

NVLAP[®] NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

www.nist.gov/nvlap

NVLAP NIWS Release 4.0

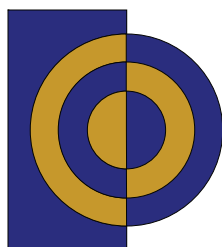
NVLAP is pleased to announce the newest release of the NVLAP Interactive Web Site (NIWS) - release 4.0. New or enhanced system features in this release include the addition of 7 more fields of testing, making the NIWS available to laboratories enrolled in 14 fields of testing:

- Acoustical Testing Services
- Asbestos Fiber Analysis (PLM)
- Asbestos Fiber Analysis (TEM)
- Carpet and Carpet Cushion
- Commercial Products Testing
- Construction Materials Testing
- Efficiency of Electric Motors
- Electromagnetic Compatibility & Telecommunications
- Energy Efficient Lighting Products
- Fasteners and Metals
- Personal Body Armor
- Radiation Detection Instruments
- Thermal Insulation Materials

A short survey to collect customer feedback has also been added. The link to the survey will be included in the confirmation e-mail message an applicant receives at the conclusion of an application session. Laboratory comments will provide valuable information for the identification, prioritization, and design of future NIWS changes.

If a laboratory submits its application for accreditation through the NIWS, it will not have to mail a paper application to NVLAP. Supporting documents, such as quality manuals, may be securely uploaded through this web-based system.

For more information, contact <NIWSHELP@nist.gov>.



PUBLICATION OF ISO/IEC 17043:2010

International standard, ISO/IEC 17043:2010, *Conformity assessment-General Requirements for proficiency testing*, was published on February 1, 2010. Proficiency testing uses interlaboratory comparison as a basis to ascertain the level of a laboratory's performance of specific tests and calibrations capabilities. This standard, which replaces both parts of ISO/IEC Guide 43:1997, will be used as the basis to evaluate the competence of providers of proficiency testing, as well as to continue to provide guidance in designing the schemes, statistical analysis and reporting of results. ISO/IEC 17043:2010 is available for purchase from the ISO store: <<http://www.iso.org/iso/store.htm>>.

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Use of E-Mail for NVLAP Communications

NVLAP has issued Policy Guide PG-5-2010 to establish e-mail as a recognized communications medium for sending NVLAP information to laboratories, assessors and other stakeholders. NVLAP will use e-mail in lieu of paper for communications, where possible. Since e-mail is a timelier and less expensive means of communication than traditional paper communication, it is expected that implementation of this policy will result in reduced costs and improved efficiency of information exchange. The scope of this policy includes official NVLAP notices (NVLAP Policy Guides, NVLAP Lab Bulletins, and Assessor Bulletins) and other communications that can be accomplished effectively via this means.

In order for this policy to work effectively, laboratories enrolled in the NVLAP program are reminded of their obligation per NIST Handbook 150: 2006, Annex C, to report to NVLAP within 30 days any major changes that affect the laboratory's Authorized Representative. This includes not only a change of the individual holding the position, but also the Authorized Representative's contact information, including address, phone number, and e-mail address. It is the laboratory's responsibility to ensure that e-mail from NVLAP is not filtered out by spam blocking software or classified as "junk" e-mail. Please review your current e-mail settings to ensure that NVLAP e-mail correspondence will be directed to the correct person in your organization.

E-mail correspondence sent to NVLAP should be directed as follows: 1) Questions regarding receipt of applications or payments – send to NVLAP Administrative Specialists; 2) Requests for scope expansion or scope changes – send to appropriate NVLAP Program Manager (visit <http://ts.nist.gov/Standards/Accreditation/staff.cfm> for contact addresses); 3) Questions about applying for accreditation through the NVLAP Interactive Web Site (NIWS) – send to niwshelp@nist.gov; 4) General customer service inquiries – send to nvlap@nist.gov. NVLAP may also be contacted by mail at NIST/NVLAP, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2140; Phone: (301) 975-4016 or Fax: (301) 926-2884.

