



April 13, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR NVLAP Laboratories and Assessors

From: C. Douglas Faison
Acting Chief, NVLAP

Subject: Release of NIST Handbook 150:2006

Attached is the 2006 edition of NIST Handbook 150, *NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements*, which supersedes and replaces the 2001 edition. The 2006 edition incorporates changes resulting from the release of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, and ISO/IEC 17011:2004, *Conformity assessment—General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*. An electronic version of this handbook is available in PDF format on NVLAP's web site at <<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/docs/nist-handbook-150.pdf>>.

On September 14, 2005, a memorandum was sent to you regarding the NVLAP transition to the new accreditation requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, along with a revised NIST Handbook 150 Checklist to help you prepare for the transition. Updated versions of the NIST Handbook 150 Checklist, On-Site Assessment Report, and On-Site Assessment Summary forms are available on the NVLAP web site at <<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/assessors/assessor.htm>>. The transition plan and timeline described in the memorandum remain unchanged and are summarized below:

- Since November 1, 2005, all NVLAP on-site assessments have been conducted against the accreditation requirements as published in the new editions of NIST Handbook 150 and the NIST Handbook 150 Checklist.
- Currently accredited laboratories assessed on or after November 1, 2005, and before May 15, 2006, will have until June 15, 2006 to resolve nonconformities to the new requirements. Nonconformities reported against the requirements of the previous (2001) edition of NIST Handbook 150 must be resolved within the normal 30-day timeframe after an on-site assessment.
- Currently accredited laboratories that are assessed on or after May 15, 2006, will have 30 days to resolve nonconformities to the new requirements.

In addition to the general accreditation requirements published in NIST Handbook 150, each NVLAP Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) has program-specific requirements defined in a corresponding handbook. The testing LAP Handbooks are in the process of being revised. As the new editions of these handbooks are released, they will be posted on the NVLAP web site at <<http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/214/docs/handbook.htm>> and designated as "NEW." Please note that some of the references and appendices are out of date in the handbooks that have not yet been revised. The current versions of the program-specific checklists are published on the NVLAP web site and supersede those printed in the older handbooks.

Please contact your Program Manager if you have any questions about the new accreditation requirements or the transition schedule.

Attachment