

	<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> October 9, 2009
	<b>LAB BULLETIN</b>	<b>NUMBER:</b> LB-44-2009
		<b>LAP:</b> Construction Materials Testing
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Nuclear Density-Moisture Gauges		

This bulletin announces the availability of a mutually recognized calibration service provider for the calibration of nuclear density-moisture gauges for construction materials testing laboratories.

Qal-Tek Associates (<http://www.qaltek.com>) has become accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) to perform calibrations of nuclear density-moisture gauges. When possible, NVLAP-accredited construction materials testing laboratories shall use accredited calibration laboratories.

NIST Handbook 150, Annex B, B.3.3 states: “NVLAP-accredited laboratories . . . shall use accredited calibration laboratory services wherever available. Accredited calibration laboratories are those accredited by NVLAP or by any accrediting body with which NVLAP has a mutual recognition arrangement.”

If a NVLAP-accredited laboratory is not using the calibration services of a mutually recognized accredited calibration laboratory, then the NVLAP-accredited laboratory shall document the reason that it cannot use the services of such a laboratory and shall provide documentation of the traceability of the calibration of the nuclear density-moisture gauge in accordance with NIST Handbook 150, Annex B. The laboratory’s audit of the calibration service is to be performed in accordance with requirement B.3.4. The audit shall document that the management system of the service conforms to the management system requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, which are provided in NIST Handbook 150 and verify the traceability of the calibration.

During the next on-site assessment of the construction materials testing laboratory, the laboratory must either provide evidence that an accredited calibration laboratory is used for the calibration of the nuclear density-moisture gauges, or 1) provide documentation of the reasons the testing laboratory cannot use an accredited calibration laboratory and 2) provide evidence of an audit in accordance with NIST Handbook 150, Annex B, to show that traceability has been established for the calibration of the nuclear density-moisture gauges.

Test methods that require the use of a nuclear density-moisture gauge will be deleted from the scope of accreditation of a NVLAP-accredited laboratory if the laboratory cannot either verify that it is using an accredited calibration service provider or provide evidence of a satisfactory audit of its non-accredited calibration service provider.

This bulletin has also been posted on the Program-Specific Handbooks and Lab Bulletins page of the NVLAP web site (<http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>).

Questions concerning the construction materials testing requirements for accreditation should be directed to Betty Ann Sandoval at 301-975-8446, or <[betty.sandoval@nist.gov](mailto:betty.sandoval@nist.gov)>.