

NVLAP[®] NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

www.nist.gov/nvlap

Four More Years!

No, we're not referring to the recent presidential election. NVLAP's recognition by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) has been reconfirmed for another four years. The decision was based on the outcome of an evaluation conducted by an international team representing APLAC and the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), the other regional accreditation organization in which NVLAP participates.

In May 2012, the evaluation team spent several days at the NVLAP offices in Gaithersburg, MD and witnessed five on-site assessments at NVLAP-accredited laboratories. The evaluation report and NVLAP's responses were reviewed and accepted at the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Council meeting on December 4th in Sydney, Australia. The four-year extension is the maximum time allowed between evaluations.

"The confirmation of NVLAP's continued recognition by APLAC is a reflection of our staff's hard work, our assessors' expertise, and our accredited laboratories' competence," said Warren Merkel, NVLAP Chief. "It's healthy for us to be on the receiving end of an assessment process, and gratifying for that process to come to a positive conclusion."

The report will be reviewed by IAAC at its mid-year meetings in February. Recognition in these regional accreditation organizations is the basis for NVLAP's continued signatory status in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) MRA. Through the ILAC MRA, laboratories receive global recognition of their competence, thus facilitating acceptance of test, and calibration data accompanying goods across national borders.

For more information about APLAC, IAAC, and ILAC, visit their websites:

www.aplac.org; www.iaac.org.mx; www.ilac.org.

Congratulations Tim Rasinski!

Tim Rasinski, NVLAP Program Manager, and Cameron Miller, NIST Research Chemist and NVLAP Assessor, were selected to receive the 2012 Judson C. French Award. The awardees are recognized for their outstanding technical leadership in providing the framework for solid-state lighting commerce through the first-ever accreditation and measurement assurance programs

The Judson C. French Award, first presented in 2000, is granted for significant improvement in products delivered directly to industry, including new or improved NIST calibration services, Standards Reference Materials, and Standard Reference Databases.

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NVLAP at MSC 2013

NVLAP will be presenting again this year at the Measurement Science Conference (MSC) to be held at the Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, CA. The seminar will be held Monday and Tuesday, March 18 and 19, 2013. Other tutorials are available on Wednesday, and the conference continues on Thursday and Friday. NVLAP will also be an exhibitor; please stop by our booth to say "Hello." For more information or to register, visit the conference website at www.msc-conf.com.

N01: *The ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Process*—This two-day, interactive seminar is designed to help laboratories prepare for and understand the accreditation process whether the laboratory is new to accreditation or is in the renewal process. The seminar is ideal as an orientation for new staff, quality managers, or as a refresher to update knowledge of the standard and the process. An overview of the requirements of the standard will be provided with examples drawn from the NVLAP accreditation process. Particular emphasis will be placed on internal audit and management review; proficiency testing; presenting measurement uncertainties and reporting them, ensuring the metrological traceability of your calibrations, and the complaint/corrective action process. NVLAP staff will present several important ILAC documents with respect to proficiency testing (*ILAC P9*), metrological traceability (*ILAC P10*) and reporting measurement uncertainty (*ILAC P14*). We will provide an overview of the on-site assessment process, how on-sites are conducted and by whom. We will also describe how NVLAP and other accrediting bodies become a signatory to and maintain their status with respect to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement and what it means to your laboratory. The schedule allows for extended discussions of topics of particular interest to the participants.

Intended Audience—Technical and Quality personnel from accredited laboratories as a refresher, those who are seeking accreditation, or those investigating the process. Materials will be provided (a laptop may be helpful).

Learning Objectives—At the end of the two-day seminar, using notes and provided resources, participants will be able to:

1. Analyze the adequacy of a documented management system and technical procedures to fulfill the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025.
2. Differentiate between an internal audit, a management review, and an on-site assessment as performed by an accrediting body.
3. Identify evidence of metrological traceability.
4. Identify proper use of the accrediting body mark in terms of NVLAP and international accreditation policies.

Season's Greetings



NVLAP Documents – New/Revised

(May 2012—November 2012)

The following publications and forms were issued from May 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012, and may be downloaded from the NVLAP website. For revised publications and forms, the edition noted supersedes and replaces the previous edition. In accordance with NVLAP's document control policy, NVLAP-accredited laboratories and NVLAP assessors must ensure that all obsolete documents are removed from points of use.

If you have questions about these updates, please contact the NVLAP Program Manager assigned to the specific LAP (see Staff Directory at <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap/nvlapstaff.cfm>), or Vanda White, NVLAP Quality Manager, at vanda.white@nist.gov.

