

TNI PT Board Session

August 12, 2008
Washington, D.C.

Agenda

- Introductions
- General PT Board Activities
- Experimental Analytes (Open Forum)
- Break (~3:00)
- Whole Effluent Toxicity FoPT Subcommittee
- Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee
- Air and Emissions FoPT Subcommittee

Experimental Analytes

- Current Implementation:

“The purpose of experimental analytes is to gather data in order to develop acceptance criteria so these analytes can be added when these acceptance limit tables are revised in the future.”

Experimental Analytes

- Current Implementation, cont.:

“Laboratories accredited or seeking accreditation in the corresponding Fields of Accreditation must participate in proficiency testing study rounds at the required frequency for the Experimental Fields of Proficiency Testing.”

Experimental Analytes

- Current Implementation, cont.:

“However, accreditation status will not be based on whether the laboratory received an acceptable or not-acceptable result for the Proficiency Test Sample.”

Experimental Analytes

- Current Implementation, cont.:

“Laboratory participation data will be used to determine if these Fields of Proficiency Testing should be moved to the Accreditation Table in the future.”

Source: <http://www.nelac-institute.org/PT.php>

Experimental Analytes

- Current Requirements:
 - The requirement to establish experimental PTs is in the 2003 NELAC standard, C.1.1.3
 - The requirements for laboratory and AB treatment of experimental PTs is established by policy

Experimental Analytes

■ Future Requirements

- 2007 TNI Standard, V1M1 4.2.2 requires laboratories to analyze experimental PTs twice per year for FoPTs for which they are accredited or are seeking accreditation
- 2007 TNI Standard, V2M2 5.2.3 requires ABs to ensure experimental PTs are analyzed, but states that successful performance is not a requirement

Experimental Analytes

- Future Requirements

- The 2007 TNI standard does not require experimental PTs to be established, it only provides a structure for their use if they are implemented by the PT Board

Experimental Analytes

- Determining the Future Utilization of Experimental Analyte Tables
 - Over the course of the past year, various discussions have been held regarding the issues associated with the Experimental Analyte Tables.
 - The PT Board has listened to these issues and is now poised to make a decision regarding what action to take.
 - Prior to making that decision, however, the Board would like to provide the TNI membership with an opportunity to comment on which of the possible courses of action currently on the table for consideration should be implemented.

Experimental Analytes

- The four options currently under consideration are:
 - Leave Experimental Analyte Tables as they currently are.
 - Leave the Experimental Analyte Tables as the currently are. However, do not provide associated acceptable/not acceptable evaluations for these parameters in the PT vendor study report to NELAP accrediting authorities that require only participation. The final report would provide those NELAP accrediting authorities with just a listing of what Experimental analytes were reported.
 - Discontinue the use of Experimental Analyte Tables. Each new analyte would now be added directly to the accreditation tables and a default study mean of ± 3 standard deviations would be applied to that parameter until sufficient data is generated to determine better analyte specific acceptance criteria.
 - Discontinue the use of Experimental Analyte Tables. Each new analyte would now be added directly to the accreditation tables and fixed limits of $\pm 100\%$ around the true value would be used until sufficient data is generated to determine better analyte specific acceptance criteria.

Experimental Analytes

- Are there any other options the Board should consider?