



# NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY  
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

[www.nist.gov/nvlap](http://www.nist.gov/nvlap)

## *NVLAP's on the Road Again*

### **NVLAP to Attend NCSLI in Walt Disney World**



NVLAP staff will attend the National Conference of Standards Laboratories International (NCSLI) Workshop and Symposium to be held August 3-7, 2008, at Walt Disney World's Swan and Dolphin Hotel in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. If you are in the area, please stop by the NVLAP booth (300-302) to say hello.

### **NVLAP Assessor/Laboratory Training Seminar at EMC 2008, Detroit**

Please join us for a one-day NVLAP Assessor/Laboratory Training Seminar on Sunday, August 17, 2008 in Detroit, MI from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The specific meeting place will be determined within the next few weeks. We will post the location information on our web site <[www.nist.gov/nvlap](http://www.nist.gov/nvlap)> as soon as it becomes available. This free NVLAP training seminar is open to all current and potential NVLAP assessors, NVLAP-accredited laboratories, and laboratories considering accreditation. Presentations will be conducted by NVLAP staff on the various elements of laboratory accreditation. This is a great opportunity to better understand the NVLAP business practice, accreditation process, and what to expect during an on-site assessment. Registration forms will be available in the coming weeks. If you can't make it to the seminar, be sure to stop by to say hello at the NVLAP booth during the symposium.

Please feel free to contact NVLAP (ph: 301-975-4016 or <[nvlap@nist.gov](mailto:nvlap@nist.gov)>) if you have additional questions regarding the training seminar. We hope to see you in Detroit this summer!



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NVLAP staff Barbara Belzer, Tom Hettner and Sherrie Wentzel

## NVLAP Open House

NVLAP celebrated the first International Accreditation Day on June 9, 2008, by inviting NIST staff to an open house where we served light refreshments and shared information about NVLAP programs with NIST staffers. Many of those in attendance are currently technical advisors for NVLAP programs. The theme for this year's International Accreditation Day was "Accreditation: Delivering Trust in the Global Market" — chosen to highlight how accreditation practices are harmonized at a worldwide level to underpin global trade.

## LAP Updates

### Updated Voting Handbook includes VVSG-2005

The NVLAP Voting System Testing (VST) program has issued an updated program-specific handbook, NIST Handbook 150-22, dated May 2008. The VST program encompasses standards that have been approved for use by the U. S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), which is the legally designated authority responsible for providing the American public with voting system standards as described in the Help American Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

The previous handbook had been written to include guidance for the requirements of the Voting System Standard of 2002 (VSS-2002). This was the standard in effect until December 2007. Starting in December 2007 all voting system testing was to be conducted to the requirements of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines of 2005 (VVSG-2005). The new program handbook includes the VVSG-2005 requirements.

All labs currently in the VST program have been accredited for both the VSS-2002 and VVSG-2005 in anticipation of the December 2007 start date. The new handbook may be downloaded from the NVLAP web site at <[www.nist.gov/nvlap](http://www.nist.gov/nvlap)>. Any questions may be addressed to the VST Program Manager, Jon Crickenberger, at <[jon.crickenberger@nist.gov](mailto:jon.crickenberger@nist.gov)> or 301-975-5305.

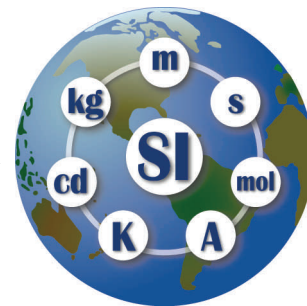
### Public Workshop for Biometrics Accreditation Program

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) conducted a public workshop on July 1, 2008, in Gaithersburg, MD, regarding the establishment of an accreditation program and technical requirements for laboratories that perform biometric testing including conformance and scenario testing using recognized standards. Additional technologies of biometric testing and standards may be identified throughout the development of the accreditation program technical requirements.

For a copy of the workshop presentations, or if you have questions regarding the development of the biometrics accreditation program, please contact: Brad Moore, Program Manager, at 301-975-5740 or <[brad.moore@nist.gov](mailto:brad.moore@nist.gov)>.

## Everything You Want To Know About SI (But Were Afraid to Ask)

The following article appeared in NIST's TechBeat, June 10, 2008 Relax, even scientists can sometimes use help when making conversions and measurements with the modern metric system, the International System of Units (known as SI from the French "Le Systeme International d'Unites"). The good news is that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has just released a guide for researchers, available to all, on correct SI usage and unit conversion.



NIST Special Publication (SP) 811, *Guide for the Use of the International System of Units*, complements the recently released U.S. version of the English language *SI Brochure*, SP 330, the eighth version of the international standard reference guide to the modern metric system. (See "[NIST Offers U.S. Interpretations of Recent SI \(Metric\) Changes](#)".)

SP 811 offers an extensive conversion factor appendix useful for measurement unit conversions and appropriate rounding strategies for data. It also provides an editorial checklist for reviewing manuscripts' conformity with the SI and the basic principles of physical quantities and units. A color chart has been added that illustrates the utilization of the SI base units in defining the 22 derived units with special names and symbols.

NIST SP 811 and NIST SP 330 are available online at <http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units> and at <http://nist.gov/metric>. Printed copies can be requested with an email to [TheSI@nist.gov](mailto:TheSI@nist.gov).

## NIST Offers U.S. Interpretations of Recent SI (Metric) Changes

The following article appeared in NIST's TechBeat, May 13, 2008 The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has issued a new American version of the English language SI Brochure, the eighth edition of the international standard reference guide to the modern metric system, the International System of Units (known as SI from the French "Le Systeme International d'Unites"). NIST is the U.S. technical representative to the International Bureau of Weights and Measures that defines the SI and coordinates the federal government policy on the conversion to SI by federal agencies.

SI plays an essential role in international commerce and is the common language of scientific and technological research and development. The 2008 edition of NIST's "The International System of Units" covers recent changes in the system since 1998. It "Americanizes" the SI to cover correct U.S. usage of metric units, such as the accepted spelling of "meter" and "liter." In addition, the revised guide includes a new chapter on units for quantities that describe biological effects, and symbols for expressing values for enzyme catalytic activity in biology and medicine.

The U.S. Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 designated "the metric system of measurement as the preferred system of weights and measures for United States trade and commerce." U.S. Public Law 110-69 in 2007, also known as the "American Competes Act," replaced the old definition of the metric system with the definition of the SI.

The 2008 editions of "[The International System of Units](#)", edited by Barry N. Taylor and Ambler Thompson, is available online along with additional information and measurement conversion tables at [Technology Services: Metric Information and Conversions](#). Hard copies can be requested by e-mail at [TheSI@nist.gov](mailto:TheSI@nist.gov).



## 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.



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NVLAP is located on the beautiful campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, MD

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