

NVLAP[®] NEWS

NATIONAL VOLUNTARY LABORATORY
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

www.nist.gov/nvlap

Farewell Sally Bruce

Effective November 1, 2011, Sally Bruce left the position of NVLAP Chief to become the first quality manager for NIST's measurement services. The position was recently established by NIST and is located in the Standards Coordination Office, an office of Laboratory Programs at NIST. The NIST quality system was established in response to NIST's becoming a signatory to the CIPM MRA (International Committee on Weights and Measures Mutual Recognition Arrangement) under the BIPM (International Bureau of Weights and Measures). The NIST quality system covers all measurements services areas for the thousands of standard reference materials and tests/calibrations issued by NIST each year. (For information about the CIPM MRA go to <http://www.bipm.org/en/cipm-mra/>.)

Ms. Bruce had served as the Chief of NVLAP since May 2006. Under her direction, NVLAP implemented many program improvements that bolstered NVLAP's ability to better serve its customers. The NIST quality system is in excellent hands.

David Alderman has been named interim Chief of NVLAP and has temporarily given up his duties as the leader of the Standards Coordination and Conformity Group until a permanent Chief is selected. As many of you may remember, Mr. Alderman served as the NVLAP Chief from October 1999 until December 2002.

Welcome back, David!



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New NIWS Release

NVLAP announces the newest release of the NVLAP Interactive Web Site (NIWS). Beginning January 1, 2012, the NIWS will accept applications for the new Healthcare IT laboratory accreditation program. Two more programs, Biometrics Testing and Voting System Testing, have also been added to the system, making the NIWS available to laboratories enrolled in 16 fields of accreditation. New system features in this release include: customer password reset; wire transfer payment option; and a new requirement for domestic labs to enter tax ID.

Laboratories that apply for or renew their accreditations using the NIWS do not have to mail a paper application to NVLAP! Supporting documents, such as quality manuals, may be securely uploaded through this web-based system.

Please contact Sherrie Wentzel sherrie.wentzel@nist.gov or Tessa Beavers tessa.beavers@nist.gov if you have any questions.

NCSLI Technical Exchange

On January 26-27, 2012, NCSLI will host a technical exchange in Charleston, South Carolina, to provide a forum for exchanging ideas, measurement techniques, best practices and innovations with others interested in metrology industry trends. Dana Leaman, NVLAP Program Manager, has collaborated with James Smith from Boeing to hold a half-day tutorial on Thursday, January 26th. The tutorial will focus on a discussion of the many international relationships, measurements terms and concepts to assist in the development of measurement knowledge and vocabulary understanding, enabling better participation in discussions within the greater measurement community.

For more information, please visit the NCSLI website, www.ncsli.org, or contact Dana Leaman at (301) 975-4679.

In Memoriam

James E. Oliverson

James E. Oliverson, a technical assessor for the NVLAP Construction Materials Testing Program since 1987, died on July 1, 2011, in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Oliverson was a civil engineering graduate of Kansas State University who retired from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) where he worked for 24 years. While at the USBR, Mr. Oliverson was responsible for investigations and construction quality control of dams, canals, and power plants, and other aspects of these projects. As head of the concrete section in the division of research, he was responsible for the development of quality control procedures for placing roller-compacted concrete (RCC), as well as concrete research and trouble evaluation on projects throughout USBR.

After retirement, Mr. Oliverson became a concrete consultant for primarily RCC dams and was a field engineer and technical consultant for two major RCC dams. Later he served in various consultant positions for a major San Diego, California shopping center and for two housing developments on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Oliverson was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving during WWII in the South Pacific.

NVLAP Documents – New/Revised (June 2011- October 2011)

The following publications and forms were issued from June 1, 2011 through October 31, 2011, and may be downloaded from the NVLAP website. For revised publications and forms, the edition listed on the NVLAP website 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/nvlap/nvlapstaff.cfm>), or Vanda White, NVLAP Quality Manager, at vanda.white@nist.gov.

NVLAP Policy Guides

NVLAP Policy Guide PG-8-2011, *Amendments to NIST Handbook 150:2006, 3.4.1* (2011-06-02)

General Forms and Information

NVLAP Fee Schedule (rev. 2011-10-18) *

Fee Calculation Worksheet - Testing Laboratories - renamed "Fee Calculation Worksheet for New Laboratories" (rev. 2011-10-18)

Fee Calculation Worksheet - Calibration Laboratories - withdrawn and combined with worksheet for testing laboratories

Assessor Forms and Information

Laboratory Assessment Instructions for Assessors (rev. 2011-07-11)

NVLAP Assessor Bulletin AB-13-2011, *Revision of NVLAP Instructions for Assessors* (2011-07-11)

