A. **PURPOSE**:

Documents that are part of the Management System for the Division of Scientific Services (DSS) are controlled to ensure that the most up to date version is being followed at all times. Control includes a method for distributing controlled documents, identifying controlled documents, making changes to controlled documents and archiving past versions of controlled documents. Qualtrax is the management software used as part of the Quality System of the DSS for document control.

The Division of Scientific Services has Management System Documents, (specifically SOPs) available in electronic form to all Division employees.

B. **RESPONSIBILITY**:

Director: responsible for the overall direction of the Management System. Additionally responsible to review the Management System documents at least annually to ensure that they meet the needs of the DSS. Responsible for final approval of Management System Documents.

Deputy Director (DD): responsible to review the Management System documents at least annually to ensure that they meet the needs of the DSS. Additionally they are responsible to ensure that when changes are required to controlled documents within their Section that the proper processes are followed.

Assistant Directors (AD): responsible to review the Management System documents of their Section at least annually to ensure that they meet the needs of the DSS. Responsible to assist the Deputy Directors in ensuring that when changes are required to controlled documents, the proper process is followed.

Quality Manager and FB/DNA Quality Manager (Quality Section): responsible for ensuring the latest version of all General Laboratory Management System documents are issued and outdated versions are removed from use. Generally the Quality Section is responsible for updates to the General Laboratory SOPs. Additionally they are responsible to assist Sections/Units to properly document changes to controlled documents within their respective units.

Assistant Director of the State Forensic Laboratory (ADFL) responsible to review Management System Documents of their Section to ensure that they meet the needs of the DSS.

Forensic Science Examiner 3: responsible to ensure that all employees they supervise (and they themselves) are using the most up to date version of Management System documents. Additionally, if they discover the need to edit a controlled document within their Unit they communicate this to their Deputy Director or Assistant Director and ensure that they follow the document control procedure for making those changes.

Forensic Science Examiner 2: responsible to ensure that all employees they lead (and they themselves) are using the most up to date version of Management System documents. Additionally if

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

they discover the need to edit a controlled document within their Unit they communicate this to their Assistant Director or Deputy Director and ensure that they follow the document control procedure for making those changes.

Forensic Science Examiner 1/ Evidence Control Officers/Laboratory Assistants: responsible to adhere to the policies set forth in the current Management System Documents and that they are using the current version of any DSS form. Additionally if they discover the need to edit a controlled document within their Unit they communicate this to their Unit Lead or Unit Supervisor.

Administrative Staff (however titled)/Support Staff: responsible to adhere to the policies set forth in the current Management System Documents. Additionally if they discover the need to edit a controlled document they communicate this to the Assistant Director of the State Forensic Science Laboratory.

C. **DEFINITIONS**:

MSD: Management System Documents - all documents contained in the Quality Manual, Division Standard Operating Procedures, Safety Manual, Section/Unit Standard Operating Procedures and Work Instructions as applicable.

SOP: Standard Operating Procedure – these can either be Section/Unit specific or Division wide

WAN: Wide Area Network

Qualtrax – compliance software used to assist in functions such as but not limited to document control. Qualtrax uses "groups" to allow for certain permissions in the document control workflow. Personnel in groups may be designated as an editor, reviewer(s) and/or approvers. (I.e. separate groups are prepared for each Section/Unit and job type) of documents.

Qualtrax Specific Definitions:

Group: created in Qualtrax to allow for specific permissions to be assigned; these are created based on the various Sections and Units and job titles.

Automatic File Transfer: feature of Qualtrax that allow for documents to be transferred into and out of Qualtrax for editing purposes.

Editor: an individual that is able to edit documents in Qualtrax. A member of the Quality Section will be the editor for all General Laboratory SOPS.

Reviewer: individual assigned to review edited documents and make suggestions prior to final approval and publishing. In the DNA Unit, the Technical Leader is a document reviewer. The TL's documented review/approval for DNA SOPs is viewable in the Qualtrax "document properties" tab for each DNA SOP. Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors are reviewers of GL SOPs.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

Approver: the Director, Section Manager (DD and/or AD) and Quality Section are approvers. All documents require the Director's (or designee when not available) approval.