NVLAP Policy Guides

NVLAP Policy Guide PG-10-2012, *Amendments to NIST Handbook 150:2006, Annex A* (2012-08-20)

General Forms and Information

NVLAP Instructions for Completing an Application for Accreditation (rev. 2012-11-16)

NVLAP Fee Calculation Worksheet for New Laboratories (withdrawn 2012-11-16)

NVLAP Fee Payment Instructions and Form (issued 2012-11-16)

Assessor Forms and Information

NVLAP Assessor Bulletin AB-16-2012, All Assessors, *Revision of NVLAP On-Site Assessment Report Forms* (2012-07-30)

NVLAP Assessor Bulletin AB-17-2012, selected testing LAPs, *Revision of NVLAP Test Method Review Summary* (2012-08-20)

NVLAP Laboratory Assessment Instructions for Assessors (rev. 2012-05-01)

NVLAP On-Site Assessment Report and Narrative (rev. 2012-07-30)

NVLAP Technical Expert Evaluation Form (2012-08-21)

NVLAP Test Method Review Summary (rev. 2012-08-20)

FAR 52.212-3 Offeror Representation and Certifications (ORCA) (withdrawn)

Asbestos Fiber Analysis LAP

Asbestos Fiber Analysis Application Form (rev. 2012-11-16)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-68-2012, *Addition of 1993 Method for Determination of Asbestos in Bulk Building Materials to Scopes of Accreditation* (2012-11-21)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-69-2012, *Disclaimer to Be Added to TEM Test Reports* (2012-11-21)

Cryptographic and Security Testing LAP

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-66-2012, *Addition of TWIC® Card Testing to the NVLAP Cryptographic and Security Testing LAP* (2012-05-22)

Energy Efficient Lighting Products LAP

Energy Efficient Lighting Products Application Form (rev. 2012-11-27)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-67-2012, *Addition of In-Situ Temperature Method (ISTM) Testing to EEL Program* (2012-07-19)

Fasteners and Metals LAP

Fasteners and Metals Application Form (rev. 2012-05-04)

Thermal Insulation Materials LAP

Thermal Insulation Materials Application (rev. 2012-05-22)

IAAC



Warren Merkel, NVLAP Chief; Barbara Belzer, NVLAP Calibration Program Manager and NVLAP's delegate to the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and Chair of the Laboratories Subcommittee; and Ileana Martinez, NVLAP International Affairs Specialist and newly elected Chair of IAAC, attended the IAAC General Assembly in Cartagena, Colombia, August 19-26, 2012.

IAAC's mission is to promote cooperation among accreditation bodies and interested parties of the Americas, aiming at the development of conformity assessment structures to achieve the improvement of products, processes and services.

NVLAP Program News

Dosimetry

Betty Ann Sandoval, NVLAP Dosimetry Program Manager, gave a presentation on the accreditation of dosimetry processors at the annual meeting of the Organization of Agreement States, the meeting of state and federal radiation control regulators responsible for ensuring the protection of workers and the general public, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 27-30, 2012. Occupational workers are required by regulation to wear dosimeters so that they can know the extent of their radiation exposure. Currently there are 37 agreement states. Each agreement state promulgates and enforces regulations and issues radioactive material licenses in a manner that is compatible with the regulatory activities of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cryptographic and Security Testing

NVLAP has accredited three laboratories in the Cryptographic and Security Testing (CST) Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) for testing of the DHSIPCM method. Information regarding these accredited laboratories can be located in the directory of accredited laboratories located on the NVLAP webpage, www.nist.gov/nvlap. For information about the program, please contact Dana Leaman, NVLAP Program Manager at (301) 975-4679.

Laboratories accredited in this program perform functional conformance testing to the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC®) Reader Hardware and Card Application Specification. The addition of this testing within the CST LAP was established in support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Qualified Technology List (QTL). More information regarding the QTL can be found at www.tsa.gov/twic/reader.



WHAT WE DO

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) provides third-party accreditation to testing and calibration laboratories. NVLAP's accreditation programs are established in response to Congressional mandates or administrative actions by the Federal Government or to requests from private-sector organizations and government agencies. NVLAP operates an accreditation system that is compliant with ISO/IEC 17011, which requires that the competence of applicant laboratories be assessed by the accreditation body against all of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

NVLAP Mission Statement

To deliver high quality, value-driven accreditation services to testing and calibration laboratories by:

- ◆ meeting or exceeding customer expectations;
- ◆ operating to globally accepted requirements for accreditation bodies;
- ◆ promoting world-wide acceptance of test and calibration results of NVLAP-accredited laboratories; and
- ◆ pursuing organizational and technical excellence.

NVLAP Vision Statement

To be a world-class accreditation body recognized nationally and internationally for raising the bar and setting the standard for excellence in accreditation.



Photo taken by Brian Renegar, NIST Staff

Flag-Draped Administration Building

NVLAP is located on the campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD

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. Comments are welcome. **Hazel M. Richmond**, Editor, NIST/**NVLAP**, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140. Phone: (301) 975-4016; Fax: (301) 926-2884; E-mail: nvlap@nist.gov. The **NVLAP** Home Page: <<http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>>.