

NVLAP[®] NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY
LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

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NVLAP Recognition for ENERGY STAR[®]



NVLAP has received recognition from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) ENERGY STAR Program as an accrediting body.

EPA recently enhanced the ENERGY STAR conformity assessment program and testing at an EPA-recognized laboratory will be required once the EPA transition to the new conformity assessment requirements is fully implemented. The enhanced program will require not only accredited laboratory testing, but accredited certification of ENERGY STAR products. The ENERGY STAR program has grown to encompass more than 60 product categories and is used by millions of Americans to identify products that reduce energy costs and protect the environment. To ensure that ENERGY STAR remains a trusted symbol for environmental protection and superior energy efficiency, all ENERGY STAR product partners will be required to follow a new set of Third-Party Certification procedures starting December 31, 2010. Details of the program can be found on the following web page
<http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=partners.enhanced_test_verification>.

NVLAP anticipates that a majority of its accredited Energy Efficient Lighting, some of its Electromagnetic Compatibility and Telecommunications, and some of its Thermal Insulation product testing laboratories will be able to become recognized under the new EPA requirements. Accreditation is a necessary step for test data to be accepted under the enhanced Energy Star program.

NVLAP at MSC March 14-18, 2011



NVLAP will again be offering a seminar at the Measurement Science Conference and Training Symposium in Pasadena, California, March 14 and 15, 2011. The topic, *Preparing Your Lab for 17025 Accreditation*, will be presented by NVLAP staff members Barbara Belzer, Tom Hettenhouser, Dana Leaman and Sherrie Wentzel.

The conference will be held March 14-18, 2011, at the Pasadena Convention Center, 168 South Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California. This year's theme is *Metrology and Quality through Education*. Please see the MSC web site at <www.msc-conf.com> for more information. There is a brochure available for downloading.

NVLAP will have a booth at the conference; please stop by booth 26 to say "Hello."

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U. S. Department of Commerce Gold Medal Award

On October 19, 2010, the U. S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke awarded the Department of Commerce Gold Medal to ten NIST employees for *Distinguished Achievement in the Federal Service* for their work on improving the ballistic-resistant body armor standard test method and helping to implement the conformity assessment approach needed to assure laboratory technical competence. NVLAP's own Hazel Richmond was a member of this group. The Gold Medal, first presented in 1949, is the highest honor award conferred upon an employee of the Department of Commerce. The awards are given in the following categories: leadership, personal and professional excellence, scientific/engineering achievement, organizational development, customer service, administrative/technical support, and heroism. This award was given for scientific/engineering achievement.



From left: U. S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, James Filliben, Dennis Leber, Gayle Holmes, Kirk Rice, Amanda Forster, Hazel Richmond, Gordon Gillerman, Joanie Chinn, Michael Riley and NIST Director Patrick Gallagher, (not present: Nathaniel Waters).

In addition to Ms. Richmond, the team included staff from the NIST Office of Law Enforcement Standards—Kirk Rice, Michael Riley, Amanda Forster, and Nathaniel Waters; NIST's conformity assessment expert and the chief of the Standards Coordination Office, Gordon Gillerman; statisticians from the Statistical Engineering Division—James Filliben and Dennis Leber; and materials researchers from Building and Fire Research and Manufacturing Engineering—Joannie Chin and Gayle Holmes, respectively.

The citation on the award is the following, "For development of a revised standard that ensures the performance of ballistic-resistant body armor worn daily by police officers nationwide." There is more to it though. The group is recognized for the development of innovative methods to test ballistic resistance and long-term durability of body armor, resulting in a new National Institute of Justice standard for body armor and saving potentially thousands of lives. Their work was precipitated by an incident in Forest Hills, PA, where an officer was seriously wounded in 2003 when his PBO (zylon) body armor was penetrated by a bullet it was rated to stop. The NIJ turned to NIST to unravel the mystery that jeopardized the lives of hundreds of thousands of officers nationwide.

The group was again recognized at the 38th NIST Annual Awards Ceremony on December 1, where Director Patrick Gallagher, joined by the directors of NIST Operating Units, recognized 148 staff members for outstanding achievements and accomplishments this year.