Section/Unit SOPs: the Deputy Director is the 1st approver, the Director is the final approver. A member of the Quality Section approves the document purely to allow the document to be published.

General Laboratory SOPs: The Director is the approver and a member of the Quality Section approves the document purely to allow the document to be published.

Published Document: this is equivalent to an authorized, controlled document.

Inbox: this is the main working page in Qualtrax; each person has their own inbox. The inbox lists what tasks are assigned to the individual. The inbox also has a calendar for displaying scheduled tasks.

Properties: each document in Qualtrax has a document properties button which contains multiple tabs which includes a tab labeled "History". From this tab, the history of the document can be viewed to identify items such as changes made, and the dates specific revisions were in effect.

D. **PROCEDURE**:

General Laboratory (GL) SOPs and Section or Unit SOPs are approved for use prior to their implementation, by the Director or their designee.

1. Changes to General Laboratory SOPs will be directed through the Quality Section via Qualtrax.

   Unit specific SOPs which have been validated are reviewed and accepted for use by the Section's Deputy Director or their designee and approved by the Director. Each DSS Unit may only use procedures that have been approved for use. GL-22 "Policy on Validation and Performance Checks' provides guidance on method validation, additionally; each DSS Unit may have a specific SOP detailing the method development/validation and documentation process.

2. Qualtrax will be used to direct the flow of document changes, review, and approvals. (See section 10 below for Use of Qualtrax).

3. All MSD will be reviewed at least annually to ensure that they are still suitable for the task and are compliant to any applicable requirements. The review will be documented through Qualtrax by setting the document to "expire" and verifying that it is up to date or editing and revising the document if it is in need of edits.

   a. The term "expire" in this manner is meant to mean it is due for review within Qualtrax. It does not mean the document is not appropriate for use. When the document "expires" in Qualtrax it is placed in a state to be reviewed by the document manager. Anyone accessing a SOP in this status will see the current published version only.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

4. General Laboratory and Unit specific SOPs may be edited as needed to meet the needs of the DSS. Employees are encouraged to bring suggested edits to their Unit Lead or Supervisor for Unit SOPs or to the Quality Section for General Laboratory SOPs.

5. **Document Approval and Issue:**

    a. Approval: Approval for all MSD will flow through Qualtrax.

        i. Management System Documents: approval by Director or their designee.

        ii. Section/Unit specific SOPs are reviewed/accepted by the Deputy Director and approval by Director or their designee.

            Note: in the DNA Section, the DNA Technical Leader (TL), will also be responsible to edit and review DNA SOPs in Qualtrax. Edits of a technical nature by the TL will be incorporated. The TL will document his/her review/approval of DNA SOPs in Qualtrax.

            (i) The General Flow of SOP changes in Qualtrax for the DNA Unit will be from the DNA TL and Assistant Director for review and approval (or their designee when not available), to the Deputy Director for review and approval, and then to the Director for final approval. The Quality Section will review the document but only approve for publishing. More individuals may be involved in the review process in Qualtrax.

            (ii) The DNA TL's edit and/or review in Qualtrax is documentation of their approval of the document.

    b. Preparation – preparation of Section/Unit MSD will, in general, be performed by the Unit Lead, Supervisor, Manager(s) or their designee (the preparer of the document may be designated as the editor in Qualtrax).

        i. Unit SOP changes can be prepared by a member of the Unit as appointed by the Unit AD or DD and the changes will be directed through Qualtrax to the Quality Section as noted above.

        ii. When Quality Records that are maintained in Qualtrax require editing the review process will occur in Qualtrax in a manner similar to Unit SOPs. Headers on the QRs contain the unique identifier. The revision number automatically updates when a new revision is published.

        iii. QRs placed into Qualtrax that are not macro enabled word documents do not allow for an automated header updates. This means when the QR is edited the revision must be updated by hand and part of the edit.

        iv. Quality Records (QR) and worksheets that are not maintained in Qualtrax, will be edited, reviewed and approved through email documentation. This is to include Unit specific report templates such as JusticeTrax crystal report templates used for reporting case results.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

(a) The person making an edit and updating the QR will notify (by email) the AD or DD (and TL if DNA Section) and the Quality Section. Once reviewed and approved by the necessary personnel, the Unit affected will be notified of the changes through an email when the updated QR or worksheet is put into effect. In general the approval will be by the Unit AD or DD and in DNA the TL must additionally approve of the changes.

