



# AGENCY PARTNER COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

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# SUMMARY

- Held Our Third Meeting on July 5, 2016
- Reviewed ELTAC's Comments on Regulatory Agency Needs
  - Kept questions and issues in mind as we progressed
- Discussed the Three Elements of Laboratory Accreditation
  - Technical Standards
  - Proficiency Testing Samples
  - Quality Management Systems
- Developed Recommendations Regarding Accreditation Standards

# TECHNICAL STANDARDS

- California Should Maintain Own List of Approved Methods and Method Requirements
  - Fields of Testing updated regularly
  - Formal announcement to laboratories prior to update
- Short Term: List Should be Generated by Agency Partners
  - Meet regulatory needs
  - Try to keep versions out of regulations when possible
- Longer Term: List Should be Expanded to Address Method Requests
  - ELTAC will know of Agency Partner needs not covered
  - Agency has option to disallow methods

# PROFICIENCY TESTING SAMPLES

- One Proficiency Testing Sample Per Year is Adequate
- Rationale: Agency Partners have a Low Opinion of PT Sample System
  - Laboratories game the system
  - Not a true reflection of laboratory performance
  - Don't see value in doing multiple samples per year
- Long Term: Interact with ELAP to Improve System

# PROFICIENCY TESTING SAMPLES (CONT.)

- Steps to Improve System
  - Make Samples Truly Blind Samples
  - Increase Complexity of Sample Matrix
  - Conduct Laboratory Intercalibrations Using Truly Blind Samples
- Supportive but Feel Lower Priority/Longer Term Project

# QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- Requirement
  - Need for confidence in data
  - Unanimous response
- Fueled by Lack of Confidence in Other Two Inspection Elements
  - Technical standard/requirements – method modifications, incorrect application, audit gives us snap shot
  - Monitoring requirements - PT samples can be gamed and the current system is not robust
- **A quality management system must be present in order to meet our regulatory agency needs**

# QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (CONT.)

- Our Recommendation: The NELAC Institute (TNI)
  - Dissention expressed by Fish And Wildlife Agency
- Multiple reasons:
  - Ready for adoption as is – concerned that writing our own or modifying another state's will take too long
  - Clear, consistent standard for auditing purposes
  - Updated regularly, sustainable standard
  - Current training and implementation resources available
- Big Change; Suggest a Phased Implementation

# PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

- Quality Management System Sections can be Prioritized
- Work with ELTAC to Prioritize Those Elements to be Implemented Within First Year
- Work with ELTAC to Identify Elements that can have a Multi-Year Phase-in
- Not Requiring CA Labs to be TNI Accredited but Use Tools
- Possible Starting Point Towards Developing Own Guidance



# QUESTIONS

The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. The word "QUESTIONS" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The corners of the image are decorated with several realistic water droplets of various sizes, each with a highlight and a shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.