

**Region 4  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Science and Ecosystem Support Division  
Athens, Georgia**

**OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**Title: Document Control**

**Effective Date:** February 4, 2015

**Number:** SESDPROC-001-R7

**Author**

**Name:** Hunter Johnson  
**Title:** Environmental Engineer

**Signature:**  **Date:** 2/2/15

**Approvals**

**Name:** John Deatruck  
**Title:** Chief, Field Services Branch

**Signature:**  **Date:** 2/2/15

**Name:** Hunter Johnson  
**Title:** Field Quality Manager, Science and Ecosystem Support Division

**Signature:**  **Date:** 2/2/15

## Revision History

---

The top row of this table shows the most recent changes to this controlled document. For previous revision history information, archived versions of this document are maintained by the SESD Document Control Coordinator on the SESD local area network (LAN).

History	Effective Date
<p>SESDPROC-001-R7, <i>Document Control</i>, replaces SESDPROC-001-R6</p> <p><b>Cover Page:</b> Author changed from Maria Labrador to Hunter Johnson. Changes made to reflect reorganization of SESD from two field branches to one: John Deatrick listed as the Chief, Field Services Branch. The FQM was changed from Liza Montalvo to Hunter Johnson.</p> <p><b>Revision History:</b> Changes were made to reflect the current practice of only including the most recent changes in the revision history.</p> <p><b>General:</b> References to Field Branches Quality System were changed to Field Quality System.</p>	February 4, 2015
SESDPROC-001-R6, <i>Document Control</i> , replaces SESDPROC-001-R5	April 13, 2011
SESDPROC-001-R5, <i>Document Control</i> , replaces SESDPROC-001-R4	March 10, 2010
SESDPROC-001-R4, <i>Document Control</i> , replaces SESDPROC-001-R3	June 5, 2009
SESDPROC-001-R3, <i>Document Control</i> , replaces SESDPROC-001-R2	February 11, 2008
SESDPROC-001-R2, <i>Document Control</i> , replaces SESDPROC-001-R1	November 1, 2007
SESDPROC-001-R1, <i>Document Control</i> , Replaces SESDPROC-001-R0	October 1, 2007
SESDPROC-001-R0, Field Quality System Document Control, Original Issue	February 05, 2007

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>General Information</b> .....	<b>4</b>
1.1	Purpose.....	4
1.2	Scope/Application .....	4
1.3	Documentation/Verification.....	4
1.4	Definitions.....	4
1.4.1	<i>Document Control Coordinator</i> .....	4
1.4.2	<i>Subject Matter Expert</i> .....	4
1.5	References .....	5
<b>2</b>	<b>Internal Documents</b> .....	<b>6</b>
2.1	Document Development.....	6
2.2	Format.....	7
2.3	Document Approval.....	7
2.4	Review .....	7
2.5	Control .....	7
2.6	Authorization.....	8
2.7	Distribution.....	8
2.8	Periodic Review and Revision.....	9
<b>3</b>	<b>External Documents</b> .....	<b>11</b>

# **1 General Information**

---

## **1.1 Purpose**

The documents that form the SESD Field Quality System (either internally generated or from external sources) are managed as controlled documents and information. This procedure describes the process for development, review, authorization, control, and distribution of controlled documents.

## **1.2 Scope/Application**

SESD's field quality management documents include internally generated documents which provide information regarding how to conduct business and blank documents which provide a format for recording information. Quality management documents also include those of external origin used in the implementation of the quality system such as standards, regulations, equipment software, and manufacturers' manuals.

This procedure does not apply to materials obtained from other organizations during investigations. These items should be handled as project-related documents or evidence according to the SESD Operating Procedure for Sample and Evidence Management (SESDPROC-005).

## **1.3 Documentation/Verification**

This procedure was prepared by persons deemed technically competent by SESD management, based on their knowledge, skills and abilities and has been tested in practice and reviewed in print by a subject matter expert. The official copy of this procedure resides on the SESD Local Area Network (LAN). The Document Control Coordinator is responsible for ensuring the most recent version of the procedure is placed on the SESD LAN and for maintaining records of review conducted prior to its issuance.

