

**SUMMARY OF THE
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE
MEETING**

APRIL 12, 2013

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, April 12, 2013, at 11:00 am EST.
Shawn Kassner led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (Other)	Present
Stephen Arpie, Absolute Standards (Other)	Present
Kareen Baker, Veolia Water N. American (Other)	Absent
Yumi Creason, PA DEP (AB)	Present
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Absent
Scott Hoatson, Oregon DEQ (AB)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Phenova (Other)	Present
Roger Kenton, Eastman Chemical Co. (Lab)	Present
Stacie Metzler, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Present
Mitzi Miller, Dade Moeller Assocs. (Chair; Other)	Absent
Judy Morgan, Env. Science Corp. (Lab)	Absent
Virgene Mulligan, Amrad (Lab)	Absent
Joe Pardue, P2S (Other)	Present
Jim Todaro, Alpha Analytical (Lab)	Absent
Lisa Touet, MA DEP (AB)	Absent
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Present

Associate Committee Members present: Susan Butts, SC DHEC; Robin Cook, City of Daytona Beach EML

2 – Introduction

Shawn introduced Robin Cook, who was present as an Associate Committee Member. Robin is Chair of the TNI Microbiology Expert Committee, and wants to keep in touch with any microbiology PT standards.

Shawn also informed the committee he will inquire if Jerry has yet obtained copies of ISO 17043 for Committee Members.

3 – Previous Minutes

It was moved by Joe and seconded by Fred to approve the minutes of March 15, 2013. All Committee members present voted in favor.

4 – Volume 3 Comments

A revised Excel file, with comments that had been received, was discussed.

Comment 1: *“In the Table of Contents and in Definition 3.18, PT Board was changed to PT Executive Committee. But PT Board was changed to PT Expert Committee in some clauses of the document (eg. 6.3.1 & 6.3.2). Not sure if this is intentional or not, but there are several other places where PT Board is still listed and needs to be changed to one of these. I found it in 3.9, 4.7, 6.3.2 (2nd reference), 7.4.3, 8.1 and 10.2.7.”*

It was agreed to change to “PTP Executive Committee” in all relevant clauses.

Comment 2: *“Do you want to add a definition of PT Expert Committee? It's defined in Vol 1 & 2.”*

The committee decided it is unnecessary and inappropriate in a standard to define the committee that developed the standard. Therefore, the definition will not be added and will also be removed from Volumes 1 and 2.

Comment 3: *“Change PT Board in sections 6.3.2, 7.4.3, and 8.1.”*

It was agreed to change to “PTP Executive Committee”

Comment 4: *“Terms and Definitions (There is never any reference to the FoPT Tables.)”*.

It was discussed that FoPT tables are defined in clause 3.3 and are referenced in clauses 10.2.2 and 10.2.4, as well as being addressed in V1 and V2. However, Steve (the commenter) said he wanted to see it referenced to the TNI website, but not its specific location since that can change if the website is revised. It was, therefore, decided to state “as published in the TNI web site.”

Comment 5: It was recommended the PT Study Closing Date should *specify “the latest calendar date”*.

This change was agreed.

Comment 6: A formatting issue in clauses 3.15 and 3.16 was pointed out.

It was agreed to fix this.

Comment 7: *“There is nothing new here to ISO17043 and ISO 34 and ISO 9001”*.

This comment was qualified by asking where the ISO standards/guideline are being used in the TNI standard. It was also pointed out that the reference to ILAC in clause 5.1.3 needs changing to ISO 17043. It was suggested stating that PT providers are assessed to ISO 17043 in addition to the TNI standard. It was agreed that Shawn would ask A2LA for a copy of its ISO 17043 checklist, and it would then be decided if the committee could work from this to identify the items in the standard.

Comment 8: This suggested adding the words "*upon request.*" to the end of the sentence in clause 5.2.f.

This change was agreed.

Comment 9: This referred to clause 6.2.1, stating "*The matrices of all PT samples shall, to the extent possible, resemble the matrices which participant laboratories routinely analyze.*" The commenter suggested eliminating this clause, since clause 1.2 b with similar language had already been deleted.

In the ensuing discussion it was added that this goal is not feasible. Steve said PT providers should be required to make samples "fit for use". It was agreed to delete clause 6.2.1.

Comment 9: The commenter suggested deleting the note providing an example of rounding up for the number of analytes in clause 6.3.3.

It was agreed to delete this superfluous clause, since everyone knows how to round up.

Comment 10: In clause 6.3.5 it was commented "*The assigned value for unspiked analytes should be set to <PTRL.*" (Which means we can use 0...that is less than the PTRL) which is contrary to 6.4.6".

Steve added that he wants to be able to say the assigned value is zero if it was not spiked. Some laboratories are finding low levels of analyte present as an impurity even when it was not spiked. Scott argued the concentration can never be zero, only less than the LOD. A straw poll of the PT providers on the call showed most in favor of leaving this in. After discussion it was agreed to delete clause 6.3.5, which was redundant to clause 6.4.6, and to clarify clause 6.4.6.

Comment 11: It was questioned, in clause 6.4 "*Do the PTRL's conform to 3 significant figures? If so, how?*"

In the ensuing discussion it was stated they do not. Stacie said this would be addressed for solid waste samples in the upcoming PTP Executive Committee call.

5 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm EST. The next meeting will be April 19, 2013.