

Message from the NVLAP Chief



Photo Credit 1: Bill Hinton

After a hiatus since 2013, NVLAP is resurrecting our newsletter in an effort to provide a mechanism to better communicate pertinent information to our accredited laboratory community and other

interested parties. We plan to publish a minimum of two newsletters annually. While we will use the newsletter platform as a communication tool, any news alerts having immediate impact on NVLAP and its programs will always be relayed by email to our laboratories and assessors to keep you informed.

Since our last newsletter, we have made number of staff changes to include new assignments as well as new staff to better meet the needs of our customers. In early 2016, I was appointed as the NVLAP Chief. There have been a few shifts in program management responsibilities and the addition of three new program management staff members, Dr. Derek Ho, Dr. Mario Guerrero and Dr. Titilayo Shodiya. Two of our long-time staff members retired: Ms. Vanda White and Ms. Sherrie Miller. This resulted in several reassignments related to the quality manager responsibilities and our administrative support staff responsibilities. For more information about specific staff responsibilities and contact information, view our staff listing on the NVLAP webpage, <https://www.nist.gov/nvlap/about-nvlap/staff>.

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The other big item that has been a focus for us has been the changing International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards. Many of you are likely aware that the documentary standards which are the basis of NVLAP and its programs have been under revision. Over the past three years, NVLAP has supported several of our staff to lead and participate in the working groups revising the ISO standards that impact us. In late November 2017, these activities came to completion with the publication of ISO 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025. Be sure to check out the *It's Published...Now What? The New ISO/IEC 17025:2017* article found later in this newsletter on how we will be implementing these changes in our programs.

NVLAP has also been phasing the implementation of a new database and on-line portal system for the data collection and maintenance of accreditation records. We are continuing to make improvements and add additional functionality to our databases to provide a more convenient, timely, and secure mechanism to collect the data necessary to support the accreditations issued through our programs.

Our next phase, related to interactions around laboratory corrective action submissions and associated staff/assessor reviews, is anticipated in the second quarter of 2018. These submission changes are expected to improve the timeliness of the overall corrective action review process.

These items are an example of what we have been working on in NVLAP to make our programs and the accreditation process better. As NVLAP moves forward in 2018 and beyond, I encourage you to submit your feedback to us. We continue to look to make improvements that make NVLAP, its programs, and our processes better. Please send your feedback directly to me, dana.leaman@nist.gov, or through our main email account, nvlap@nist.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

And finally, I want to wish you a happy and prosperous 2018!

Dana Leaman, NVLAP Chief

New ISO Standards Impacting NVLAP and Its Programs

Updated versions of ISO/IEC 17011 and ISO/IEC 17025 were published on November 30, 2017. NVLAP staff served on the ISO/CASCO Working Groups responsible for the revisions and publications of both standards.

It's Published...Now What? The New ISO/IEC 17025:2017

On November 30, 2017, the revision of ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* was published. A summary of the key changes is available in an [ISO brochure](#) which can be downloaded from the ISO website. The key changes are:

- Expanded scope of the standard to cover all laboratory activities;
- New structure to align with other conformity assessment standards;
- Process approach with emphasis on the results of a process;
- Focus on electronic documentation and electronic processes; and
- Introduction of risk-based thinking.

In the international conformity assessment community, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) have released a [Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué](#) regarding the transition from the 2005 edition to the 2017 edition of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. As a result of the established transition requirements, all NVLAP-issued accreditations are required to be in conformance to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 by November 2020 or they will cease to be recognized. Due to the significance of the changes, an assessment of a laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 will be required. Once assessed and found to be in conformance with the new standard, a certificate and scope of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 will be issued to the laboratory.

NIST News

[Dr. Walter Copan](#) was confirmed by Congress as Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and NIST Director on October 5, 2017.

The NIST Internet Time Service has been upgraded resulting in some server changes. The latest list of ITS servers and addresses is [here](#).

As the measurement community moves into 2018 and SI redefinition, the NIST Physical Measurement Laboratory (PML) has created a portal for sharing of a series of special reports. The [SI Redefinition Portal](#) will be updated with stories and reports as they are made available.



Currently, NVLAP is working to conduct appropriate training activities of its staff and assessors as well as ensure all various program documentation and information systems incorporate the published changes. The following transition plan has been developed to ensure that NVLAP and its accreditations will continue to meet the requirements of its stakeholders and the requirements established by the international conformity assessment community.

Transition Timeline	
From present to February 28, 2018	NVLAP will continue to accept initial applications for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005.
Beginning March 1, 2018	All initial applications for accreditation will be against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017. *
Beginning April 15, 2018	All renewal applications requiring an onsite assessment received after this date will be against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

**Laboratories submitting an April renewal application will be provided the option to select ISO/IEC 17025:2005 or 17025:2017. If this renewal period requires an onsite assessment and the assessment is performed prior to October 1, 2018, the assessment can be conducted against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005.*

If you have any questions regarding our transition plan to ISO/IEC 17025:2017, please contact us at 301-975-4016 or via email at nvlap@nist.gov.

Upcoming Event

NVLAP at Measurement Science Conference 2018

NVLAP will be presenting a one-day seminar at the Measurement Science Conference (MSC) at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, CA in March. For more information on the seminar schedule, visit the conference website at www.msc-conf.com

NVLAP wishes you a happy, healthy and safe start to the new year.



Photo Credit 2: Vil Cheng

NVLAP News is published by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, Standards Coordination Office, Laboratory Programs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce. Please send comments to Cheryl Williams Levey, Editor, at cheryl.levey@nist.gov or nvlap@nist.gov. Visit the NVLAP web page at <https://www.nist.gov/nvlap>