Dosimetry Program News

Change in collection of proficiency testing fees—Beginning April 2010, all NVLAP-accredited dosimetry laboratories will have to contract directly with Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL) for NVLAP dosimetry proficiency testing (PT). NVLAP will no longer collect PT fees. NVLAP-accredited dosimetry laboratories will pay the PT fees directly to PNNL. PNNL will continue to provide to NVLAP copies of each laboratory's testing results. NVLAP-accredited laboratories will continue to follow their established proficiency testing schedule based on testing every two years with PNNL. The laboratories will continue to provide NVLAP with a copy of the PT registration form with appropriate dosimeters and categories noted. PNNL will continue to send PT reports to NVLAP, and NVLAP will continue to review the PT reports and make appropriate changes to a laboratory's scope of accreditation.

Revised ANSI N13.11 and ANSI N13.32—NVLAP-accredited dosimetry laboratories are required to begin testing in January 2010 against the revised standards, ANSI N13.11-2009, *American National Standard for Dosimetry – Personnel Dosimetry Performance – Criteria for Testing*; and ANSI N13.32-2008, *Performance Testing of Extremity Dosimeters*. ANSI N13.11 is used for whole body dosimeters and electronic personnel dosimeters (EPDs). ANSI N13.32 is used for extremity dosimeters. All laboratories are required to have satisfactorily tested against ANSI N13.11-2009 by the end of 4th quarter 2011. In January 2012, after NVLAP receives the PT results, the scope of accreditation for each laboratory will only list the dosimeters and categories passed from ANSI N13.11-2009 and ANSI N13.32-2008.

Prior to January 2012, as each NVLAP-accredited dosimetry laboratory passes proficiency testing against the revised standards, the laboratory's scope of accreditation will be revised accordingly. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Ann Sandoval, Program Manager; Phone: (301) 975-8446 or E-mail: betty.sandoval@nist.gov.

NVLAP at MSC Conference

NVLAP will again offer a two-day tutorial entitled ***Accreditation to 17025 with NVLAP***, which will be held on March 22 and 23, at the 2010 Measurement Science Conference (MSC) in Pasadena, CA. NVLAP Calibration Program Managers Barbara Belzer, Tom Hettenhouser, and Dana Leaman, and NVLAP Administrative Specialist Sherrie Wentzel will lead the discussion. If you wish to attend, please register through the MSC web site <<http://www.msc-conf.com>>.

The theme this year at MSC is *Global Measurement: Economy & Technology*. According to John Billingsley, President of MSC, "The Measurement Science Conference was founded in 1970 to promote education and professionalism in the measurement sciences and other related disciplines. The conference is an annual event that provides an excellent forum for professionals from all industries and disciplines to come together in a common location to learn new skills, introduce measurement or business solutions, network, see the latest Measurement & Test Equipment, and most importantly support the continuing education that is so vital to the sustainment of the talent pool whom are our future educators and measurement specialists."

"The theme this year was chosen because Measurement Science is not simply making measurements. There is a strong interrelationship between the measurements we make and the impact they have on our economy. More than ever, as professionals in the measurement community we need to consider not only the technical aspects of the measurements we perform, but the economic impact they relate to as well . . ."



Can you help me convert a measurement to metric?

Multiply . . .

- inches by 25.4 to find millimeters
- feet by 0.3048 to find meters
- yards by 0.9144 to find meters
- miles by 1.60934 to find kilometers
- square yards by 0.836127 to find square meters
- acres by 0.404687 to find hectares
- cubic yards by 0.764555 to find cubic meters
- quarts by 0.946353 to find liters
- ounces (avdp) by 28.3495 to find grams
- pounds (avdp) by 0.45359237 to find kilograms
- degrees Fahrenheit by 5/9 after subtracting 32 to find degrees Celsius

Example: 1 inch = 25.4 millimeters so 3 inches equals, $3 \times 25.4 = 76.2$ millimeters NIST Metric Program International System of Units (SI)

NVLAP Documents – New/Revised (October-December 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 edition noted supersedes 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.

