

NVLAP NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

www.nist.gov/nvlap

Mutual Recognition Arrangement Signatories

“As a result, NVLAP promotes the acceptance of calibration and/or test results within the respective scopes of accreditation for laboratories accredited by any of the MRA signatory ABs”

The implementation and demonstration of traceability in accredited labs potentially expands each time a new signatory is added to the existing Mutual Recognition Arrangements that NVLAP has engaged in.

To promote the use of laboratory accreditation worldwide, NVLAP has entered into Mutual Rec-

ognition Arrangements (MRAs) with the following organizations:

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the world's principal international forum for the development of laboratory accreditation practices and procedures, the promotion of laboratory accreditation as a trade facilitation tool, the assistance of developing accreditation systems, and the recognition of competent calibration and test facilities around the globe ([see http://www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)).

The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), whose principal objectives are to foster the development of competent laboratories and inspection

bodies in member economies, to harmonize accreditation practices in the region and with other regions, and to facilitate mutual recognition of accredited test, measurement and inspection results ([see http://www.aplac.org](http://www.aplac.org)).

By signing these MRAs, NVLAP accepts that the accreditations granted by our signatory partner Accreditation Bodies (ABs) are accomplished through a process that is in conformance with internationally accepted standards and practices. As a result, NVLAP promotes the acceptance of calibration and/or test results within the respective scopes of accreditation for laboratories accredited by any of the MRA signatory ABs.

The key to the Arrangements is the developing global network of accredited testing and calibration laboratories that are assessed and recognized as being competent by the signatory ABs. The signatories have, in turn, been peer-reviewed and met criteria for competence, namely ISO/IEC 17011.

For a current listing of the MRA signatories please visit the following websites:

<http://www.ilac.org/membersbycategory.html>

http://www.aplac.org/members/signatories_mra.htm

NVLAP Body Armor LAP



NVLAP establishes Body Armor LAP for the National Institute of Justice

NVLAP has agreed to establish a laboratory accreditation program to support the voluntary minimum performance standards for the ballistic- and stab-resistance of personal body armor, developed for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) by the NIST Office

of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES).

The program will address ballistic- and stab-resistant body armor submitted to the NIJ/ National Law Enforcement and Corrections

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue:

NIWS Launched	2
Assessor Training	2
Brad Moore Joins NVLAP!	3
2006 TTE & R Workshop	3
Radiation Detect. LAP	4
Seminar at MSC Conf.	4
Program Handbooks on Web	4
MOU with VCCI	5
New Cert. of Accreditation	5
ASTM E11-Quality & Stats.	5

The Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research and development agency of the U.S. Department of Justice.

NVLAP Body Armor LAP (Continued From Page 1)

Technology Center (NLECTC) for certification in accordance with applicable NIJ standards. Laboratory test results will be used for the purposes of preparing NIJ's Personal Body Armor Consumer Product List. NVLAP-accredited laboratories testing the equipment for certification by NLECTC must be independent of body armor manufacturers,

NIJ, NLECTC, and OLES, and be able to perform all of the selected tests as specified in the applicable NIJ standard.

If you would like more information on the Personal Body Armor Program, please contact Hazel M. Richmond at:

hazel.richmond@nist.gov
or (301) 975-3024



NVLAP Interactive Web Site Launched

NVLAP has launched the NVLAP Interactive Web Site (NIWS), a web-based system that allows laboratories to submit applications for accreditation over the Internet. Participation is currently open to testing laboratories enrolled in the Acoustical Testing and Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications laboratory accredita-

tion programs. The system will be gradually expanded to include all NVLAP accreditation programs.

The NIWS was developed in response to both customer requests received through NVLAP's ongoing customer satisfaction survey process and the federal government mandate to provide customers with a

way to electronically submit information. In response to the survey question, "How can NVLAP improve its accreditation service to you?" customers expressed their desire for a

Continued on Page 3

NVLAP Assessor Training Seminar

NVLAP held an assessor training seminar on March 14, 2007, for new assessors for two new U.S. Department of Homeland Security-related programs - Radiation Detection Instruments and Personal Body Armor. Several veteran assessors also attended. NVLAP staff presented



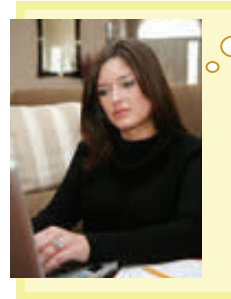
Sally Bruce, the NVLAP Chief, presents an overview of the NVLAP program while Jeffrey Horlick and Betty Ann Sandoval confer on the next presentation.

all sections of the NIST Handbook 150, NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements, which contains the general procedures and requirements under which NVLAP operates as an unbiased third-party accreditation body.

