

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



April 17, 2017

Dr. Michael Shapiro
Forum on Environmental Measurements
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building (MD 4101M)
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Method Harmonization

Dear Dr. Shapiro,

On behalf of the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board), I would like to thank the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM) for its comments dated October 3, 2016, regarding suggestions made by ELAB to harmonize certain procedures contained within similar types of EPA test methods. The Board greatly appreciates the FEM's thoughts on the matter.

With that said, there appears to be some confusion about the purpose of ELAB's method harmonization efforts described in the Board's letter dated March 17, 2016. ELAB had no intention of suggesting comprehensive method harmonization was an appropriate option for similar EPA test methods. ELAB's comparative reviews were focused strictly on certain procedures contained within similar methods, such as instrument calibration approaches and determination of retention time windows. The Board is sorry for the confusion.

Going forward, ELAB's intent is to continue to encourage any efforts by EPA to harmonize procedures within test methods as they are reconsidered or developed anew. To that end, if there is anything that ELAB can do to assist EPA in this regard, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Henry Leibovitz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Henry Leibovitz, Ph.D.
Chair, Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board

cc: ELAB members
Lara Phelps, ELAB Designated Federal Official