

NIWS 3.0 Coming October 2008

Based on customer feedback, the NVLAP Interactive Web Site (NIWS) has been redesigned. The new NIWS Home Page will serve as a hub, clearly directing the user, step-by-step, through the application process. If a laboratory submits its application for accreditation through the NIWS, it will not have to mail a paper application and supporting documents to NVLAP. The documents will be uploaded through the on-line application.

NIWS 3.0 will be available to laboratories enrolled in the following programs: Acoustical Testing, Airborne and Bulk Asbestos, Carpet and Carpet Cushion, Commercial Products, Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications and Energy Efficient Lighting Products. More programs will be brought on-line as development proceeds.

For more information about NIWS 3.0, contact NIWSHELP@nist.gov

NVLAP Evaluation by APLAC (July 21-25, 2008)

NVLAP, as a signatory of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) MRA, hosted a team of evaluators from APLAC the week of July 21. The team members were Chin Poh Yin of the Singapore Accreditation Council (SAC), C.K. Cheung of the Hong Kong Accreditation Service, Sergio Hurtado of entidad mexicana de acreditación, a.c. (ema), and Rajesh Maheshwari from the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) India. The evaluation was performed to assess NVLAP's compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 and included a visit to several laboratories to observe NVLAP assessors as they performed assessments to ISO/IEC 17025. Each team member was accompanied by a program manager. The observed laboratories were located in Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Rhode Island, and India.



From left to right: Jeffrey Horlick (NVLAP), Sergio Hurtado (ema-Mexico), Barbara Belzer (NVLAP), C. K. Cheung (HKAS-Hong Kong), Hazel Richmond, Betty Ann Sandoval, Sharrill Dittmann, Vanda White, Tom Hettenhouser (all NVLAP), Poh Yin Chin (SAC-Singapore), Sally Bruce (NVLAP), and Rajesh Maheshwari (NABL-India). (Courtesy of C. K. Cheung)

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New BIPM Publications

The **International Bureau of Weights and Measures (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures, in French)**, is an international standards organization, established by the Convention du Mètre (Metre Convention) to ensure worldwide uniformity of measurements, and for ensuring the basis for a single, coherent system of measurement traceable to the International System of Units (SI). The organization is usually referred to by its name in French—**BIPM** and is proud to announce the publication of the 3rd edition of the *International Vocabulary of Metrology (VIM3)*, and Supplement 1 to the GUM (*Guide to the Expression of Uncertainty in Measurement*), on its website, <http://www.bipm.org/en/publications/guides/>.

On the Road Follow-Up

NVLAP at NCSLI

NVLAP staff recently exhibited at NCSLI in Orlando, where over 1,000 metrologists met at the yearly conference. This year's theme was *Metrology's Impact on Business*. Presentations from this conference are available via the web at http://www.ncsli.org/conference/2009/speaker_pres_08.cfm

NVLAP at IEEE EMC Symposium

NVLAP staff also exhibited at the IEEE EMC Symposium in Detroit, where NVLAP hosted training for the ECT LAP assessors.

NVLAP at the 2008 Biometric Consortium Conference

Sally Bruce, Chief of NVLAP and Brad Moore, Biometrics Program Manager, represented NVLAP at the Biometric Consortium Conference in Tampa. The timing of the conference coincided with the release of the draft handbook for this new laboratory accreditation program (see article on page 3).

NVLAP Program Managers continue to attend on-site assessments either as observers, assessor monitors, or assessors. If you would like your Program Manager to attend your next assessment, please let him/her know.

More NVLAP News

NVLAP fees for FY 2009 were issued on October 1, 2008. In this time of negative economic impacts to business, NVLAP has managed to keep the cost increase for the Administrative/Technical Support fee below 7% for the upcoming year.

For this increase customers and stakeholders will see positive changes in NVLAP that will result from increased staffing levels as we are filling open positions for Administrative Support Clerk and two Program Managers. In addition, NVLAP will continue to roll-out the NIWS (see article on page 1) by offering this service to an increased number of programs and customers.

As we strive for raising the bar for excellence in accreditation, we need to hear from you about how we are doing in meeting your accreditation needs; we also encourage you to submit any suggestions on what we can do to improve our service to you. NVLAP is committed to communicating with you to determine your requirements. We encourage you to use our feedback forms: Assessor Questionnaire (after your on-site assessment) and Accreditation Services Customer Survey. Please fill out the Accreditation Services Customer Survey to identify yourself in order for us to respond to you directly.

Biometrics Testing Handbook

“The program is designed to easily expand and accommodate requirements from interested governmental agencies or the private sector.”

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has requested establishment of the [Biometrics Laboratory Accreditation Program \(Biometrics LAP\)](#) by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) to accredit laboratories that perform conformance testing, interoperability testing, technology testing, scenario testing, and operational and usability testing for biometrics products (systems and subsystems) as defined in nationally and internationally recognized biometrics products testing standards of biometric systems and subsystems. The program will offer accreditation only in the areas where a need was expressed and the requirements have been provided, but it is designed to easily expand and accommodate requirements from any interested governmental agency or the private sector.

Laboratory accreditation requirements are derived from the elected scope(s) of accreditation. [NIST Handbook 150](#) and NIST Handbook 150-25, Biometrics Testing, govern the general and specific technical requirements for accreditation under the Biometrics LAP. Currently, NIST Handbook 150-25 is in draft stage. A copy of the draft requirements documents is now available for public review and is posted at <http://ts.nist.gov/Standards/Accreditation/handbook.cfm>.

Newly Accredited Personal Body Armor Laboratories

NVLAP has accredited seven laboratories for Personal Body Armor. The laboratories are accredited for National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard 0101.06, Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor, July 2008, Sections 5, 6, and/or 7. A particular laboratory's scope of accreditation is available on the NVLAP web site, where you will also find contact information. For information on the program, contact Hazel M. Richmond at (301) 975-3024 or <hazel.richmond@nist.gov>.

- ◆ Chesapeake Defense Services, Inc., Belcamp, MD (NVLAP Lab Code 200820-0)
- ◆ Dayton T. Brown Inc., Bohemia, NY (NVLAP Lab Code 200422-0)
- ◆ H. P. White Laboratory, Inc., Street, MD (NVLAP Lab Code 200825-0)
- ◆ ICS Laboratories, Inc., Brunswick, OH (NVLAP Lab Code 200817-0)
- ◆ Oregon Ballistic Laboratories, Inc., Salem, OR (NVLAP Lab Code 200826-0)
- ◆ Retlif Testing Laboratories, Ronkonkoma, NY (NVLAP Lab Code 100267-0)
- ◆ United States Test Laboratory, LLC, Wichita, KS (NVLAP Lab Code 200818-0)

Remember to Notify NVLAP

Annex C of NIST Handbook 150, *NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements*, requires that the laboratory's Authorized Representative notify NVLAP within 30 days when there are major changes that affect the laboratory's: 1) legal, commercial, organizational, or ownership status; 2) organization and management; e.g., key managerial staff; 3) policies or procedures, where appropriate; 4) location; 5) personnel, equipment, facilities, working environment or other resources, where significant; 6) Authorized Representative or Approved Signatories; or 7) other such matters that may affect the laboratory's capability, or scope of accredited activities, or compliance with the requirements of NIST Handbook 150 and relevant technical documents.



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 from requests by private-sector organizations. 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 and ISO/IEC 17011.

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.



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 Services Division, Technology Services, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Technology Administration, 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 URL address for the **NVLAP** Home Page is <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>.