(b) The current versions of QRs and worksheets not in Qualtrax will be maintained on a shared drive in the "Controlled SOP" folder.

    (i) Unit Supervisors and Lead are responsible to ensure that the current version of QRs and worksheets are being used by Unit analysts.

    (ii) Units should work to migrate QRs to Qualtrax. It is noted that exceptions may be needed for macro embedded QRs or similar.

c. Distribution – the Quality Section is responsible to issue the most recent versions of all MSDs. Part of this responsibility includes the removal of the prior version. Issuance of SOPs and removal from use will all be directed by the Quality Section through Qualtrax.

    i. DSS SOPs (General or Section/Unit Specific) will be published through Qualtrax. When the Quality Section publishes an SOP an email notice will be sent through Qualtrax to those responsible for the changes.

        Tests may be set up in Qualtrax that relate to changes in specific controlled documents. When this is done employees assigned to the affected Unit will be notified that there is a document change and a test to take. Each appropriate analyst is required to read, and understand the changes and to complete this test prior to using the procedure.

    ii. DSS employees receiving notice are responsible to log into Qualtrax to review the changes. This must be performed in a timely manner to ensure that the latest guidance is being followed.

        Employees should contact their Supervisors or Leads if there are questions concerning the changes.

    iii. All current SOPs are available through Qualtrax.

        (a) Once printed, SOPs' are not controlled.

        (b) Any Unit analyst that prints a copy of a current SOP is responsible to ensure they are working from the current SOP and that they destroy the paper copy when new versions are made available.

    iv. All MSDs will be maintained through Qualtrax by the Quality Section.

    v. When a controlled document is software or a manufacturer's manual, the original will be maintained in the Unit that uses the document. This will be notated in the Management

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

System Document list for that Unit. (Example: Computer Crimes will maintain the software used for their imaging process).

Note: There will be occasions when "hard" copies (paper or CD) of software is not available (i.e. the purchase of the document is such that a copy is available only in the cloud or electronic manuals saved on a Division server). For these cases the Section will record the title, version, date in service and other pertinent information on the section instrument/software list.

6. **Identifiers**:

a. All MSD will be uniquely identified. Each page of the controlled document will have a designator (with the exception noted above). When a controlled document is software or a manufacturer's manual, the original (or the case for the original) will have a sticker (when possible) designating it as a controlled copy with the Document ID, and version noted, unless otherwise noted on the cover.

b. Each DSS Unit will have a unique prefix identifier as part of the documents ID these are designated as:

GL: General SOPs applicable to all Units

Case Support Section

CM: Case Management Unit

ER: Evidence Receiving Unit

Identification Section

CC: Computer Crimes Unit

QD: Questioned Documents Unit

LP: Latent Prints Unit

IM: Imprints Unit

MMIE: Video/Multi Media Unit

FA: Firearms Unit

Forensic Biology and DNA Section

DNA: DNA Unit

FB: Forensic Biology Unit

Chemistry Section: (CAS)

CH or CU: Chemistry Unit

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

FLIN: Instrumentation Unit

TX: Toxicology Unit

CS: Controlled Substances Unit

The complete identifier will include the prefix with a number designation for the specific document in the Unit. Worksheets/Appendixes may be designated in 1 of 2 ways. QR can be used to identify worksheets as Quality Records, this will generally be preceded by the Unit identifier and followed by a number designation (example DNA QR-123). Worksheets/appendixes that are specific to documents (if applicable) maybe designated with the complete identifier and a second number for the worksheet/appendix.

