



Accreditation Standards For Organizations Performing Field Sampling & Measurement

Environmental Measurement Symposium
NEMC/The NELAC Institute
Washington, DC
August 2008



Field Sampling & Measurement Organization (FSMO) Standards Development

- * The Sampling and Analysis Dichotomy
- * FSMO Accreditation Standard Philosophy
- * FSMO Accreditation Standard Elements
- * FSMO Accreditation Policy
- * Implementation for Accreditation





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 .



The Sampling & Analysis Dichotomy

* Laboratory Operation & Accreditation Requirements

- Accreditation Required to Produce Regulatory Data
 - License to Conduct Business
- Quality System (ISO 17025)
 - Specific Operational Elements
- Internal and External Assessment
- Proficiency Testing





The Sampling & Analysis Dichotomy

* **FSMO Requirements**

- Absence of Regulatory Oversight for Accreditation
- Accreditation Unnecessary (No Licensing)
- Quality System Not Required for General Operations
- Assessments Rarely Performed for Field Operations
- Less Rigorous Standards for Field Data Generation



Environmental Data Quality Cannot Be Guaranteed 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”





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)
- * Employs a “Less is Better” Approach



FSMO Accreditation Standard Development Philosophy The “Less is Better” Approach

- * FSMOs Inexperienced in Quality System Accreditation
 - High Entry Barriers Increase Participation Opposition
- * Does Not Duplicate the Laboratory Standard
 - Documentation Intensive
 - Parochial Requirements (Removed in TNI Versions)
 - Evaluate Necessity of NELAC & ISO Elements
- * Minimal Prescriptiveness
 - * Flexibility Facilitates Implementation





FSMO Accreditation Standard Development Philosophy Advantages of The “Less is Better” Approach

- * Increased FSMO Buy-In
 - Implementation Simplification
- * Increased Accrediting Body Buy-In
 - Manageable Program Administration
 - Auditable Specifications
 - Manageable Resource Requirements
 - *Requires Knowledgeable Assessors!!*



FSMO Accreditation Standard Elements

- * Generic Application of ISO 17025 and ISO 17011
- * Borrowed Applicable Language from Existing Laboratory Standard
 - Non-Applicable Requirements Eliminated
 - Administrative Requirements Stripped
 - Added Requirements Specific to FSMOs
- * Removal of AB Accreditation Policy
- * Applied TNI ISO Standards Development Model





FSMO Accreditation Standard Elements Field Activities as a Sector

- * Volume 1: General Requirements for Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations

“FSMO Competency Standard”

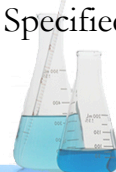
- Management System
- Technical Requirements
 - Quality System Fundamentals Included
 - Specifications Less Prescriptive - Flexibility
 - Specifications Designed for FSMO Applications



FSMO Accreditation Standard Elements Field Activities as a Sector

- * Volume 2: General Requirements for Accrediting Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling & Measurement Organizations

- Accreditation Body
 - AB System Recognition Required
 - AB Program Manual Specifications Detailed
 - Defined Program Organization Specified
 - Personnel and Training Requirements Detailed
 - Assessment Performance Documentation Specified





FSMO Accreditation Standard Elements Field Activities as a Sector

- * Volume 2: General Requirements for Accrediting Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling & Measurement Organizations
 - Accreditation Process
 - FSMO Specific Accreditation Process
 - Matrix Specific Accreditation Award – Broad Basis
 - Detailed Application Specifications
 - Allowances for Third Party Assessments
 - Assessment Conduct Specified



Accreditation Policy

- * Accreditation Process
 - Accreditation Award
 - Employs The Umbrella Concept
 - Compliance Verification - Assessment
- * Assessment Procedure
 - Common Organizational Quality System
 - Selected Facilities by Organization
 - Field Assessments of Quality System
- * Media Specific Requirements
 - No Media Specificity –Generic Requirements
 - Granting of Accreditations by Abs
 - Awarded Based on Matrix, Minimizes Bureaucracy





Future of the Field Activities Standard “Implementation for Accreditation”

- * Standard Has Been Finalized
 - Commercially Available as an Integrated ISO Document
 - Available On TNI Website (Free) W/O ISO Language
- * TNI Policy Committee Review/Approval of Accreditation Policy
 - Separate Policy From Procedure (In Process)
- * Accrediting Body Buy-In/Adoption or Not
 - Resources Required
 - Potential Revenue Stream
- * FSMO Buy-In
 - Reasonable & Achievable



FSMO Competency Standard (Vol. I) Application in a Commercial Setting

- * Commercial Entities Do Not Accredite FSMOs
 - Commercial Entities Assess FSMO Competency
- * Conformity Assessment (AB) Standard Not Needed for FSMO Qualification.
- * Conformity Assessment Policies Unnecessary in Commercial Settings
 - Competency Standard as Contractual Specifications
 - Qualify Organizations Based on Compliance
 - Conduct Evaluations as Necessary





Contact Information

Committee Chair: Marlene Moore

302.368.1212

mmoore@advancedsys.com

Chair, TNI Board of Directors : Judy Duncan

405.702.1040

judy.duncan@deq.state.ok.us

Executive Director, TNI: Jerry Parr

817.598.0458

Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org

