



Implementation of a National Program for Accreditation of Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations

**The Forum on Laboratory Accreditation
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Environmental Data Quality Cannot Be Assured Unless There Are Quality Standards for All Steps of the Sample Collection and Analysis Process.

“The Quality of the Data Can Only be as Good as the Quality of the Sample”





What are Field Activities?



Field Activities



How do you evaluate the competency of sample collection and field testing organizations?





The Standard

Adopted May 2007 - TNI

- ★ Volume 1: General Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO-V1-2008)

- ★ Volume 2: General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations (FSMO-V2-2008)





Field Sampling & Measurement Organization “FSMO”

Organizations engaged in environmental sampling for laboratory analysis and/or field measurement (analysis) using field based analytical technologies performed in the field outside of a fixed-laboratory or outside of an enclosed structure which meets the requirements of a mobile laboratory .





FSMO Accreditation Standard Development Philosophy

- * Broad Scoped Standard
 - Limited Specificity-Compliance Flexibility
 - Applicability for Wide Range of FSMOs
- * ISO Foundation - TNI Consistency
 - ISO 17025 (FSMO Competency)
 - ISO 17011 (Conformity Assessment – AB)





FSMO - NOW

- ★ Absence of regulatory oversight or accreditation in most cases
- ★ Accreditation unnecessary (no licensing)
- ★ Quality system not required for general operations
- ★ Assessments rarely performed for field operations
- ★ Less rigorous standards for field data generation





FSMO Requirements

- Management System
- Technical Requirements
 - Quality System Fundamentals Included
 - Specifications Less Prescriptive
 - Flexibility – based on needs of user
 - Specifications Designed for FSMO Applications





Accreditation Body

- AB System Recognition Required
- AB Quality Manual Specifications Detailed
- Defined Organization Specified
- Personnel and Training Requirements Detailed for AB
- Assessment Performance Documentation Specified





Accreditation Body

- FSMO Specific Accreditation Process
- Detailed Application Specifications
- Allowances for Third Party Accreditation
- Assessment Conduct Specified





Current Status

- * Standard Has Been Finalized
 - Commercially Available as an Integrated ISO Document
 - Available On TNI Website (Free) W/O ISO Language
- * Accrediting Body Buy-In/Adoption or Not
 - Resources Required
 - Potential Revenue Stream
 - Consistency of implementation
- * FSMO Buy-In or Not
 - Reasonable & Achievable
 - Communication of availability
 - Don't wait - be the first to apply





Current Status

□ Role of:

- NEFAP Board

- TNI Board

- ABs

- Field Activities Committee

This does NOT
need to follow
NELAP





NEFAP Board

- Guide Program for accreditation of FSMOs
- Serve as policy and coordinating body
- Determine if standard is suitable for implementation
- Provide annual report on Program
- Review and approve ABs through mutual recognition process





Next Steps

Goal(s)	Objectives/Priorities
<p>1. Build a recognition process for ABs to ensure uniform implementation of the TNI FSMO standards</p>	<p>This process is to include an evaluation of ABs to meet, implement and understand the TNI standards. The evaluation process is to be a peer review process following procedures adopted by the interested parties (AB with input from the TNI stakeholders). (High priority concurrent with item 2 and 3 below)</p>
<p>2. Work with the TNI Board to revise the TNI bylaws, if necessary, to ensure reasonable fit with this program.</p>	<p>FAC, NEFAP Board and ABs to work with TNI Board to review bylaws if necessary – priority with item 3.</p>
<p>3. Review TNI Policies and SOPs, especially in the implementation of a national program that ensures consistent implementation.</p>	<p>May require separate policies, SOPs and ByLaw revision. High priority for TNI Board to review and update these items.</p> <p>This must be discussed for August TNI meeting (2009) and publish necessary changes to TNI By-Laws for vote.</p>





Next Steps

<p>4. Implement the FSMO Accreditation Program</p>	<p>Establish a process for input from the ABs to the TNI Field Activities Committee on changes or improvements required to the standards. Establish a TNI fee structure to accomplish the evaluation process and other aspects of the NEFAP as identified by the stakeholder community. Establish a process for interpretation of the FSMO standards (Second priority concurrent with item 8 below)</p>
<p>5. Establish the voluntary adoption and formal acceptance of NEFAP in contracts, regulatory program and other forms of requirements.</p>	<p>Work with data users for voluntary adoption of NEFAP for accreditation of sample collection and field testing organization as part of selection of contractors. Primary process is to work with DoD for adoption acceptance of TNI 3rd party process. Second priority concurrent with 4</p>





Next Steps

6. Develop government (federal, state and local) acceptance of the TNI accreditation program.	Either as voluntary or mandatory acceptance process. Low priority.
7. Evaluate the SSAS effort to see if it should be incorporated into this program.	Stationary Source Audit Samples (SSAS). Requires discussion to determine if this process is more consistent with PT Board or NEFAP Board. (Low priority, since NEFAP can incorporate by reference or include in process as best fit is determined.
8. Review TNI Policies and SOPs, especially in the standards development area, to ensure reasonable fit with this program.	Review of standards adoption to ensure balance and appropriate stakeholder input. (Low priority since standards are adopted)





Find out more.....

- Field Activities Committee
 - 1:30 today – Ibis Room

