

TestAmerica



THE LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING

TNI/NELAC Proficiency Testing Update What's New?

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FSEA Fall Meeting
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Structure of TNI PT Program

- TNI Expert PT Committee
- TNI PT Board
- NELAP Board
- PT Providers (PTP)
- PT Provider Accreditors (PTPA)
- Environmental Laboratories
- NELAC Accrediting Bodies
- Non-NELAC Accrediting Bodies
- Users of Environmental Data

TNI PT Expert Committee

Develop standards for proficiency testing for:

- *Environmental Laboratories*
- *Proficiency Test Providers (PTP)*
- *PT Provider Accreditors (PTPA)*
- *Accrediting Bodies (AB)*

The committee may also assist with standards interpretation.

- *Provides oversight of PT Provider Accreditors (PTPA)*
- *Facilitates Annual PT Caucus*
- *Develops fields of proficiency testing (FoPT), formulations, concentration ranges and acceptance criteria*
- *Provides standards interpretation and handles complaints.*

The PT Committee has 12 members

6 members began their term on June 1, 2008.

- *4 Members represent Accredited Laboratories*
- *3 Members represent Accrediting Bodies*
- *5 Members represent Other interests including*
 - ✓ *PT Providers (PTP)*
 - ✓ *PT Provider Accreditors (PTPA)*
 - ✓ *Federal Government (USEPA)*
 - ✓ *Laboratory consulting services.*

Committee Chair: Kirstin McCracken

The PT Board has nine active members that represent each TNI stakeholder group.

- *2 Members represent Accredited Laboratories*
- *4 Members represent Accrediting Bodies*
- *3 Members represent Other interests including*
 - ✓ *PT Providers (PTP)*
 - ✓ *PT Provider Accreditors (PTPA)*
 - ✓ *Federal Government (USEPA)*
 - ✓ *Laboratory consulting services.*

Committee Chair: Dr. Carl Kircher

- Flexible
- Auditable
- Practical & Essential
- Widely Applicable
- Appropriate for Use of Data

Accepted Nationally!

- PT Caucus-Newport Beach
- Renewal Assessment of PTPA
- Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee
- Whole Effluent Toxicity FoPT Subcommittee
- Air and Emissions FoPT Subcommittee
- Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee
- Experimental PT Review
- Updated DW & NPW FoPT Tables – Microbiology
- Crosswalk from NELAC 2003 to TNI Standard

DW and NPW FoPT Tables were updated for microbiology.

- The changes go into effect January 1, 2009.
- The changes are posted on the TNI website:
<http://www.nelac-institute.org/>

DW FoPT Table Updates for Microbiology

- Fecal Coliform & E. Coli were split into separate rows: no change to acceptance criteria.
- Heterotrophic Plate Count was split into separate rows- one for MF and pour plate technology, one for MPN: no change to formulation or acceptance criteria.
- Enumerative FoPT added for Fecal Coliform and E. Coli for each technology (MF & MPN). *Addition of Total Coliform is likely.*
- Added Footnotes 12, 13 and 14 to specify PT sample formulation and other analytical requirements.

NPW FoPT Table Updates for Microbiology

- FoPT added for E. coli for each technology (MF & MPN)

2008 Recap- PT Committee

- Approved TNI Standard, Volumes 1-4
- Expanded Committee Membership
- Reviewed Hold for Next Revision Comments from TNI Membership
- PT Frequency Subcommittee
- Experimental PT
- Air Standards Development Subcommittee
- Whole Effluent Toxicity Standards Development Subcommittee
- Radiochemistry Standards Development Subcommittee

TNI PT STANDARD

- All requirements in one place with organization specific modules
- Increased clarity
- Very few, if any, new requirements
- Improved technical requirements
- Follows current ISO guidelines.

NELAC 2003

Chapter 2: General Requirements

Appendix A: PTP Requirements

Appendix B: PT Sample Design

Appendix C: Acceptance Criteria

Appendix D: PT Oversight

Appendix E-H: Technology Specific

TNI Standard

Volumes 1 & 2

Volume 3

Volume 3

Volumes 1, 2, 3

Volume 4

Volumes 1 & 3

Not all requirements listed in Appendix E-H were incorporated into the TNI Standard and not all requirements of 2003 NELAC were included in TNI Standard.

TNI PT STANDARD

- Includes terms & definitions in each module
- Maps process flow
- Uses concise language
- Includes auditable requirements
- Includes consistent requirements between modules

TNI PT Standard – Major Changes

- LOQ Reporting
- PT Scheduling
- All program requirements are included

Status: Under consideration for adoption into NELAP. If adopted, the standard will replace NELAC 2003. Expected time-frame is 2010.

- Experimental FoPT
 - ~ Deferred by PT Committee to PT Board
- PT Frequency
 - ~ Comparison Study
 - ~ NELAC and Non-NELAC AB Survey
 - ~ Laboratory Survey
- Crosswalk for transition from NELAC 2003 to TNI Standard

- TNI Website
 - ~ News, Committee Activities, Standards, Contact
- TNI Quarterly Newsletter
- PT Board & PT Committee Teleconference
 - ~ Call schedule posted on TNI website
- Volunteer for Subcommittee or Workgroup
- Attend Winter Forum
 - ~ *Hyatt Regency Miami – January 16-19, 2009*

My Contact Information:

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