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**Authorization** - a formal recognition that a laboratory is competent to carry out specific tests.

**Corrective Action** - an action taken to eliminate the causes of an existing deficiency or other undesirable situation in order to prevent recurrence.

**Deficiency** - the nonfulfillment of an accrediting or authorization body's conditions and/or criteria for accreditation or authorization.

**Internal Audit** - systematic and documented process for obtaining evidence and evaluating it objectively to verify that a laboratory's operations comply with the requirements of its quality system. [NIST HB 150]

**Interlaboratory Comparisons** - organization, performance, and evaluation of tests on the same or similar items or materials by two or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions. [ISO/IEC Guide 43-1:1997, 3.7 expanded]

**NVLAP** - the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, a part of NIST

**OWM** - the Office of Weights and Measures, a part of NIST.

**Preventive Action** - an action taken to eliminate the causes of a potential deficiency or other undesirable situation in order to prevent occurrence. [NIST HB 143]

**Proficiency Testing** - determination of laboratory testing performance by means of interlaboratory comparisons. [ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996, 13.5]

**Standard, Primary** - Standard that is designated or widely acknowledged as having the highest metrological qualities and whose value is accepted without reference to other standards of the same quantity. [VIM:1993, 6.4]

**Standard, Reference** - Standard, generally of the highest metrological quality available at a given location or in a given organization, from which measurements made at that location are derived. [VIM:1993, 6.6]

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**Standard, Secondary** - Standard whose value is assigned by comparison with a primary standard of the same quantity. [VIM:1993, 6.5]

**Standard, Working** - Standard that is used routinely to calibrate or check material measures, measuring instruments, or reference materials. [VIM:1993, 6.7, without notes]

**Traceability** - the property of a result of a measurement or the value of a standard whereby it can be related to stated references, usually national or international standards, through an unbroken chain of comparisons all having stated uncertainties. [VIM:1993, 6.10, without notes]

**Uncertainty of Measurement** – parameter, associated with the result of a measurement, that characterizes the dispersion of the values that could reasonably be attributed to the measurand. [VIM:1993, 3.9, without notes]

**Uncertainty, Type A (evaluation of)** - method of evaluation of uncertainty by the statistical analysis of series of observations. [GUM:1993, 2.3.2]

**Uncertainty, Type B (evaluation of)** - method of evaluation of uncertainty by means other than the statistical analysis of series of observations. [GUM:1993, 2.3.3]

**Verification** - confirmation by examination and provision of evidence that specified requirements have been met. [ISO 8402:1994, 2.17, without notes]