

SIR #296

Ask for revision from QS to explain “why” the term environmental was dropped from the standard, but post for vote anyway

Standard	2009 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M2
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	5.2.6.1
<p>Describe the problem:</p>	<p>The 2009 standard, below (b), no longer contains the wording "environmental" analysis in the area of experience. Since it now states "such analysis" does this pertain to any type of laboratory experience in chemical, physical or environmental sciences (not just environmental)?</p> <p>b) Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory limited to inorganic chemical analysis, other than metals analysis, shall be a person with at least an earned associate's degree in the chemical, physical or environmental sciences, or two (2) years of equivalent and successful college education, with a minimum of sixteen (16) college semester credit hours in chemistry. In addition, such a person shall have at least two (2) years of experience performing such analysis.</p> <p>And on the same topic, the 2009 standard for (c) below for limited microbiological analytes also no longer contains the wording "environmental" and just states "microbiological analyses", so may this also be interpreted as any microbiological laboratory analyses and not just environmental?</p> <p>c) Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in microbiological or biological analysis shall be a person with a bachelor's degree in microbiology, biology, chemistry, environmental sciences, physical sciences or engineering with a minimum of sixteen (16) college semester credit hours in general microbiology and biology and at least two (2) years of experience in the environmental analysis of representative analytes for which the laboratory seeks or maintains accreditation. A master's or doctoral degree in one of the above disciplines may be substituted for one (1) year of experience. A person with an associate's degree in an appropriate field of the sciences or applied sciences, with a minimum of four (4) college semester credit hours in general microbiology may be the technical manager(s) of a laboratory engaged in microbiological analysis limited to fecal coliform, total coliform, E. coli, and standard plate count. Two (2) years of equivalent and successful college education, including the microbiology requirement, may be substituted for the associate's degree. In addition, each person shall have one (1) year of experience in microbiological analyses.</p>
<p>Committee Comments:</p>	<p>Section 4.1.7.2 b) also states that the Technical manager 'be experienced in the fields of accreditation for which the laboratory is seeking accreditation."</p>
<p>Response(s):</p>	<p>The terms “such analysis” indicates that the technical manager shall have experience in the fields of accreditation for which the laboratory is seeking accreditation. The experience required is of environmental analysis in the first question, and environmental microbiological analysis in the second. In both cases, the Standard requires that the analyses performed which would qualify as experience are those that would be performed by the laboratory at which a person would be the technical manager.</p>

SIR #301, sent to Microbiology Expert Committee April 8, 2016

Held over from July 2016 for pondering. Post for vote.

Some discussion about mis-use of the term sample, should be flagged to CSDEC for next revision of V1M5 (using sample as equivalent to plate)

Standard	2009 TNI Standard
Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V1M5
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	1.7.3.1 ii
Describe the problem:	The micro standard discusses a method blanks to be performed every (10) samples. My question is what denotes a sample? My example is SM9222D that for each client's sample we will probably perform 3 dilutions - but the sample is the same. So would it be required to do a blank every 10 plates or every 10 job #s/samples?
Committee Comments:	If a lab were using only one filtration set up and running all of the aliquots through it, the "mid" blank is considered a system cleanliness check. As the purpose of the "mid" blank is to check the analyst's technique for carryover or other possible contamination, in this case, "sample" refers to every 10 plates. Any less frequency would constitute increased risk as there would be difficulty determining the last valid point and therefore require invalidation or qualification of multiple client samples.
Response:	The requirement of the standard is to perform a blank at least every 10 plates.

SIR #305, assigned to LAB Expert Committee – Response Approved 1/17/17

Response is vague and too wordy, but post for vote and see what happens.

Volume and Module (eg. V1M2)	V2M1
Section (eg. C.4.1.7.4)	6.0 (ISO 17011:2004(E) 6.2.3)
Describe the problem:	<i>The Accreditation Body shall identify the specific scopes in which each assessor and expert has demonstrated competence to assess.</i>
	MNELAP would like clarification of the words "specific scopes." Does this mean that the AB must identify assessor's competence down to each individual technology listed on the NELAP AB application, or can the assessor's competency be assessed down to categories (e.g. microbiology, inorganic, organic, radiochemistry, asbestos, cryptosporidium, toxicity) and matrix?
Comments:	
Response:	

The AB must define the specific scopes and how it will determine the assessor's competence in an assessment. The TNI 2009 V2M1 and V2M3 standards do not specify the scope thus the AB must specify assessor's competence including assessment of quality systems, and technical disciplines

applicable to the environmental sector as noted under V2M3 4.2.4. The AB shall qualify assessors who have completed and attained a passing score on the written examination of courses approved by the employing accreditation body on assessing quality systems and all technical disciplines comprising a technology or combination of method and technology that the assessor will assess. The AB must comply with the relevant standards on training and approving assessors (V2M1 [ISO 17011:2004(E)] §6.2.2) , verified assessments (V2M3 §4.2.5) and maintaining assessor's competence records (V2M1[ISO 17011:2004(E)] §6.4.2) .