA if we were issuing a WDS. What happens if these issues

are addressed with a new standard and the standard does not get adopted? Shawn reiterated that specific guidance was needed on how to proceed and on that note the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Attachment A

**ACTION ITEMS
TNI PROFICIENCY TESTING COMMITTEE**

Item	Action Item	Assigned To	Due Date	Date Complete
1	Ask Borad about the WET TIA vs. WDS	Kirstin	11/09/10	
2	Relese minutes and SIR for email vote	Kirstin	10/22/10	
3				
4				
5				

Attachment B

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