Ileana Martinez Receives Astin-Polk Medal



Ileana Martinez, International Affairs Advisor with the Standards Coordination Office, and who serves as part-time International Affairs Specialist on the NVLAP staff, is the recipient of the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) 2010 Astin-Polk International Standards Medal honoring her distinguished service in promoting international trade. The Astin-Polk Medal is part of ANSI's Leadership and Service Awards which recognize recipients' commitment to enhancing global voluntary consensus standards. The Astin-Polk International Standards Medal honors distinguished service in promoting trade and understanding among nations through personal participation in the advancement, development, or administration of international standardization, measurements, or certification.

The medal was bestowed at the 2010 ANSI Leadership and Service Awards held on Wednesday evening, September 22, 2010, as part of World Standards Week 2010.

Recent Changes to the NVLAP Website

You may have noticed that NVLAP's website has a different look! On October 4, 2010, all NIST web sites were restructured to reflect the realignment of NIST's laboratories according to a mission-based structure. This event concluded months of planning and preparation to migrate the contents of website pages into new formatting templates and actually entailed maintaining two parallel websites for a short while.

Accordingly, please change all of your NVLAP bookmarks and favorites settings in your Internet browsers. Some old links may be redirected, but others may produce a *Page Not Found* message, so we recommend creating new bookmarks and favorites and deleting the old to be sure you will get to the correct page.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to put the finishing touches on the newly organized website. If you find a bad link or have difficulties locating information, please contact Vanda White at 301-975-3592, or <vanda.white@nist.gov>.

We also welcome your comments on the new site. Your feedback will help us to ensure that the site is not only running as it should be, but is also meeting your informational needs.

New NVLAP Policy Guides Published

NVLAP has released two new Policy Guides for distribution to NVLAP-enrolled laboratories and assessors. The purpose of a Policy Guide is to set forth a new NVLAP policy, together with guidance, or to clarify an existing policy. Policy Guides apply to all NVLAP laboratory accreditation programs (LAPs) and augment NIST Handbook 150, *NVLAP Procedures and General Requirements*, in between its revisions.

Policy Guide PG-6-2010, Annual Submission of Laboratory Management System Documents, establishes new requirements for the submission of management system documentation with a laboratory's application for accreditation. Effective with a laboratory's next renewal application, the laboratory **must** include records of its latest internal audit and management review, along with its quality manual, on an annual basis.

Policy Guide PG-7-2010, Transfer of Accreditation From Another ILAC-Recognized Accreditation Body (AB), states the conditions for applying for NVLAP accreditation when a laboratory is already accredited by another ILAC-recognized AB. It describes the eligibility for transfer of a laboratory's accreditation and how to apply as a transfer laboratory.

For the complete text of these Policy Guides, please visit the NVLAP Publications and Forms page of the NVLAP website at <<http://www.nist.gov/pml/nvlap/nvlap-publications.cfm>>.

Program Manager Assignment Changes

NVLAP has made the following changes to program assignments: Jon Crickenberger is now serving as Laboratory Accreditation and IT Specialist to assist with technical and IT support for NVLAP. Bethany Hackett is now the primary contact for Construction Materials Testing and will continue to manage Electromagnetic Compatibility & Telecommunications laboratories. Timothy Rasinski is now the primary contact for Energy Efficient Lighting Products and Efficiency of Electric Motors and will continue to manage Carpet and Carpet Cushion, Fasteners and Metals, Thermal Insulation and Wood-Based Products. Dana Leaman is now the primary contact for Voting System Testing and will continue to serve as manager of the Information and Technology Security Testing programs and of the state laboratories for the Calibration Laboratories program.

If you have any questions, please contact NVLAP at (301) 975-4016 or <nvlap@nist.gov>.

Program Update

Termination of Commercial Products Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program

Effective September 30, 2010, the Commercial Products Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) is terminated. The LAP includes paints and related coatings, paper and related products, building seals and sealants, plastics, plumbing, roofing, and mattresses. The decision to terminate the program was based upon the low number of laboratories currently enrolled in these programs and the availability of accreditation through nongovernmental ILAC signatory accrediting bodies. Effective immediately, NVLAP will no longer be accepting applications for accreditation in the LAP. Those laboratories currently accredited will remain so until the expiration of the current accreditation at the discretion of the laboratory and provided all accreditation requirements continue to be implemented.