NVLAP Interactive Web Site (Continued From Page 2)

simplified application process utilizing on-line interactive forms that are pre-filled with data from the previous year's accreditation. In addition to providing better customer service, the NIWS enables NVLAP to comply with the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) and the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA).

The NIWS is expected to bring NVLAP closer to its customer laboratories and stakeholders by bringing e-government directly to them. By taking advantage of online automation, NVLAP is responding to the ever-increasing expectations of an Internet-savvy public. Feedback is being collected from NIWS users to ascertain whether the system is user friendly and meets users' needs for e-business transactions.



This NIWS
System
is the
greatest!!

Bradley W. Moore joins the NVLAP Staff



Bradley W. Moore, the newest member of the NVLAP Team

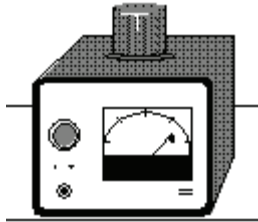
Mr. Moore has joined the staff of the NVLAP as a Program Manager for the Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications (ECT) Program. He will be involved with all aspects of the laboratory accreditation process, including training and monitoring of NVLAP assessors to ensure that quality laboratory assessments are continuously performed to ISO/IEC 17025, and to meet the international requirements of recognized accreditation bodies.

Mr. Moore was previously employed by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Frostburg State University in Maryland, and is a quality systems auditor.

Kurt Fischer Represents NVLAP at the 2006 TTE & R International MRA Workshop

The International Workshop on Mutual Recognition Agreement for Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (R & TTE) was held in Tokyo, Japan from December 14 and 15, 2006. Kurt Fischer represented NIST/NVLAP at this year's workshop. Speakers representing JVLATE, CIAJ, TCB Council, EU-Commission, ANSI and the FCC provided background information on their respective organizations. Additionally, each speaker presented their current telecom and radio activities, schemes, directives, projects, etc. An agenda, along with all other available information for the MRA Workshop, can be viewed by visiting this CIAJ web-link: <http://www.ciaj.or.jp/e/new/06nov28.htm>

NVLAP Radiation Detection Instruments LAP



The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) requested that NIST establish a labora-

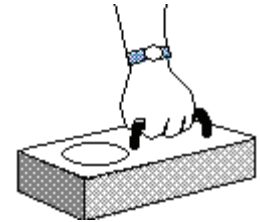
tory accreditation program for laboratories that test radiation detection instruments used in homeland security applications. In response to the request by DHS, and after consultation with interested parties through public workshops and other means, NVLAP has agreed to establish the accreditation program.

NVLAP will accept applications from laboratories that perform testing of radiation

detection instruments, such as handheld detectors, radionuclide identifiers, and portal monitors, using standards developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), and DHS.

If you would like more information on the Radiation Detection Instruments program, please contact

Betty Ann Sandoval at betty.sandoval@nist.gov or (301) 975-8446.



NVLAP Conducts Seminar at MSC Conference

NIST / NVLAP conducted a two-day seminar entitled *Preparing Your Laboratory for 17025 Accreditation: A Step-By-Step Approach*, at the Measurement Science Conference (MSC) in Long Beach, CA, on January 22 – 23, 2007.

The interactive seminar was aimed at quality

managers, laboratory personnel thinking about seeking accreditation, and assessors, and included presentations and lectures, practical hands-on examples, group exercises, and panel discussions with opportunities for questions and answers.

Topics included: How should a laboratory pre-

pare for an initial and renewal accreditation? What should you expect during an on-site assessment? How does your laboratory respond to the accreditation body when the management system has nonconformities? What is traceability and why should anyone care? How is proficiency testing run and how is it used to validate claims

of measurement uncertainty?

Instructors for the seminar were Barbara Belzer, Calibration Program Manager from NVLAP; Sally Bruce, Chief of NVLAP; Elizabeth Gentry from the NIST Weights and Measures Division;

Continued on Page 6

NVLAP Program Handbooks Available on Web

NVLAP program handbooks, which present the technical requirements and guidance for the accreditation of laboratories by NVLAP, have been revised and are available for downloading (Adobe PDF format) from the NVLAP web site at: www.nvlap.gov/nvlap.

If you do not have Internet access, please contact NVLAP and specify whether you would like a paper copy of a particular handbook mailed to you or an Adobe PDF version e-mailed to you.

