



National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation

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NACLA Releases New R18 Recognition

In its continuing effort to reduce accreditation redundancy and increase competence in the laboratory testing industry, the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) just released a new evaluation procedure to recognize laboratory Accreditation Bodies (ABs) that accredit laboratories to AASHTO R18, giving construction materials and engineering testing (CMET) laboratories another option for recognized accreditation, according to current NACLA President David Savage.

"NACLA continues to grow to meet the needs of the US laboratory accreditation system," noted Savage. "This is a great new recognition program for NACLA which gives the ABs another, more targeted option for accrediting CMET laboratories to better meet the needs of their customers."

NACLA members developed sector-specific technical requirements for AASHTO R18 to create this new prototype. Previously, the only recognized accreditation available to CMET laboratories combined ISO 17025 quality system requirements with NACLA's CMET-specific technical requirements.

In addition, NACLA offers accepted evaluation procedures for ABs assessing to ISO 17025; ANSI/NCCL Z540.3, Subclause 5.3 (Z540.3); and ISO 17020.

A public-private partnership founded in 1998 to provide coordination and focus for US laboratory accreditation, NACLA's primary mission is to evaluate US ABs and grant recognition to ABs that comply with NACLA procedures and relevant international standards for competent ABs. Representing four key stakeholder groups--industry, government, laboratories and ABs, NACLA also provides education and training related to AB recognition and laboratory accreditation standards. For more information, email info@nacla.net, or go to www.nacla.net.