General Forms and Information

NVLAP Fee Schedule (rev. 2009-10-01; amended 2010-01-04)

NVLAP Fee Calculation Worksheet – Testing (rev. 2009-10-05)

NVLAP Fee Calculation Worksheet – Calibration (rev. 2009-10-05)

On-Site Assessment Forms

NVLAP Assessor Quote Form (rev. 2009-10-07; amended 2010-01-06)

Construction Materials Testing LAP

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-44-2009, *Nuclear Density-Moisture Gauges* (2009-10-09)

Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications (ECT) LAP

Instructions for ECT Renewal Applications (rev. 2009-10-06)

NIST Handbook 150-11A Checklist, *ECT: FCC Parts 2, 15, and 18* (rev. 2009-02-02) – now available as a Microsoft Word e-form – no content changes

Fasteners and Metals LAP

NIST Handbook 150-18: 2009 edition, *Fasteners and Metals Testing* (October 2009)

NIST Handbook 150-18 Checklist, *Fasteners and Metals Testing* (rev. 2009-10-28)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-45-2009, *Release of NIST Handbook 150-18, 2009 Edition and NIST Handbook 150-18 Checklist, 2009 Edition* (2009-10-28)

Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry LAP

Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry Proficiency Testing Registration forms (rev. 2009-12-17; amended 2010-01-13)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-46-2009, *Revised ANSI N13.11 and ANSI N13.32* (2009-11-13)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-47-2009, *Change in Collection of Dosimetry Proficiency Testing Fees* (2009-11-13)

Thermal Insulation Materials LAP

Thermal Insulation Materials Application Form (rev. 2009-11-09)

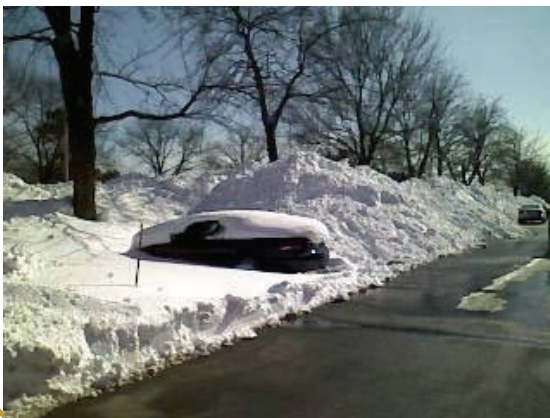
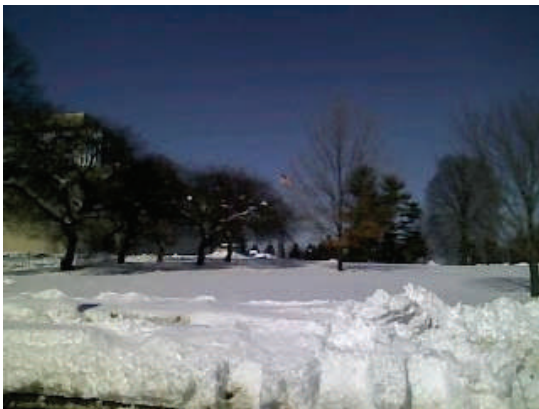
Wood-Based Products LAP

Wood-Based Products Application Form (rev. 2009-11-04)

NVLAP Snowed Under

The winter of 2009-2010 in the Washington area has exceeded record snow falls going back more than 100 years. These pictures were taken upon return to work on February 12, and are of various views of Building 222 and the parking lot. (The photo of the editor's deck was taken February 6.) NVLAP staff did not have to shovel the snow at NIST, but they are weary from shoveling 4 feet of snow from their driveways and sidewalks!

Photos courtesy of Lori Gruber and Hazel Richmond.



Editor's deck



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 to requests from private-sector organizations and government agencies. NVLAP operates an accreditation system that is compliant with ISO/IEC 17011, which requires that the competence of applicant laboratories be assessed by the accreditation body against all of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

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



Photo taken by Brian Renegar of NIST

Flag-Draped Administration Building

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>.