Example: CC-1 (this would be the first SOP for the Computer Crimes Unit)

CC-1.1 (this is the 1st appendix/worksheet related to the 1st SOP for Computer Crimes)

CC-1.2 (this is the 2nd appendix/worksheet related to the 1st SOP for Computer Crimes)

c. When software and published manuals are referred to in an SOP or work instruction as part of the method they must also be controlled documents. For software that is available only through the "cloud" see note in section 5.c.v. For these items, the version that is being used will, when possible, be marked with a control sticker by the Quality Section. This sticker will include the same information as the designator for documents. If the software or manual is only referred to as a reference, it does not need to be controlled. Software used to run instrumentation need not be controlled as long as the name and version number are referenced either in the equipment inventory list, the specific SOP or in the maintenance manual.

d. The document title, current version/revision and document history of all MSD will be maintained in the Qualtrax system.

7. **Changes to Management System Documents:**

a. General Laboratory Procedures:

i.   Edits to GLs are generally performed by the Quality Section.

ii. The review of the edits will generally include all Managers (ADFL, AD, DD, FB/DNA QM, and QM).

b. For Section/Unit- specific Procedures:

i.   When a change to a Unit SOP is required, for any reason, the change will be directed through the Unit Supervisor, Technical Lead in DNA, or appropriate Manager.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

  ii. In Qualtrax edit permissions are given to those as required by the Unit, this will be determined by the Unit Manager(s). Edit permissions are set based on assigned Units (i.e. a DNA Lead cannot edit a Toxicology SOP).

 c. Hand written changes to procedures are not acceptable as official changes. Changes must go through the proper reviews and approvals in Qualtrax.

 d. Review: (Review step performed in Qualtrax)

  i. The individual that prepared the original document (or the individual in that position) should be consulted concerning the change; in general this is part of the Qualtrax review process. The information should be reviewed to verify that the change would not adversely affect any other component of the procedure.

  ii. The individual that approved the original document (or the person in that position) should review the changes to the document. It is important that the "approver" of the document have access to all background information concerning the change.

 e. Approval: (Approval is performed/documented within the Review/Approval steps in Qualtrax)

  i. Changes to General Laboratory MSDs will be reviewed/approved by Management.

  ii. Changes to Section/Unit SOPs will be reviewed/approved through the review stage in Qualtrax.

   (a) Generally this may be by the respective DNA TL, Unit Lead, Unit Supervisor, and Unit Manager(s) (as appropriate to the Unit).

    (i) Units Managers may designate specific personnel as reviewers for the Unit.

   (b) The Deputy Director and/or Assistant Director of the Unit will document approval in the "approval" stage in Qualtrax.

  iii. Final approval of General Laboratory and Unit Specific SOPs is by the Director

  iv. Upon the approval by the Director the document is published by a member of the Quality Section through Qualtrax.

   (a) Note that some SOPs that are approved may be held for publishing for strategic purposes, such as to meet a specific timeline.

 f. To track changes made between revisions of controlled documents, there is a "View Tracked Changes" feature in the tool bar. Clicking on this option allows review of the changes made to that document. Previous versions edited after 07/31/18 will have the tracked changes document available as well in the archive.

 g. When the editor of an SOP releases the document for review, a note is to be made providing a general description of the change or a reference to view the tracked changed version can be

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

used. An example of the note to type is; "Refer to Tracked Changes version". Qualtrax will be the **only** location to find a current controlled copy of an SOP.

    i. When a revision occurs, those affected by the changes (those that use the document) will be informed by automated email through Qualtrax that the changes have occurred. If necessary, the Unit Leads, Supervisor or designee will be responsible to review the changes with their Section/Unit and ensure they understand the changes. Notification of changes will be through Qualtrax. The Unit Leads or Supervisor along with section Assistant Directors or Deputy Directors are responsible to ensure that the changes are implemented when the document is issued.

    ii. The Quality Manager, Assistant Directors or Deputy Directors (or their designee) are responsible to ensure DSS staff is aware of changes to General Laboratory MSD (i.e. forms or macros not in Qualtrax). This will generally be communicated electronically.

h. The Quality Section is responsible to maintain controlled documents through Qualtrax. Current versions of General Laboratory SOPs are available to all employees. All personnel are responsible for the destruction of any uncontrolled printed copies of SOPs, when new versions are made available.