Assessor Criteria and Worksheet for Selecting, Qualifying, and Training Assessors (rev. 2011-08-10)

NVLAP Assessor Quote Form (rev. 2011-10-18)

Instructions for Preparing an Invoice for Laboratory Assessment and Related Services (rev. 2011-10-18)

NVLAP Laboratory Assessment and Related Services Invoice (rev. 2011-10-18)

Biometrics Testing LAP

Biometrics Testing Application (rev. 2011-09-15) *

Calibration Laboratories LAP

Calibration Laboratories Application/Parameter Selection List (rev. 2011-10-20) *

Carpet and Carpet Cushion LAP

NIST Handbook 150-6 Checklist, *Carpet and Carpet Cushion* (rev. 2011-10-20)

Chemical Calibration: Certifiers of Spectrophotometric NTRMs

NIST Handbook 150-21:2011, *Chemical Calibration: Certifiers of Spectrophotometric NTRMs* (June 2011)

NIST Handbook 150-21 Checklist, *Chemical Calibration: Certifiers of Spectrophotometric NTRMs* (rev. 2011-07-12)

NVLAP Documents – continued

Energy Efficient Lighting Products LAP

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-60-2011, *Update of Energy Efficient Lighting Test Method Selection List* (2011-08-09)

Energy Efficient Lighting Products Application Form (rev. 2011-09-02) *

Ionizing Radiation Dosimetry LAP

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-61-2011, *Clarification of NIST Handbook 150-4, 5.6.2* (2011-09-12)

NVLAP Lab Bulletin LB-62-2011, *Change in Quarterly Proficiency Testing Schedule* (2011-10-25)

Thermal Insulation Materials LAP

NIST Handbook 150-15 Checklist, *Thermal Insulation Materials* (rev. 2011-10-20)

Wood-Based Products LAP

NIST Handbook 150-9 Checklist, *Wood-Based Products* (rev. 2011-10-20)

* Documents marked by an asterisk (*) have been amended since this news article was written. Please refer to the NVLAP website for the most recent edition of each document and form.

IAAC

Barbara Belzer, NVLAP calibration program manager and NVLAP's delegate to the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and Chair of the Laboratories Subcommittee, and Ileana Martinez, NVLAP International Affairs Specialist and Vice-Chair of IAAC, attended the IAAC General Assembly in Quito, Ecuador, on August 19-26, 2011.

IAAC's mission is to promote cooperation among accreditation bodies and interested parties of the Americas, aiming at the development of conformity assessment structures to achieve the improvement of products, processes and services.

For more information about IAAC, go to www.iaac.org.



NVLAP Program News

Dosimetry

Betty Ann Sandoval, program manager for ionizing radiation dosimetry and radiation detection instruments testing, attended the *2011 Industry Discussion: Ionizing Radiation Detection & Measurement* held in Rockville, MD, on November 30 to December 1, 2011. David Alderman, Chief of NVLAP, gave a presentation about NVLAP accreditation. The meeting attendees represented industry (both vendors and manufacturers of radiation detection equipment), academia, and government. The current status of research efforts and the needs of the different groups working with ionizing radiation were discussed.

Healthcare IT

NVLAP announces the release of NIST Handbook 150-31, *Healthcare Information Technology Testing*. This handbook supports the program-specific requirements for accreditation of the laboratories performing functional and conformance testing of electronic health record products to nationally recognized meaningful use requirements for healthcare IT products. A copy of the handbook can be downloaded at <http://nist.gov/nvlap/upload/NIST-HB-150-31-2011.pdf>.

NVLAP is also releasing the program-specific application form associated with the Healthcare Information Technology Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program (HIT LAP). However, please note that acceptance of applications for this program is not currently open. Acceptance of applications for the HIT LAP is scheduled to begin January 1, 2012.

Additional information and future updates regarding the NVLAP HIT LAP can be found at <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap/hit-lap.cfm>. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Dana Leaman, NVLAP HIT LAP Program Manager, at 301-975-4679 or via e-mail at dana.leaman@nist.gov.

NVLAP Payment Plan Option



Another reminder that NVLAP offers an extended payment plan through NIST's Accounts Receivables Office for laboratories wanting extra time to pay NVLAP fees over a 6-month period. A repayment plan agreement must be arranged at the time of renewal.

To take advantage of this payment option, a laboratory must first send its purchase order and application to NVLAP. 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. If you have any questions about the payment plan, please contact NVLAP at (301) 975-4016 or by e-mail at nvlap@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 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 Brian Renegar, NIST Staff

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 Coordination Office, Laboratory Programs, 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 **NVLAP** Home Page: <<http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>>.