## **1.4 Definitions**

### ***1.4.1 Document Control Coordinator***

The Document Control Coordinator (DCC) is a quality management position appointed by management to maintain documents that form the SESD field quality system.

### ***1.4.2 Subject Matter Expert***

For the purposes of this procedure, subject matter experts (SMEs) are persons deemed competent, experienced, and knowledgeable by SESD management in the

topic of the procedure, standard, guidance or other subject matter for which the document is intended.

## **1.5 References**

Document Review Form, SESDFORM-003, Most Recent Version

SESD Operating Procedure for Equipment Inventory and Management, SESDPROC-108, Most Recent Version

SESD Operating Procedure for Sample and Evidence Management, SESDPROC-005, Most Recent Version

USEPA Region 4 Environmental Investigations Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Manual (EISOPQAM), Most Recent Version

## **2 Internal Documents**

---

### **2.1 Document Development**

Internally issued SESD Field Quality System documents include standards, management plans, policies, manuals, operating procedures, test methods and guidance.

Once the need for a new document has been identified, management in consultation with the FQM assigns an author and designates reviewers. A subject matter expert is usually assigned as either the author or a reviewer. Once these assignments have been made, the FQM notifies the DCC via email and the Section Chiefs notify the author and reviewers either in person or via email. The DCC will provide the author with the Document Review Form (SESDFORM-003) which includes the document control number and a date for completion of the document's review.

The following steps are used to develop, review, authorize, control and distribute internal documents related to the SESD Field Quality System:

1. Author will prepare the first draft and submit it to the reviewers. The author will document the review on the Document Review Form (SESDFORM-003).
2. Reviewers will provide comments to author.
3. Author will address comments and submit second draft to reviewers.
4. Reviewers will provide comments to author.
5. Steps 2-3 are repeated until all comments are addressed.
6. Once all comments have been addressed, the document will be submitted to the DCC for a format check and effective date assignment. The author will provide the Document Review Form to the DCC as a record of the reviews.
7. The document will then be submitted to management and the FQM for final review and signatures.

## **2.2 Format**

Flexible formatting is permitted for plans, manuals and methods, depending on the applicable program. All internally issued documents, regardless of format, must contain the following elements:

- Document number
- Effective date
- Revision number
- Page numbering indicating total number of pages
- Authorizing signatures
- Revision history

## **2.3 Document Approval**

All documents generated by SESD, which form part of the field quality management system, will be reviewed and approved for use by the management within the field branch and the Field Quality Manager (FQM) prior to issuance.

## **2.4 Review**

Document review is the process through which persons with subject matter knowledge contribute to the development of internal documents. Documents are periodically reviewed (see Section 2.8) and, where necessary, revised to ensure continuing suitability and compliance with applicable requirements. Document review includes grammatical, editorial and technical assessment.

## **2.5 Control**

The official copy of all SESD field Quality System documentation resides on the SESD LAN. All other electronic or printed copies are unofficial. Additionally, copies of the Field Quality System and Technical Procedures reside on the SESD internet website. These copies are available to agencies and individuals outside of SESD who conduct environmental investigations and may be required to use these procedures by EPA Region 4. By allowing other agencies or individuals to follow SESD operating procedures, no inference is made that the work is covered under the scope of SESD's accreditation.

A master list identifying the current revision status of field quality system documents is available on the SESD LAN. The list is maintained by the DCC.

When internal documents have completed final review, they are forwarded to the DCC for a final format check, authorization and distribution, and placement in electronic form (read-

only) on the SESD LAN system. The DCC will ensure that the all procedures on the SESD LAN and the public access location of the SESD web site are updated. Document control numbers are assigned to SESD quality system documents using the following alpha-numeric scheme:

SESDDocument type-sequential #- revision #  
Example: SESDSTND-001-R0

**Document Types:**

GUID = guidance	PLCY = policy	PLAN = plan
MANL = manual	PROC = procedure	FORM = form
METH = method	STND = standard	

**2.6 Authorization**

SESD quality system documents are subject to approval by the following issuing authorities, as applicable:

1. Over-Arching Quality Documents: Division Director, Deputy Division Director, Branch Chiefs, Field Quality Manager
2. Multi-Branch Documents: Branch Chiefs, Field Quality Manager
3. Branch-Specific Documents: Branch Chief, Field Quality Manager

SESD quality system documents are authorized for use upon inclusion into the SESD LAN.

