The TNI National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Board

Update

Daniel Hickman, NELAP Board Chair

NELAP Board

NELAP Board

The purpose of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) is to establish and implement a program for the accreditation of environmental laboratories.

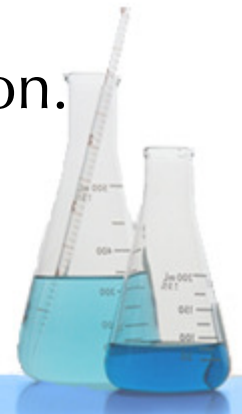The primary components of this program are:

- ➢ The recognition of accreditation bodies,
- ➢ The adoption of acceptance limits for proficiency testing developed in the Proficiency Testing (PT) Program, and
- ➢ The adoption of the laboratory accreditation system developed in the Laboratory Accreditation System Program (LASP).
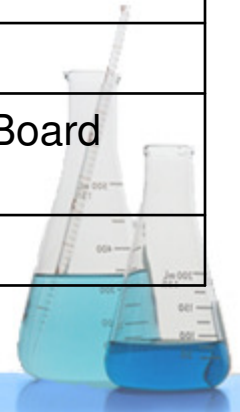
NELAP Board Progress

- Updated language in voting SOP to include adoption of standards.
- Completed SOP describing standards review.
- Adopted the PT tables effective Jan 2009.
- Held AB evaluation training in Newport and offered online version for other evaluators.
- Issued new certificates for 9 ABs undergoing evaluation.
  - July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011
  - Contingent on positive evaluation recommendation.
- Lead/participated on 9 AB evaluations.

AB Evaluation Timeline

October 2007	Identified Evaluation Coordinator
November 2007	Completed and approved the AB recognition evaluation SOP
November 2007	Send out letters to Accreditation Bodies (ABs) to submit renewal applications. Lead and team members identified.
December 2007	Contract with the evaluation quality assurance officer
January 2008	Training at winter meeting for evaluation teams. Teams begin technical reviews.
January 2008	ABs begin to submit renewal application packages
January 2008	Begin application completeness reviews.
February 2008	Begin scheduling on-site evaluations
February 2008	Begin conducting on-site evaluations as teams and ABs are ready.
March 2008	Begin sending findings of on-site evaluations to ABs.
April 2008	Begin receiving CARs.
May 2008	Begin sending recognition recommendations to the NELAP Board (LE).
July 2008	Complete renewal of AB recognitions.

NELAP Board Progress

Activity	Completed
Application Review	9
Technical Review	9
Onsite Evaluation	9
Lab Assessment Observation	7
Corrective Action Plan Received	5
Recommendation Pending	1
Recommendation Submitted	3

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TNI Standard

- True Consensus Standards
- Uses 2005 version of ISO 17025
- Incorporates ISO 17011
- Removal of NELAC policy and procedure
- Removal of NELAC administration
- Modular approach
- Technical improvements

Standard Review SOP

- SOP for *Standards Review and Acceptance*
  - It is the responsibility of the NELAP Board to determine whether a standard is acceptable for implementation by TNI recognized accreditation bodies in their accreditation programs
  - The NELAP Board will review all standards received from the LASC for consistency with governmental and regulatory requirements.

Standard Review SOP

- Criteria for acceptance of a new standard include:
  - It represents an improvement over the current standard.
  - There are no obstacles to implementation by the accreditation bodies.

- The NELAP Board may set an implementation date for the new standard concurrently with acceptance of the standard or by separate vote.

Standard Review SOP

- Are the timelines/strategies appropriate?
- What can we do to streamline?
- What else do we need to do for successful implementation of the new standards?