

Office of Weights and Measures Receives Renewal of IACET Accreditation

On May 21, 2018, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Office of Weights and Measures (OWM) received approval of its accreditation renewal application from the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET) based on the 2018 ANSI/IACET Standard for Continuing Education and Training. The OWM accreditation was originally approved for the period June 1, 2013, to May 31, 2018; this renewal extends the accreditation to May 31, 2023. IACET accreditation of a training program is much like accreditation of a quality system for calibration services to ISO/IEC 17025: IACET accreditation is globally recognized, includes a comprehensive documentation and on-site assessments, and benchmarks the quality of the OWM training program and processes. During the review and assessment process, OWM demonstrated it has procedures and fulfills requirements related to its organization, the learning environment, planning of the learning event, the quality and evaluation of the instructors, needs analysis of the event, learning outcomes, content and instructional requirements, assessment of the learning outcomes, and finally awarding of CEUs. NIST OWM provides IACET- accredited Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for nearly all its training events. Accreditation sets in place a quality framework and a process for continuous improvement and succession planning. (See also: <https://www.iacet.org/>).

Training events covered by the IACET accreditation include on-site and off-site metrology seminars, webinars, field training in legal metrology devices such as scales and motor fuel dispensers, and field training in package labeling, inspection, and price verification. Although OWM has provided training for many years prior to becoming accredited, in the past five years since receiving accreditation in 2013 OWM has held over 250 training events and has trained well over 4000 students. The OWM program is the main source for training for state laboratory metrologists and state weights and measures officials. The program also provides training to private industry, other federal agencies, and international students. OWM training helps ensure traceability of legal metrology measurements to the International System of Units (SI), and provides uniformity and equity in the marketplace, protecting both consumers and businesses.

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