**2.7 Distribution**

The Document Control Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that all internally issued documents that form the SESD Field Quality System are readily available. The official copy of all field branches quality system documents resides on the SESD LAN. The DCC will notify all personnel within the field branches via email of document updates and will maintain a copy of the notification. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that all hard and/or electronic copies of documents in their possession are the most recent version.

When documents are revised or retired, the DCC will move obsolete copies to the “Archived and Retired Procedures” folder of the SESD LAN. The DCC will mark the documents with either an “ARCHIVED” or “RETIRED” watermark or the date of the action and the name of the procedure it was replaced with. Via email, the DCC will advise all affected personnel to dispose of electronic and hard copies of the superseded documents to preclude unintended use. The DCC will maintain a copy of the notification.



## 2.8 Periodic Review and Revision

Internal documents are subject to periodic review, and where necessary, revised to ensure continuing suitability and conformance with applicable requirements. Internal documents will be reviewed at least once every four years. This schedule will apply to SESD internal documents issued after the effective date of this operating procedure.

In January of each year, the DCC will develop and maintain a document review schedule for the upcoming review period. The schedule will include the effective date of the most recent version of the document and the review date. The DCC will update the review schedule as additional reviews are conducted or new documents are developed. The following procedure will be followed:

1. The DCC will notify the author via email of the need for the review. The DCC will consult the FQM and management if there is a need to assign a new author based on staff changes.
2. The author will review the procedure to determine if updates are needed. If so, the author will notify the DCC via email and proceed to step 3 below. If no updates are needed, the author will notify the DCC via email. The DCC will maintain a copy of the email.
3. The DCC will consult with the FQM and management to assign reviewers and will notify the author of the reviewers using the Document Review Form (SESDFORM-003). The Section Chiefs will notify their staff when they are tasked to conduct reviews.
4. The author will update the procedure and provide the first draft to the reviewers. The author will document the review on the Document Review Form (SESDFORM-003).
5. The reviewers will provide comments to the author.
6. Steps 4-5 are repeated until all comments are addressed.
7. Once all comments have been addressed, the document will be submitted to the DCC for a format check and effective date assignment. The author will provide the Document Review Form to the DCC as a record of the reviews.
8. The document will then be submitted to management and the FQM for final review and signatures.

Changes to field quality system documents will be clearly indicated in the revision history of the document, except for forms which will be indicated in a separate record. SESD's document control system does not allow for the temporary amendment of field quality system documents by hand.

### 3 External Documents

---

Documents of external origin referenced in the implementation of the SESD Field Quality System may include national and international standards, EPA manuals and directives, manufacturer's manuals, equipment software, and other associated types of information. External documents will be reviewed for context to determine their applicability in the SESD field branches quality system. This review will be conducted by the author of the SESD Field Quality System document in which the external document is going to be referenced.

When applicable, national and international standards, and EPA manuals and directives will be controlled by documenting, as appropriate, the title, document number (if any), most recent and/or approved revision/edition number, and year of publication. Equipment software is controlled in accordance with the SESD Operating Procedure for Equipment Inventory and Management, SESDPROC-108. All other documents will be assigned document control numbers as described in Section 2.5 of this procedure. The DCC will maintain a list of all controlled external documents. The DCC will review the list each January and consult with personnel to determine if updates are available. If they are available, the obsolete copy will be removed from service and the updated version will be labeled with the next revision of the document control number. On a case by case basis, the DCC in consultation with affected personnel will determine if it is necessary to maintain a copy of the previous version.