

	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	ISSUE DATE: April 1, 2014
	LAB BULLETIN	NUMBER: LB-81-2014
		LAP: Construction Materials Testing
SUBJECT: Nuclear Density-Moisture Gauges		

This bulletin is effective immediately and supersedes and replaces NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-44-2009, Nuclear Density-Moisture Gauges, issued in 2009.

This bulletin updates the requirement for the use of mutually recognized calibration service providers for the calibration of nuclear density-moisture gauges for construction materials testing laboratories.

NIST Handbook 150, Annex B, B.3.3 states: “NVLAP-accredited laboratories . . . shall use accredited calibration laboratory services wherever available. Accredited calibration laboratories are those accredited by NVLAP or by any accrediting body with which NVLAP has a mutual recognition arrangement.”

In the time since the previous Lab Bulletin was issued, there has been a significant increase in the number of calibration service providers that are accredited to perform calibrations of nuclear density-moisture gauges. Based on this number of providers and their locations, NVLAP-accredited construction materials testing laboratories shall use an accredited calibration laboratory to provide this service.

During the next on-site assessment, a nonconformity will be cited if the construction materials testing laboratory is not using the calibration services of a mutually recognized accredited calibration laboratory. The nonconformity can be resolved if the laboratory provides 1) documentation of the reasons the testing laboratory cannot use an accredited calibration laboratory; 2) evidence of an audit in accordance with NIST Handbook 150, Annex B, to show that traceability has been established for the calibration of the nuclear density-moisture gauges; and 3) evidence that the laboratory has made arrangements for the next scheduled calibration to be performed by an accredited calibration laboratory.

If the laboratory cannot provide evidence to resolve the nonconformity, test methods that require the use of a nuclear density-moisture gauge will be deleted from the NVLAP scope of accreditation.

This bulletin has also been posted on the Program-Specific Handbooks and Lab Bulletins page of the NVLAP website (<http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>).

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