

NVLAP International Recognition

At its May meeting in Hong Kong, the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Council deemed NVLAP's management system compliant with ISO/IEC 17011, *Conformity assessment -- General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*.

In July 2008, NVLAP underwent its APLAC peer evaluation to determine compliance with ISO/IEC 17011. The evaluation team, comprised of four international peer evaluators, visited NVLAP, observed its operations, reviewed records of accreditation, and witnessed a sampling of on-site as-

sessments conducted at NVLAP-accredited laboratories in locations across the United States, as well as in India.

APLAC is one of three recognized regional accreditation co-operations under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). It is through the APLAC MRA that NVLAP is qualified as an ILAC signatory.

NVLAP, as a signatory to the APLAC MRA, is a viable, internationally-recognized accreditation body. NVLAP's accreditation services and its 800+ laboratories' test and calibration results continue to be recognized and accepted in the international metrology community.

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Attendees of APLAC 2009 Spring MRA Council Meeting

NVLAP Documents – New/Revised (April-June 2009)

The following publications and forms have been issued since the last newsletter, and may be downloaded from the NVLAP web site. For revised publications and forms, the 2009 edition supercedes and replaces the previous edition. In accordance with NVLAP's document control policy, NVLAP-accredited laboratories and NVLAP assessors must ensure that all obsolete documents are removed from points of use.

If you have questions about these updates, please contact the NVLAP Program Manager assigned to the specific LAP (see Staff Directory at <http://ts.nist.gov/Standards/Accreditation/staff.cfm>), or Vanda White, NVLAP Quality Manager, at vanda.white@nist.gov.

Thermal Insulation Materials LAP

Thermal Insulation Materials Application Form (rev. 2009-05-28)

On-Site Assessment Forms

NVLAP On-Site Assessment Review Form (rev. 2009-05-27)

Reminder—Availability of Extended Payment Plan

NVLAP recognizes that during this uncertain economic time, some laboratories would benefit by having the opportunity to pay NVLAP fees over a 6-month period. NIST's Accounts Receivables Office has agreed to provide this service to requesting laboratories, through a repayment plan agreement. This offer is being made to those laboratories with an accreditation renewal date of July 2009 or later.

To take advantage of this payment option, a laboratory must first send in its purchase order and application to NVLAP. Then to set up a payment plan, the laboratory must contact Ms. Julie Weiblinger, by phone at (301) 975-2173, or by e-mail at julie.weiblinger@nist.gov. A signed payment plan agreement must be in place with NIST before payments can be made.

Personal Body Armor Program

The Compliance Testing Program (CTP), administered by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC - National) in Rockville, MD has released the first list of compliant armor models that meet the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard 0101.06, *Ballistic Resistance of Personal Body Armor*. The armor was tested at NVLAP-accredited body armor laboratories. In order for a laboratory to apply to the CTP, it must be accredited by NVLAP.



NVLAP is Coming to Texas



NVLAP Assessor Training Seminar at EMC 2009, Austin



NVLAP EMC Assessors—Please join NVLAP for a one-day NVLAP Assessor Training Seminar on Sunday, August 16, 2009, in Austin, Texas, from 10:00 a.m. to

5:00 p.m. The specific meeting place will be determined within the next few weeks and will be communicated by E-mail.

This training seminar is open to all current and potential assessors and is free of charge. Presentations will be conducted by NVLAP staff on assessor-related elements of laboratory accreditation. Registration forms will be available in the coming weeks. Please contact NVLAP by phone: 301-975-4016 or E-mail <nvlap@nist.gov> if you have questions regarding the training seminar.

NVLAP Laboratories—Please visit the NVLAP booth at location 645. NVLAP staff members will be happy to meet with you to answer any questions you might have.

NVLAP at NCSLI in San Antonio

The theme for the annual gathering of the National Conference of Standards Laboratories International (NCSLI) is Metrology's Impact on Global Trade. The venue will be the San Antonio Convention Center July 26-30, 2009. This year's conference will kick off with the presentation **Metrology-Underpinning Global Trade** by keynote speaker Dr. Barry Inglis, Vice President, of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM). There will be 10 technical program sessions during the conference with approximately 50 papers presented.

In addition, NVLAP staff members will present the following two tutorials:

T4—*My measurements are traceable-right? Demonstrating the chain of traceability, and*

T13—*Collecting objective evidence: The internal audit process in preparation for the on-site assessment.*

Please visit the NCSLI website for additional details at <www.ncsli.org>. Registration is available at the event. Exhibit passes are available as well, so stop by the NVLAP booth at location 514/516 and say "Howdy!"



The Alamo

NVLAP and VCCI sign MOU

NVLAP recently renewed its Memorandum of Understanding with the Voluntary Control Council for Interference by Information Technology Equipment (VCCI). The signing occurred after the Second International Workshop on Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for Conformity Assessment of Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications Regulations held at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland, May 5-7, 2009.

This MOU allows for NVLAP-accredited laboratories in the Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications (ECT) program to gain ease of access to the VCCI mark used in Japan. The VCCI mark is required for shipment of Information Technology Equipment (ITE) in the domestic marketplace in Japan. In addition, VCCI works to harmonize test methods for ECT and Electromagnetic Interference. More importantly, this MOU facilitates good customer service, value, and cost savings for the laboratories accredited under the NVLAP ECT Laboratory Accreditation Program, as VCCI will automatically recognize the accreditation from NVLAP. The laboratories do not have to apply directly to VCCI and have their documentation reviewed separately by them. There are currently more than 175 NVLAP-accredited laboratories in this program.

NVLAP Assessor Training

NVLAP will host an assessor workshop on September 15 and 16, 2009. The training will be a one-and-a-half day event that will include broad topics applicable to all assessors, followed by breakout sessions for specific program areas. Topics that will be covered include: traceability, cross-frontier policy, logo use, ILAC/APLAC/IAAC guidance documents, assessor requirements from ISO/IEC 17011, the International Mutual Recognition Arrangements including the CIPM, ILAC, and APLAC MRAs, updates of activities from the committees within APLAC, IAAC, and ILAC, and how to cite/write a nonconformity.

NVLAP Staff Changes

Farewell

NVLAP said farewell to Alejandra Figueroa, NVLAP Administrative Specialist, on July 3, 2009. Alex has decided to stay at home with her baby son. We will miss her.

Congratulations

Tessa Beavers, NVLAP Administrative Assistant has been promoted to Administrative Specialist and will step into the position vacated by Ms. Figueroa.

NVLAP Celebrates International Accreditation Day

June 9, 2009, marked International Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities. The theme this year was “competence.”

NVLAP celebrated International Accreditation Day by sponsoring an open-house style reception, where information about NVLAP programs was shared with interested NIST stakeholders, technical experts, and colleagues. NVLAP provides third-party accreditation to more than 800 testing and calibration laboratories across the world. 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.



From left to right: Brian Renegar, Alejandra Figueroa, Sally Bruce, Beth Thomas, Lori Gruber, Tom Hettenhouser, Hazel Richmond, Vanda White, Tessa Beavers, Sherrie Wentzel, Beth Hackett, Jon Crickenberger, Lena Kem, Tim Rasinski, Barbara Belzer, and Brad Moore



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.



Flag-draped Administration Building

Photo taken by Brian Renegar of NVLAP Staff

*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, 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>.