8. Archiving:

a. The Quality Section is responsible for maintaining an archive of old versions of MSD, these will be archived within Qualtrax. Out of Service SOPs will be accessible to members of Management. The effective/published date and the date retired from service will be maintained in the "document properties" tab in Qualtrax.

    i. Members of Case Management have permissions in Qualtrax to allow them to retrieve historical versions of General and Unit specific SOPs; this is for the purposes of preparing discovery packets and responses to FOIAs.

b. The archived MSDs will be maintained for a period not less than 10 years from the date of removal from service. Revisions prior to September 2014 will be maintained by paper or electronically on the LAN. Revisions after September 1, 2014 will be maintained within Qualtrax.

c. One copy of each archived document will be stored with the Quality Section in either paper or electronic format based on the dates listed above. Individuals that need to access these documents should go through a member of the Quality Section to retrieve the needed documents. The Case Management Unit may have access to archived MSD for the purposes of discovery and FOIA requests.

9. Non-Controlled Documents:

a. It is recognized that analysts may desire copies of SOPs for work that they perform. Any SOP printed from Qualtrax will contain a statement that the SOP is not controlled.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

b. If the Management of the DSS requires that all or specific analysts be given an uncontrolled copy of a SOP, then the copy will be printed from Qualtrax and as stated above, will not be controlled.

c. When new versions of SOPs are issued, copies of old versions must be destroyed; this is the analysts' responsibility.

d. When copies of MSDs are required for Freedom of Information Act or Discovery requests, refer to SOP GL-11 "Control of Records" for guidance.

10. **Use of Qualtrax**:

All DSS employees are entered in Qualtrax as users of the system and each employee has a profile. Employees are designated into a group with specified group permissions. The Qualtrax Administrator, Quality Manager and FB/DNA Quality Manager have administrator privileges. Issues with the system; including adding new employees and changing groups must go through the Quality Section or Administrator.

a. Logging into Qualtrax:
   i. Open Qualtrax (http://dps-qualtrax01/Qualtrax) and click on Log In
   ii. This prompts the user for the User Name and Password.
      (a) The User Name is the users employee number
      (b) The Password is the same as that for the LAN computer.
         Note: To simply view a document you do not need to log in to Qualtrax, but must be on a computer that has access to the Qualtrax server.

b. Qualtrax Groups: Qualtrax is set up to contain "groups" which assigns permissions for individuals based on the needs of the Section/Unit. Permissions are given to these groups according to the level of access and control they require in the system.

   i. Each Unit has a designated group. A group can contain many individuals or just one individual.
   ii. Other groups have been made depending on the needs of the DSS; for example there is a group named DNA Technical Lead and a group named Deputy-Identification.
   iii. Individuals within each group inherit the group permissions.
   iv. The Quality Section is in every group as a group "manager" so that data reports can be run in Qualtrax.

c. Adding Controlled Documents to Qualtrax:

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

    i. This is performed by the Quality Section or Administrator using the Automatic File Transfer Tool. Once documents are uploaded they are given a laboratory generated header. All documents must be saved as a macro-enabled document to be uploaded.

    ii. Any QRs that are not macro enabled word documents require that the person editing the document to edit the revision number. A revision date will not be on these types of QRs. The revision date can be found within Qualtrax.

    iii. Click on a folder that the document is to go. In the tool bar click "Create document here".

    iv. Import the document from your computer by selecting "choose files" on the next screen and hit "upload".

    v. Ensure "Generate PDF" is selected and "Uncontrolled Document" and Automatically Publish First Revision" is NOT selected.

    vi. The Notify Lists with approval and review should reflect the parent folder's list.

    vii. Select the Document Manager if not selected automatically. This should be the Deputy or Assistant Director or a member of the Quality Section.

    viii. Click "Create"

    ix. The Document will be in "edit" in the editor's inbox and be available to add a header/footer and release for review.

    x. If possible, ensure the Quality Section is involved with any upload of a document.

    xi. <u>Adding the Header</u> – the Qualtrax Header Footer Tool is used. The link to this tool is located on the Shared Drive in the Qualtrax folder. Open this tool and log in.

