




April 10, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR NVLAP-accredited Providers of Proficiency Testing and other interested parties

From: C. Douglas Faison, Acting Chief of NVLAP 

Subject: Termination of the Providers of Proficiency Testing Program

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) is announcing that, effective COB September 30, 2006 the Chemical Calibration, Providers of Proficiency Testing Program (PPT) will be terminated. Reason for termination is as follows.

The NVLAP PPT program was established in 1999 in response to the need for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to externalize its Water Proficiency Evaluation Program and was designed as a competence based program; meaning laboratories are periodically assessed and found competent to prepare and analyze samples and to conduct studies. Laboratories are re-evaluated every two years requiring a complete review of their competence and their performance on studies conducted. Laboratories are also required to participate in proficiency testing activities administered by the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division (ACD). While the NVLAP PPT Program was deemed acceptable at the time of its implementation in 1999, it currently does not meet the requirements of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Standard, which was published in 2003.

The 2003 NELAC Standard requires that PT Providers be accredited by a Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (PTOB)/Proficiency Test Provider Accreditor (PTPA). Chapter 2 of the NELAC Standard sets out the requirements for the operation of a PTOB/PTPA. Specifically, clauses D.4 and D.5 of Chapter 2, Appendix D, require ongoing oversight of PT Providers and the development and maintenance of a comprehensive database for the purpose of statistical monitoring of Proficiency Testing Providers' study data. The NVLAP PPT program does not meet these requirements because it does not include ongoing oversight and NVLAP does not have the resources to develop and maintain the required database. NVLAP, therefore, did not apply to serve as a PTOB/PTPA and does not wish to be recognized by NELAC as having an accreditation program that meets the requirements for service as a PTOB/PTPA.

NELAC has approved at least one PTOB/PTPA that will satisfy the original need and that meets current requirements. NVLAP has been informed that this PTOB/PTPA's program will be operational by June 30, 2006. NVLAP will maintain the accreditations of the current NVLAP-accredited Providers until September 30, 2006 to ensure continuity in coverage.

There will be no on-site assessments conducted as previously scheduled. Any on-site fees paid for the current accreditation period will be refunded in full. For those Providers whose accreditation expires after September 30, 2006, the Administrative/Technical Support fee will be prorated and the unused portion will be refunded.

All questions and comments should be directed C. Douglas Faison at (301) 975-5304 or via email at [faisond@nist.gov](mailto:faisond@nist.gov).

**NIST**