Dated: January 11, 2006.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6–414 Filed 1–13–06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket 051229349–5349–01]

Establishment of a Laboratory Accreditation Program for Radiation Detection Instruments Under National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) publishes this notice to announce that it is establishing an accreditation program for laboratories that perform testing of radiation detection instruments. This program will provide for the accreditation of laboratories that test radiation detection instruments using standards developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Homeland Security Instrumentation (HSI) and Radiation Protection Instrumentation (RPI) groups.

DATES: Laboratories interested in seeking accreditation that will allow them to be considered for Department of Homeland Security recognition should contact NVLAP immediately.

ADDRESSES: National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, 100 Bureau Drive/MS 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–2140.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Betty Ann Torres, Senior Program Manager, NVLAP, 100 Bureau Drive/MS2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–2140, Phone: (301) 975–8446 or e-mail: *betty.torres@nist.gov.* Information regarding NVLAP and the accreditation process can be viewed at *http://www.nist.gov/nvlap.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has requested that NIST establish a laboratory accreditation program for laboratories that test radiation detection instruments used in homeland security applications. In response to the request by DHS, National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) is establishing an accreditation program

for laboratories that test radiation detection instruments.

This notice is issued in accordance with the NVLAP procedures and general requirements, found in title 15, Part 285 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Technical Requirements for the Accreditation Process

NVLAP accreditation criteria are established in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR, title 15, Part 285), NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements. NVLAP is in full conformance with the standards of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), including ISO/IEC 17025.

Accreditation is granted to a laboratory following successful completion of a process, which includes submission of an application and payment of fees by the laboratory, an on-site assessment by technical experts, resolution of any deficiencies identified during the on-site assessment, and participation in proficiency testing. The accreditation is formalized through issuance of a Certificate of Accreditation and Scope of Accreditation.

NVLAP provides an unbiased, third-party evaluation and recognition of competence. NVLAP accreditation signifies that a laboratory has demonstrated that it operates in accordance with NVLAP management and technical requirements pertaining to quality systems; personnel; accommodation and environment; test and calibration methods; equipment; measurement traceability; sampling; handling of test and calibration items; and test and calibration reports.

NVLAP accreditation does not imply any guarantee (certification) of laboratory performance or test/calibration data. NVLAP accreditation is a finding of laboratory competence.

PRA Clearance

This action contains a collection of information requirements subject to review and approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995. Collection activities for National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program are currently approved by the OMB under control number 0693–0003. Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Executive Order 12866

This action has been determined to be not significant under Executive Order 12866.

Dated: January 10, 2006.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6–413 Filed 1–13–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; StormReady and TsunamiReady/StormReady Application Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before March 20, 2006.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at *dHynek@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Donna Franklin at *Donna.Franklin@noaa.gov* or 301–713–0090 ext 141.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

StormReady and TsunamiReady are voluntary programs offered to provide guidance and incentive to officials who wish to improve their hazardous weather operations. Applicants will use the StormReady Application form and TsunamiReady/StormReady Application form to apply for initial StormReady or TsunamiReady/StormReady recognition and renewal of that recognition every three years. A typical StormReady community would use this form 3 times every 10 years. The government will use the information collected by application to determine whether a community has