

NVLAP Seminar at MSC Conference

March 23-27, 2009

Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California

NVLAP will offer a 2-day seminar at the Measurement Science Conference (MSC), March 23-27, 2009, to be held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. The seminar [N01] entitled *Preparing Your Laboratory for 17025 Accreditation* will be presented by NVLAP Staff Barbara Belzer, Thomas Hettenhouser, Dana Leaman and Sherrie Wentzel. NVLAP staff will be joined by NIST temperature expert Gregory Strouse, and Greg Cenker from Southern California Edison. **To register for the seminar you must contact MSC at <<http://www.msc-conf.com/2009/registration/>>, select *NIST Seminars* and complete the registration process.** The NVLAP Seminar will be held on two full days and will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 23, 2009, and end at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.



Abstract

Achieving laboratory accreditation can seemingly take a long time and is a lot of work. What should a laboratory do to prepare for an initial accreditation? Step through the application process. What happens to your quality manual once it's submitted? What should you expect during an on-site assessment? What should you expect from your assessment team? What happens when your lab has nonconformities? How do you respond to the accreditation body? Will you ever have a perfect assessment? Walk through the process as approached by NVLAP. We will share with you tips and hints and discuss common tripping points. In addition, we will focus specifically on software, and method validation and risk analysis.

This two-day tutorial will be interactive with a combination format consisting of presentations, worked examples and group exercises, and allowing ample opportunity for questions and answers.

NVLAP Seminar at MSC Conference:

- ✓ Registration required
- ✓ Contact MSC conference at <www.msc-conf.com/2009>
- ✓ Seminar will be held March 23-24, 2009, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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NVLAP Staff Changes

NVLAP Says Farewell



Mr. Thomas R. Davis, program manager for the asbestos, fasteners, commercial products, carpet and carpet cushion, thermal insulation and wood products programs entered the well-deserved ranks of federal retirees on January 2, 2009, after 41+ years of service. NVLAP will hold a retirement luncheon for him at O'Donnell's Restaurant in Gaithersburg, MD on February 18, 2009.

Tom came to NVLAP in December 1989 from the Consumer Product Safety Commission to work with David Alderman in the asbestos program. He was a member of ASTM and the Asbestos Interagency Working Group. Tom and his wife Jackie plan to spend time traveling and pursuing some of their hobbies—bowling, working in the yard, and spending time with their three children and their families.

NVLAP Welcomes Two New Staff Members

WELCOME

Ms. Bethany Hackett joined the NVLAP staff in December 2008 as an Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications (ECT) Program Manager. She manages the accredited U.S. and international laboratories to FCC requirements and foreign regulatory bodies. As a Program

Manager she is also involved with many of the aspects of the laboratory accreditation process, which includes training and monitoring of the NVLAP assessors to ensure that quality laboratory assessments are continuously performed to ISO/IEC 17025 and to meet international requirements of recognized accreditation bodies.

Ms. Hackett brings over 10 years of experience working for an accreditation body to NVLAP. She previously worked for the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), supporting the EMC program for the past 6 years. Also while working for A2LA, she was involved with the accreditation programs for plastics and fastener testing laboratories. In addition, she has experience auditing quality systems of testing laboratories and is qualified as an approved ISO/IEC 17025 quality system auditor. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University.

Ms. Dana S. Leaman joined the staff of NVLAP as a Program Manager for the Information Technology Security Testing Program. She will be involved with all aspects of the laboratory accreditation process for the Common Criteria Testing and the Cryptographic and Security Testing Programs, including training and monitoring of NVLAP assessors to ensure that quality laboratory assessments are continuously performed to ISO/IEC 17025, and to meet the international requirements of recognized accreditation bodies.

Ms. Leaman was previously employed by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee, and is a quality systems auditor. She also is currently a NCSLI International (NCSLI) Board of Directors member, filling the position of Vice President of the Northeastern Division of NCSLI.

News from ILAC and APLAC

ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation)

NVLAP certificates to reference January 2009 IAF-ILAC-ISO Communiqué

Effective February 5, 2009, NVLAP laboratory accreditation certificates will reference the January 2009 updated Joint IAF-ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the Management System Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

The purpose of the Communiqué is to clarify confusion caused by the perception that accredited laboratories do not operate a recognized quality management system. Customers should be asking laboratories to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, rather than be registered to ISO 9001.

NVLAP will provide access to the Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué on its web site. Laboratories choosing to use the statement on their test reports and calibration certificates should also either supply, or provide access via a web site to, the Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué as part of the package for their laboratory customers.

New ILAC brochure on Benefits of Proficiency Testing

ILAC has published a brochure entitled *Benefits for Laboratories participating in Proficiency Testing Programs*, which is available at http://www.ilac.org/documents/ILAC_PT_Brochure.pdf. The brochure provides information on the benefits of participating in proficiency testing, such as confirming competent performance, identifying testing/measurement problems, improving laboratory performance, educating staff and instilling confidence in staff, management and external users of laboratory services.

APLAC (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation)

On the APLAC web site you will find the latest publication of *APLAC News Notes*, December 2008 at http://www.aplac.org/documents/aplac_notes/aplac_news_notes_97.pdf

Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008

On September 4, 2008, the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) presented its plan for implementation of the *Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) of 2008*. The Act will affect nearly all children's products entering the U. S. market. The first phase will require testing of lead in paint of any children's product manufactured after December 21, 2008. Down-the-road testing will be required for cribs, pacifiers, small parts, children's metal jewelry, baby bouncers, walkers, jumpers, and, eventually, nearly all children's products.



Implementation of third-party laboratory testing procedures for lead in paint under the new legislation requires that testing labs, in order to receive recognition by the CPSC, receive their accreditation from an accreditation body who is a signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

NVLAP is a signatory to the ILAC MRA but has no plans to offer accreditation for this testing. For a list of U. S. laboratories that are signatories to the ILAC MRA, please go to the ILAC web site at: http://www.ilac.org/documents/mra_signatories.pdf.

NVLAP Program Information

ECT Program

With the addition of new staff member, Beth Hackett in the Electromagnetic Compatibility & Telecommunications (ECT) program, laboratories are now distributed between Brad Moore and Beth. Brad will be the primary program manager for laboratories whose names begin with the letters A-M, and Beth will serve laboratories whose names begin with letters N-Z. Laboratories may contact either or both Program Managers in the event of need as they serve as each other's back-up. Brad may be reached by phone at (301) 975-5740, or by email at <brad.moore@nist.gov>. Beth may be reached by phone at (301) 975-6113, or by email at <bethany.hackett@nist.gov>.

Calibration Program

Calibration laboratories are reminded that Barbara Belzer is the primary program manager for all State metrology laboratories, as well as laboratories whose names begin with letters R-Z. Tom Hettenhouser is the primary program manager for laboratories whose names begin with letters A-Q. Laboratories may contact either or both Program Managers in the event of need as they serve as each other's back-up. Barbara may be reached by phone at (301) 975-2248, or by email at <barbara.belzer@nist.gov>. Tom may be reached by phone at (301) 975-2013, or by email at <thomas.hettenhouser@nist.gov>.



After several weeks of very cold weather and snow and ice, we're hoping for warmer weather. This photo was taken last October on the NIST campus.



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>>.