        (a) A box will open with 3 Sections. The 1st box is labeled "Select Qualtrax Template", the 2nd is labeled "Select Qualtrax Files to Update", the 3rd is labeled "Comments to add to Revision History"

        (i) Select the appropriate template. (Please see a member or Quality if necessary).

        (ii) Select the file that is to be updated.

        (iii) Add a comment to the revision history

        (iv) Click "Apply Template"

        (v) A box will appear showing the progress of the update, when it is complete click close.

        (vi) The document will now be in Qualtrax with the Header.

        (vii) Qualtrax automatically assigns a document ID to the document; this will be a unique number located at the bottom of the screen when a document is opened and in the top right hand corner of the header. This number is used internally by Qualtrax.

  d. <u>Opening a Document</u>: All employees can open General and Section/Unit SOPs to read or view them.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

    i. Opening a document without logging in:

        (a) Click on the Qualtrax link. The main page will open.

        (b) In the blue navigation bar two options are listed Documents and Personnel. Click on Documents.

        (c) The Document Tree will open.

        (d) The Document Tree lists the various DSS Sections.

            (i) DSS Quality Manual

            (ii) Forensic Biology/DNA Section

            (iii)Identification Section

            (iv)Chemistry Section

            (v) Laboratory Case Support Section

            (vi)There may be other "non-SOP" folders in the document tree that can be seen with and without logging on.

        (e) Within each Section are Units, in each Unit are the current approved procedures.

        (f) Click on the needed document to view the document.

        (g) Note that from the document list only the current approved/published documents will open.

    ii. Opening a document when logging in:

        (a) Open Qualtrax and Login and follow the steps above.

        (b) This is necessary when a document is to be edited or a test is to be taken.

  e. <u>Editing a Document</u>: Editing can only be performed through Qualtrax by those with editing permissions. In general, the path is to edit, review, approve, and then publish the document.

    i. Log into Qualtrax and open the document to edit.

    ii. In the gray option bar click on 'EDIT' – this will open a dialogue box labeled 'Edit Reason' –type in the reason for the edit. Then click the blue 'Check Out' button.

    iii. A dialogue box will open asking to 'Open or Save' the document – click Open. (you must have previously downloaded the Automatic File Transfer (AFT) tool) Do NOT Click "Manually Transfer Document"

    iv. If you are using the AFT for the first time, you will be asked to make a working folder. Browse to a location on your computer or make a new folder for Qualtrax edits. Once this folder is made, <u>do not</u> move this folder from its original location.

    v. Qualtrax will open the document in word format.

        (a) Important: this is the document that is to be edited, do not move it (i.e. save it in a new location). Qualtrax needs to know this path to be able to check the document back in with the changes made to it.

    vi. Edit the document as needed.

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

vii. When edits are completed, save the document (remember just 'save' (not 'save as') so the location is the same) and close the document.

viii. Open Qualtrax and Log In.

ix. Go to the 'INBOX' – a list of the documents in edit assigned to the user will be on the top left corner of the screen.

x. Click open the needed Document.

xi. On the gray options bar click 'Check In' – and select open again with the AFT this imports the edited document from your working folder; this does not publish the document.

xii. On the gray options bar click 'Release for Review' – this releases the document to the "Reviewers" (and TL in DNA for review/approval) for review of the edits.

xiii. A box will appear labeled "Changes Made" – type in a listing of the edits. The editor should give details of the overall reason for the edits, but may not need to be as detailed to list grammatical changes. The information entered at this time will become the document history and the manner to track the changes made to the document. It is important to be detailed enough to allow the user of the updated document to understand what has been updated.

