

Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee
SIR Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2020 1:30 pm Eastern

1) Welcome and Introductions

Maria welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A. The minutes of the June 29 meeting were approved by acclamation.

2) Reconsideration of SIR 379

Following the SIR Management SOP 3-105, SIR 379 was reviewed by the Chair of the NELAP AC, Kristin Brown, and the then-Chair of LASEC, Judy Morgan, and determined to be a valid SIR shortly after its submission. The SIR was sent to the Microbiology Expert Committee, which protested that it should not be considered a SIR but did send a response that affirmed the intent of the standard. The March 24, 2020, SIR Subcommittee minutes reflect that the subcommittee noted the expert committee's protest, but determined that, since an appropriate response was provided, it should be posted to the NELAP AC voting site for approval and implementation.

The Chair of the Microbiology Expert Committee has tried to follow-up on this SIR with repeated insistence that the submitted question is not a valid SIR, and requested to meet with the subcommittee to make its point in person. Maria determined that the best course was to consult with subcommittee members first and then, if needed, meet with the Microbiology representatives next month.

At the beginning of the subcommittee meeting, there were nine of fifteen votes in favor of approval, with two AB representatives not voting (ABs do not accredit micro), one not voting until the status of the SIR (valid or not) is resolved and three that simply have not voted on any of the recently posted SIRs.

Two subcommittee members submitted input prior to the meeting, that they believed the question in SIR 379 is a valid SIR, and during the meeting, there was general consensus that the SIR is valid, and that the procedures of the SOP 3-105 were followed. Several participants recommended asking the Microbiology committee to consider revising the wording of the standard, in the next revision, to clarify the issues around this SIR.

Maria asked for a motion to affirm that SIR 379 is a valid SIR and that the response provided is appropriate. Silky moved and Carl seconded that the SIR be considered valid, and that the sentence about the Micro committee's belief that it is not a SIR be removed from the document. Approval was unanimous. NOTE: the webmaster has been asked to remove the comment about it not being a valid SIR, so that the interpretation will not contain that statement when posted as final.

Maria will respond to the Chair of Microbiology Expert Committee that the proper procedure was followed, and that a clarification response seems to be helpful and certainly will cause no harm, and that there is now a two-thirds majority of AB votes in favor of the interpretation. She will also recommend clarifying the language in V1M5 section 1.7.3.3 of the 2016 TNI Standard in the next revision.

With that issue fully addressed, Maria thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting.

3) Next Meeting

The next scheduled SIR Subcommittee meeting will be on **Thursday, September 17, 2020, at 1:30 pm Eastern.** If the meeting is not needed, a cancellation notice will be sent at the beginning of that week.

Attachment A

PARTICIPANTS – SIR SUBCOMMITTEE OF LASEC

	NAME	EMAIL	TERM, End Date	INTEREST	AFFILIATION	S/H CATEGORY	PRESENT
1	Maria Friedman, Chair	gamfriedman@gmail.com	1/23 (first term)	SIRs	CA ELAP	Non-NELAP AB	Yes
2	Judy Morgan	Judy.Morgan@pacelabs.com	Associate	SIRs	Pace Analytical	Lab/FSMO	No
3	Bill Hall	George.Hall@des.nh.gov	1/22 (first term)	SIRs	NH ELAP	NELAP AB	Yes
4	Carl Kircher	carl.kircher@doh.state.fl.us	Associate	SIRs	FL DOH	NELAP AB	Yes
5	Silky Labie	elcatllc@centurylink.net	1/21 (first term)	SIRs	ELCAT	Other	Yes
6	Harold Longbaugh	harold.longbaugh@houston.tx.gov	1/20 (first term)	SIRs	Houston Lab	Lab	No
7	Gale Warren	gigwarren@gmail.com	Associate	SIRs	Retired (NY DOH)	Other	No
	Program Admin. Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org					Yes