

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

JUNE 6, 2014

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, June 6, 2014, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Shawn Kassner led the meeting.

1 – Roll call

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

Associate Committee Members present: Audrey Cornell, ERA; Bob O'Brien, Sigma-Aldrich; Shari Pfalmer, ESC; Brian Stringer, ERA.

2 – Previous Minutes

The minutes of May 9 had previously been moved and seconded (minutes of May 23, 2014). All present voted in favor and the minutes were approved. It was moved by Scott and seconded by Virgene to approve the May 23, 2014 minutes. All present were in favor, except Kareen who abstained.

3 – Volume 3 Comments

Written comments had been received on the Volume 3 Working Draft Standard that was presented by webinar on May 6, 2014. The committee worked through several of these.

Susan Butts. Susan thought Section 5.9.3.2.1 a), which says the numeric value reported is less than the PTRL or the numeric value reported is reported with a < sign, was not clear. The committee agreed this comment was persuasive and would edit the section.

Dan Dickinson. He commented that Section 5.10 requires PT reports to contain the mean and standard deviation from the participant data. Dan felt the assigned values should be used. On discussion, the committee felt that more than the assigned value was needed. However, Shawn cautioned that the reports need to be kept concise. Judy and Virgene both agreed the reports are good as they are, and laboratories could always get more information from the PTP if needed. It was agreed the comment was non-persuasive and the standard would remain as it is.

Cathy Westerman. In reference to Section 5.10, Cathy asked for the matrix to be included in the report. The PT Providers on the call all agreed it could easily be added. The comment was found to be persuasive, and the committee would add a matrix field to the requirements for final reporting. The matrix field would be based on the matrixes defined in the FoPT tables.

Becky Hoffman and Leah Villegas. Section 5.5.1 requires PTPs to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the PTPA that their PT sample designs and manufacturing processes result in laboratory pass/fail rates that are consistent with historical norms. They asked for information for the PTPA about the challenges of “these organisms” and the need for flow sorting if the PT design remains as it is. The committee agreed it is the responsibility of the PTP to design studies to meet historical pass/fail criteria. No one on the call had heard of “flow sorting”. They also said Section 5.6.1 could not be applied to Protozoans and asked for a section to be added. It was decided to invite Becky and Leah on to the next call to discuss their concerns.

Dan Tholen. Dan had several comments. He questioned the definition of “assigned value”, saying it should be defined either as consistent with ISO/IEC 17043 or in the way it is used by TNI. Scott suggested using the ISO 17043 definition, merging Note 1 into the standard clause, and eliminating Note 2. Shawn said he would look at ISO 17043 before the next call. A typographical error in Section 4.1 was pointed out. Dan questioned the use of the note in Section 5.5.3.3 d) and Shawn said he would contact him for clarification of his comment. In section 5.6.2.2, he recommended removing “study mean and”. The committee agreed. He said in Section 5.6.2.2, it should not be assumed PTPs know how to calculate the “between sample standard deviation”, which is not the same as the standard deviation of homogeneity sample means. The committee decided to add an explanation in the homogeneity section.

Time ran out before the rest of Dan Tholen’s comments could be addressed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm EDT.