

A vertical strip on the left side of the slide shows laboratory glassware. At the top, a hand holds a flask. Below it, a rack of test tubes is visible. At the bottom, a pipette is shown dripping liquid into another rack of test tubes. The entire image has a blue tint.

DoD Laboratory Evaluation Program Update

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Discussion Topics

- Background
- Program Initiation
- DOD Implementation
- Anticipated Results
- Questions

Background

National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC)

- Created and held its first meeting in February 1995
- Comprises EPA, DoD, DoE, and private sector
- Developed consensus guidance to establish consistency in laboratory assessment



Background

NELAC Quality Manual Chapter 5 – Quality Systems

- Describes QA policies and QC procedures that should be included in a Quality Manual
- Stipulates NELAP accreditation based on laboratory implementation of those policies and procedures
- Applies to all environmental laboratories regardless of size and complexity
- Provides sufficient detail for consistent and uniform laboratory evaluations



Program Initiation

- DOD/EPA IG Findings (1997)
 - Increasingly stringent cleanup criteria
 - Inconsistent requirements across EPA regions
 - Non-routine program requirements unique to DOD
- Increased use of the Performance Based Measurement System (PBMS) approach
- Spurred by need to reduce costs and manpower requirements while maintaining consistency and thoroughness
- Many programs are unique to DoD



DoD Implementation

Environmental Data Quality Workgroup (EDQW)

- Promotes the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality
- Reduces unnecessary duplication and program costs
- Develops policy to ensure compliance with established standards
- Promotes better use of environmental resources
- Improves overall program efficiency



DoD Implementation

Quality Assurance Subgroup/Quality Assurance Authors Task Action Team

- Finalize LCS Study and QSM Version 2
- Update QSM to Version 3 based on NELAC 8 and ISO 17025, when adopted by NELAC
- Develop Guide for Effective Use of QSM
- Incorporate Performance Based Measurement Systems (PBMS) into program review

DoD Implementation

Quality Assurance Subgroup/Quality Assurance Authors Task Action Team (cont'd)

- Develop Best Practices for Laboratory Data Reduction
- Develop assessment checklists based on QSM
- Final Documents incorporated into Audit/Oversight/PT procedures



DoD Implementation

DOD Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories (QSM) (Final Version 2, June 2002)

- Developed through the EDQW QAA TAT
- Based on NELAC Chapter 5 with additional explanation/requirements specifically for DoD programs
- Provides implementation, clarification, and expectations for quality DOD environmental programs
- Serves as a standard reference for DOD representatives who design, implement, and oversee laboratory contracts



DoD Implementation

Accreditation Subgroup

- Monitor NELAC standards development and implementation
- Recommend DoD Policy on accreditation issues, and develop resource estimates
- Coordinate NELAP accreditation outreach
- Monitor implementation of ISO 17025 to ensure DoD compliance
- Coordinate and monitor DoD participation in NELAC Committees and NELAC TAT activities

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DoD Implementation

Audit/Oversight/Proficiency Testing Subgroup

- Develop appropriate procedures for conducting laboratory assessments for DoD programs
 - Based on NELAC guidance with DoD specific requirements, procedures defined include:
 - Laboratory evaluation (preliminary and on-site)
 - Document review (Quality Manual, SOPs, etc.)
 - Use of blind and double blind proficiency testing
 - Input/support from other EDQW Task Action Teams
 - Reduce number of on-site visits while maintaining optimum quality assurance oversight

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DoD Implementation

Audit/Oversight/Proficiency Testing Subgroup (cont'd)

- Establish and promote inter-component audit teams to establish a cooperative program
 - Develop protocols necessary for an effective laboratory assessment program
 - Explicitly define the manner in which the programs will be executed
- Establish which program components are most effective and how they will be used



DoD Implementation

Audit/Oversight/Proficiency Testing Subgroup (cont'd)

- Develop a process to monitor lab credentials, approval status, and performance information.
- Shared, restricted access database (under development)
 - Audit Database TAT Established to develop a DoD tracking system for audits and oversight activities
 - Evaluate suitability of DOE's EMCAP program and adapt to DoD's needs, if appropriate.
- Includes interfacing with NELAC and monitoring the NELAP database.

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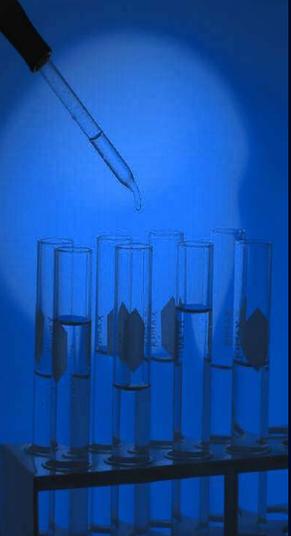
Anticipated Results

- Cost-effective laboratory evaluation and oversight
- Defensible data that meet data quality objectives
- Improved, more consistent, regulatory requirements and negotiations with the regulatory community
- Reduced cost and manpower requirements
- Fewer intrusions into laboratory operations

Anticipated Results

- Reduction/elimination of costly sampling and retesting
- Flexible “graded” approaches and streamlined project execution
- Improved laboratory contracting procedures





QUESTIONS?