Vacuum Cleaner Test Methods

NVLAP is now offering accreditation to the following Carpet and Rug Institute test methods as part of our Carpet and Carpet Cushion LAP: 112, *Standard Test Method for Evaluation of Solid Particulate Removal Effectiveness Using X-Ray Fluorescence Techniques for Evaluating Cleaning Effectiveness of Residential/Commercial and Central Vacuum Cleaners*; 113, *Standard Laboratory Practice for Quantifying Respirable Particulate Emissions Generated by Residential/Commercial Vacuums and Central Vacuum Systems*; 114, *Standard Laboratory Test Practice for Measurement of Surface Appearance Change of Textile Floor Covering as a Result of the Vacuuming Process*; and 115, *Standard Laboratory Test Practice for Determining the Power Use Effectiveness of Residential and Commercial Vacuum Cleaners*.

CPSC Children's Carpet Testing

The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) is now requiring testing of children's carpets and rugs manufactured after October 19, 2010, for flammability. NVLAP offers accreditation to 16 CFR Parts 1630 and 1631 under the Carpet and Carpet Cushion LAP. Laboratories interested in CPSC recognition must be accredited by an ILAC-recognized accrediting body and apply directly to the CPSC. More information is available at <<http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/labaccred.html>>.

Solid State Lighting Test Methods

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) provides third-party accreditation to testing and calibration laboratories and accepts applications for Solid State Lighting (SSL) test methods as part of the Energy Efficient Lighting Products LAP. DOE's CALiPER program testing is conducted by qualified, verified, and contracted independent testing laboratories and recognizes laboratories that obtain NVLAP accreditation for SSL testing. For up-to-date information on NVLAP-accredited SSL laboratories, please visit our web site at <<http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>>.

The following labs are accredited for LM-79 testing as of the date of publication of this newsletter:

1. Aurora International Testing Laboratory—Ohio (NVLAP Lab Code 200571-0)
2. Bay Area Compliance Laboratories Corp.—China (NVLAP Lab Code 200707-0)
3. Centre Testing International—China (NVLAP Lab Code 200889-0)
4. GE Nela Park, Product Testing—Ohio (NVLAP Lab Code 100398-0)
5. OSRAM SYLVANIA, Metrology & Analytics Services—Massachusetts (NVLAP Lab Code: 100403-0)

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Solid State Lighting Test Methods (con't)

6. Philips Lighting Corporate Regulatory and Certification Lab—Kansas (NVLAP Lab Code 100399-0)
7. Spectralux Industries, Inc.—Canada (NVLAP Lab Code 200899-0)
8. Musco Sports Lighting – Iowa (NVLAP Lab Code 200702-0)

The following labs are accredited for LM-80 testing:

1. Centre Testing International—China (NVLAP Lab Code 200889-0)
2. OSRAM SYLVANIA, Metrology & Analytics Services—Massachusetts (NVLAP Lab Code 100403-0)

NVLAP Documents – New/Revised (July-September 2010)

The following publications and forms have been issued since the last newsletter and may be downloaded from the NVLAP website. For revised publications and forms, the edition shown 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://www.nist.gov/pml/nvlap/nvlapstaff.cfm>>), or Vanda White, NVLAP Quality Manager, at <vanda.white@nist.gov>.

Energy Efficient Lighting Products LAP

- NIST Handbook 150-1, *Energy Efficient Lighting Products* (August 2010)
- NIST Handbook 150-1 Checklist, *Energy Efficient Lighting Products* (Rev. 2010-08-23)

Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry LAP

- NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-52-2010, *Proficiency Testing – Neutron Categories – ANSI N13.11-2009* (2010-08-17)

Please Remember the Lab Code!



The NVLAP Lab Code is a unique numeric identifier assigned by NVLAP to each laboratory, and is used for identification and record-keeping purposes. The correct format is 7 digits (i.e., 123456-0). Please remember to include the NVLAP Lab Code number on all correspondence that your laboratory sends to NVLAP, whether by e-mail, fax, or in hard copy.

When an e-mail message has a file attachment, please include the first six digits of the code on the front of the file name; for example, "123456abcxyz.doc." Use of the NVLAP Lab Code ensures that all laboratory correspondence is credited to the appropriate laboratory record.



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 in accreditation.



Photo taken by Hazel Richmond of NVLAP

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, Physical Measurement Laboratory, 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>>.