



Accreditation Body Facts and Challenges

***TNI Assessment Forum
August 12, 2008***



Facts

- # accredited labs (1^o/2^o)
- Staffing
- Assessments, team size & duration
- Handling of repeat findings
- PT processing
- Renewals
- Turnaround times and deadlines



Challenges

- Application
- Follow-ups
- Enforcement
- PT enforcement
- Dual programs
- Complaints and appeals
- Etc...





Florida Facts

- 449 labs, 400/49
- 6 assessors (down from 8), 6 in-house staff
- Assessor-days based on lab scope
- Repeats
 - Any needs documented CAR
 - “Numerous or serious” trigger follow-up (15 in 2007)
- PTs partially electronic; process by IHPs
- Renewals by FY (Jul-Jun), fee and attestation
- Turnarounds by NELAC, initial in 4 months





Florida Challenges

- Applications
 - Incomplete
 - 2° apps for FOAs not on 1° scope
 - Getting scopes from primary
- Making time for follow-ups (assessments in general)
- Enforcement usually avoided by negotiation
- Manual PT processing for enforcement; unnecessary PTs; many QTs; off-schedule PTs
- One program; early confusion over 2° duals
- Changing methods
- Staffing and training





Louisiana DEQ Facts

- 109 NELAP labs, 40/69; 90 State (including stack testers)
- 5 assessors (1 doubles as Supervisor); 10 contractors
- Team size & assessment duration depends on scope and number of assessors or contractors available
- Repeats are documented; “3peats land lab into” intensive management” and teleconference
- PTs tracked electronically or on paper
- Renewal apps tri-annual; certificates issued annually
- Turnarounds by NELAC





Louisiana DEQ Challenges

- App needs updating (on-line in future?)
- Follow-ups if cause is serious
- Suspensions & revocations infrequent
- PT failures caught during pre-assessment review
- NELAP labs must also follow state regs
- Complaints and appeals occasional, handled case-by-case





Louisiana DHH Facts

- 26 NELAP labs, 4/22; 3 State
- 2 assessors (1 doubles as Program Mgr)
- Team size & assessment duration
 - Scope
 - Initial vs. continuing
 - Information received from lab
- Repeats
 - Lab given time to correct; Follow-up; Suspension followed by revocation if CAR not implemented
- PTs partially electronic; tracked electronically
- Renewals by CY
- Turnarounds by NELAC





Louisiana DHH Challenges

- Staffing
- Initial applications require extensive time to process





New Hampshire Facts

- 100 labs, 45/55
- 2 staff
- Sm – 1, Lg – 2
 - Duration based on history and scope
- Handling of repeats depends on severity
 - Additional on-sites
 - Pull accreditation in extreme cases
- Going electronic on PTs
- Renewals are cyclic
- Turnarounds according to NELAC





New Hampshire Challenges

- Incomplete applications
- Follow-ups rare
- Enforcement rare
- PT enforcement routine
- Single NELAC program
- Complaints rare, usually about standards





New Jersey Facts

- 1^o: 45, 2^o: 97, both: 116, State: 708
- 17 assessors, 5 in-house staff
- Assessor-days based on lab scope, more time for initial assessments
- Labs allowed to correct repeats in lieu of enforcement
- Electronic PT tracking
- Renewals by fiscal yr, app, fees, personnel changes, full scope from 1^o AB
- Deadlines according to NELAC, 15 d to initially process app, 60 days for renewals





New Jersey Challenges

- Out of state travel approval
- Varying accreditation effective dates
- No notification of loss of 1^o accreditation
- No national DB
- “Approved” NELAP training courses
- Offering accreditation for little-used or non-required methods (recognition issues)
- Assessment reporting and response deadlines too restrictive





New York Facts

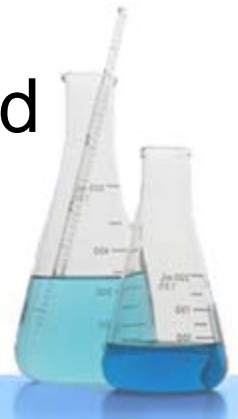
- 509/101 labs
- 7 “general” assessors, 3 asbestos, 8 in-house staff
- Team size based on scope & complexity
- Severe repeats may halt assessment, commonly hold certification until corrected
- Electronic PT processing
- Renewals fiscal yr (Apr-Mar), “short application”
- Turnarounds per NELAC





New York Challenges

- No special problems with applications
- Follow-ups frequent based on assessment outcome
- Suspension with no hearing rights for uncorrected severe QS and/or repeat deficiencies
- Suspension with no due process for 2/3 PT failure
- Single program
- Complaints rare
- Appeals to proposed suspension common and considered on their merit





Oregon Challenges

- Staffing and assessor training
- Method version tracking
- Handling updated methods
- Difference between accreditation and regulation (we can accredit anything, but the regulators decide what to accept)





Pennsylvania Facts

- 33/82, State: 423
- 11 Assessors
- Assessor-days based on lab scope
- Handling of repeats depends on severity
 - Severe – suspension or revocation
 - Less severe – correct on first CAR
- Monthly PT processing by spreadsheet
- Cyclic renewal application & fees required
- Turnarounds by NELAC, initial assessments in 3-6 months





Pennsylvania Challenges

- Application
 - Insufficient TD qualifications
 - 2^o apps for FOAs not on 1^o scope
 - Varying app and scope formats
- Dual program
- Unnecessary PTs, many QTs, off-schedule PTs



Utah Facts

- 104 labs, 55/49
- 2 assessors (down from 4)
- Team size minimum of 2, based on scope
- Severe repeats may halt assessment, commonly hold certification until corrected
- Electronic PT process, human review for final action
- Renewals cyclic
- Turnarounds based on NELAC



Utah Challenges

- Getting current and timely cert from 1^o
- Follow-ups rarely required
- PT and other enforcement rare due to responsiveness of lab community
- Single program (early challenge getting some labs into compliance)
- Established process for complaints and appeals rarely needed