This is also a reminder of the NVLAP transition to the accreditation requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, as

contained in NVLAP Handbook 150:2006. All on-site assessments are conducted against the accreditation requirements as published in NIST Handbook 150:2006 and the corresponding NIST Handbook 150 Checklist. Accredited laboratories have 30 days after an on-site assessment to resolve nonconformities to

the new requirements. If you have any questions, please contact NVLAP at (301) 975-4016, or by e-mail: nvlap@nist.gov.



NVLAP Signs MOU with VCCI

NVLAP and A2LA entered into an MOU signed on December 13, 2006 in Tokyo, Japan with Voluntary Control Council for Interference (VCCI). VCCI is a Japanese organization started in the mid 1980's by four Japanese industry companies seeking to control electromagnetic interference (EMI) with the backing of the Japanese government.

By signing this memorandum, NVLAP and A2LA will

intend to provide ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation of any electromagnetic compatibility testing laboratory to the Normative Annex 1 Technical Requirements of Regulations (VCCI V-3) for voluntary control measures of VCCI. NVLAP and A2LA will be responsible for notifying VCCI directly with all pertinent information for those laboratories that are accredited to perform testing to VCCI V-3. A form has been developed to capture

the necessary information requested by VCCI. This form will be completed during the course of the assessment.

For questions or comments on this agreement, please contact NVLAP at (301) 975-4016. To learn more about VCCI, we invite you to visit the VCCI web site at:

http://www.vcci.or.jp/vcci_e/index.html



Kurt Fischer of NVLAP and Brad Moore (formerly of A2LA) meet with representatives of VLAC and VCCI at the MOU signing dinner in Tokyo.

New NVLAP Certificate of Accreditation

In October 2006, NVLAP began using a new version of the Certificate of Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. The certificate now includes the following statement to convey that an accredited laboratory's management system meets the principles of ISO 9001:2000.

"This laboratory is accredited in accordance with the recognized International

Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005. This accreditation demonstrates technical competence for a defined scope and the operation of a laboratory quality management system (refer joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communique dated 18 June 2005)"

NVLAP-accredited laboratories may use the above statement on their test reports and calibration certificates if they supply, or provide access to via a website, the Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communique as part of

the package for their laboratory customers.

The Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communique was issued to counter a perception that accredited laboratories do not operate a recognized quality management system. Many accredited laboratories have had difficulty convincing their customers that they should be asking laboratories to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 rather than be certified (or registered) to ISO 9001. The

situation became more acute with the publication of ISO 9001:2000, as some customers continually asked laboratories to be certified, when they really meant accredited. It is anticipated that the use of the above statement by both accreditation bodies and laboratories will help to address the market issues caused by the confusion between these two terms.

ASTM E11 — Quality and Statistics

Betty Ann Sandoval, NVLAP Senior Program Manager, recently attended the committee meeting for ASTM E11 - Quality and Statistics. She presented NVLAP Testing Labs and Uncertainty Analysis at a workshop of the ASTM E11 committee.

The focus of the workshop was to discuss the requirements for testing laboratories to provide uncertainty analyses for the tests performed and to begin developing standards that will assist the testing laboratories in determining uncer-

tainty. Ms. Sandoval will be working with the testing laboratories and the ASTM E11 committee as they develop a satisfactory way to show that the total estimate of uncertainty has been rigorously determined for the

reported test results and that the determination is satisfactory for meeting the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 against which testing labs are accredited.

The highest quality accreditation services.

NIST / NVLAP
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2140
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140
www.nist.gov/nvlap

Phone: 301-975-4016
Fax: 301-926-2884
E-mail: nvlap@nist.gov

NEWSLETTER CREDITS:

HAZEL M. RICHMOND, EDITOR

DONNA DVORAK, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Our 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.

Other Updates From NVLAP

NVLAP has made improvements and changes over the past year. We have added new staff, new programs for Body Armor Testing and Radiation Instrumentation Devices, added updated handbooks to our website, updates to scopes are now posted monthly instead of quarterly, our program managers have been traveling to their accredited labs to participate as assessors, observers, and monitors, and we've offered two sets of training classes so far this calendar year.

For additional news and information about NVLAP visit our website at <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>



NVLAP is based out of the beautiful campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD

Image Courtesy HDR Architecture, Inc. / Steve Hall © Hedrich Blessing

NVLAP Conducts Seminar at MSC Conference (Continued From Page 5)

Greg Strouse, scientist from NIST; Ben Tsai, scientist from NIST who works part time in NVLAP; and Lisa Warfield, Management and Program Assistant from NVLAP.

Twenty-five representatives from industry and government agencies participated in this training seminar. These laboratory personnel were from testing and calibration facilities located throughout North America. Based upon the overwhelmingly positive feedback, NVLAP is planning to offer this type of training again in the future.