

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

OCTOBER 19, 2012

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, October 19, 2012, at 11:00 am EDT. In the absence of Mitzi, Shawn chaired the meeting.

1 – Previous Minutes

September 21: an additional affirmative vote was received from Jim. Therefore, the minutes were approved.

October 5. Ken was asked to distribute them for electronic vote.

2 – Discussion of Comments received on the Working Draft Standard

Alger10. Discussion was re-scheduled for the next call.

Scott’s re-write of Section 4, based on Comments Alger1, Cairns14, Cairns15, Cairns 16, and Cairns19.

Clause **4.1.2** was re-written, on Nicole’s suggestion, to: “The laboratory shall participate in PT studies for each field of accreditation in the TNI FoPT tables for which the laboratory seeks to obtain or maintain accreditation.”

Clause **4.1.6** had included a note: “an AB may specify the month(s) in which laboratories must participate in specific PT studies”. Rachel said NJ is the only State that specifies the month, but they do not need this clause. Therefore, it was removed.

In Clause **4.2.1**, “and prepare” was inserted after “handle”.

In Clause **4.2.2**, “QC” was deleted to improve the wording.

There was a protracted discussion on Clause **4.2.3**. Roger was concerned that the standard now requires laboratories to report to the PTRL, but he said PTs should only be scored to the PTRL; e.g., the laboratory should be able to take the risk of reporting <2 if the PTRL is 1. Others, however, felt this is a reporting issue that should be addressed in Clause 4.3.4. Therefore, 4.2.3 remained unchanged.

Clause **4.2.4** was modified to read:

“For chemistry and radiochemistry PT results where the concentrations are below the calibration range established by the initial calibration curve, the following actions are acceptable:

- a) The laboratory may re-scale its initial calibration curve to bracket the concentration of the PT sample result, or
- b) The laboratory may report the results, as measured with the initial calibration curve, without qualification to the PT Provider, provided the laboratory adheres to the requirements of section 4.3.5.”

In the note appended to Clause **4.3.3**, it was suggested adding the specific Federal Register reference to the federal regulation. However, it was realized this is not a federal regulation, and is only in the EPA drinking water certificate manual. Therefore, the note was amended to read:

“**Note:** PT results are required by EPA document 815-R-05-004, Manual for the Certification of Laboratories Analyzing Drinking Water (January 2005), per test method rather than technology for potable water PTs.”

This note was then moved to Clause 4.1.4.

There was a further protracted discussion on Clause **4.3.4** (see 4.2.3 discussion above). Some states are requiring laboratories to report to the PTRL, but many people do not want that as a standard requirement. This clause cannot simply be removed, because it is believed the Accreditation Council (AC) wants PTRL reporting as a requirement, and has specifically asked for work to be done on this. Shawn will ask the AC if changing ”shall report” to “shall evaluate” will be acceptable. Meanwhile, no changes were made to the clause.

Nicole agreed to re-write **Section 5.1**, and circulate the revision by e-mail.

The Note appended to Clause **5.2.1.1** was removed, because it is now stated in Clause 4.1.4.

At this point, the discussion was terminated.

3 – Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm EDT. The next meeting will be November 2, 2012 at 11:00 am EDT.

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