

	DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	ISSUE DATE: January 22, 2007
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		LAP: Commercial Products Testing
SUBJECT: Release of NIST Handbook 150-16, 2006 Edition		

NIST Handbook 150-16, which presents the technical requirements and guidance for the accreditation of laboratories under the NVLAP Commercial Products Testing program, has been revised. The new edition incorporates changes resulting from the release of NIST Handbook 150:2006, *NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements*, and was revised with the participation of technical experts in the field of commercial products testing. Several changes have been made with respect to the previous edition.

A cross-reference document is now required to be furnished to the assessor for review prior to an on-site assessment. The cross-reference document shall verify that all requirements of this handbook and clauses 4 and 5 and annexes A and B of NIST Handbook 150 are addressed and their locations clearly identified in the management system documentation. The cross-reference requirement is satisfied if the management system documentation is organized and numbered the same as the NIST Handbook 150 Checklist. Any laboratory having an on-site scheduled after August 1, 2007, must furnish its completed cross-reference document to the assessor for review at least four weeks prior to the scheduled on-site visit date.

Other changes to the previous edition of the handbook include the following:

- references to applicable standards and guidance documents have been updated;
- on-site assessment checklists and the test method selection list are no longer included in order that they may be provided as separate documents, which may be updated at different intervals than the handbook;
- the body of the handbook has been restructured to conform with internationally accepted rules for the structure and drafting of standards, where appropriate, to promote ease of use and understanding.

The 2006 edition of NIST Handbook 150-16 supersedes and replaces the 1995 edition. It is available for downloading (Adobe PDF format) from the NVLAP web site at: <http://ts.nist.gov/Standards/Accreditation/upload/NIST-HB-150-16-2006.pdf>. If you do not have Internet access, please contact NVLAP and specify whether you would like a paper copy of the handbook mailed to you or an Adobe PDF version e-mailed to you.

In accordance with the NVLAP plan for transition to the accreditation requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, as contained in NIST Handbook 150: 2006, all on-site assessments are now 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.

Questions concerning the revised handbook or requirements for accreditation should be directed to Larry Knab at 301-975-6712, or lawrence.knab@nist.gov.