  (a) Example: Edited to allow for new equipment to be used for this procedure.

xiv. Emails are automatically sent via Qualtrax informing the reviewers that a document has been assigned to them for review. The information included in the "Changes Made" box are sent with this email notification.

xv. "Tests" may also be associated with document changes. If a test is associated with a document revision an email notification will be sent.

f. Reviewing a Document:

  i. From the inbox open the document to review by clicking on the link.

  ii. The reviewer assesses the edits made to determine if they are appropriate and do not conflict other procedures.

  iii. The reviewer cannot edit this document, they can only make comments.

  iv. When the document is reviewed, click on the 'Review' button on the gray navigation bar. This opens a box labeled "Comments"

  v. Type in comments concerning accepting or not accepting the edits.

    (i) Example: need to add Quality Control measures for the new instrument.

    (ii) Example: OK or reviewed

  vi. Click the blue 'Review' button. This sends the document back to the editor, and sends an email to the editor to inform them of document status. If comments are not necessary,

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

and the changes are acceptable, Qualtrax automatically documents the review and its acceptance.

vii. The editor then clicks on the link in their Inbox to open the document.

viii.   Open the Properties link to view the reviewer's notes. This will be in the 'Reviewer History' on the General tab.

    (a) If all the reviewers have accepted the edits, the editor can now release the document for approval.

        (i) On the gray navigation bar click 'Release for Approval' (note if this is not present click on the 'More' button and a drop down menu will appear with this option).

    (b) If the review has not been accepted: incorporate the needed information by repeating the 'Editing a Document' steps above.

    (c) At any point the editor can cancel release from review and place the document back into "edit".

    (d) If a collaborative effort is needed, a document in edit can have a "change in editor". If the current editor would like another individual to continue edits to the document, then they can do so by selecting "change in editor", selecting the person's name and clicking save. The document in edit will then appear in the new editor's inbox and the new editor can "check out" the document to continue editing.

g. Approving Documents:

The Director is the final approver of all Procedures. The Quality Section approves documents only in the role of publishing the Director approved document.

i.   From the email notification or from the Qualtrax 'Inbox' click on the link to the document to be approved (must be logged in).

ii. Review the changes to the document.

    (a) If acceptable click the 'approve' button on the gray navigation bar.

        (i) A comments box will appear; a comment can be added here. Click the 'Approve' button.

        (ii) This will send the approval to an individual in the Quality Section for publication. Publication is performed in the same manner as the approval.

        (iii)When this approval is given, the document is published. All individuals assigned in the notify list to this document (based on groups) will be informed of the newly released document via an automated email.

        (iv)It is the responsibility of all employees receiving the email to open the link and review the changes.

    (b) If not accepted:

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.

(i) Click the 'Reject' button on the gray navigation bar.

(ii) A comments box will appear, add comments as to why the document edits are rejected.

(iii) Click the blue 'Reject' button.

(iv) This sends the document back to the Editor. Additionally an email notification will be sent saying the document rejected by the approver and the reason.

(v) The editing process is followed again until approval is gained.

h. <u>Document Properties</u>:

This contains information about the document including editing, reviewers and approval notes and dates.

i. Log in and open the appropriate document.

ii. Click on Properties in the gray navigation bar. A Document Properties page will open with several tabs:

(a) General: contains information of dates, and notes of edits, reviewers and approvals for the current version.

(b) History: contains information of dates, changes made, and notes of edits, reviewers, and approvals for all past versions. The out of date revisions can be opened from this area by clicking on "view" next to the revision number. (if permissions allow)

(c) Custom Fields: Only used when there are "child" documents related to the parent.

(d) Document Lists: this shows what groups have responsibilities for this document (approvers, reviewers, and those to notify). These responsibilities can be edited in this field only by those with the permissions to do so.

(e) Locations: shows where in the document tree this document is located.

(f) References: if there are references linked to the document they are listed here.

(g) Security: lists what groups can view or edit the document.

E. **REFERENCES**:

1. Qualtrax 'Help Guide'
2. CT Division of Scientific Services Qualtrax Operating Manual

State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of Scientific Services
Documents outside of Qualtrax are considered uncontrolled.