

	<b>DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> National Institute of Standards and Technology National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b> August 9, 2013
	<b>LAB BULLETIN</b>	<b>NUMBER:</b> LB-78-2013
		<b>LAP:</b> Common Criteria Testing
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Revision of the NVLAP Common Criteria Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program		

Due to recent changes in the Common Criteria Evaluation Validation Scheme (CCEVS) of the National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP), NVLAP announces the revision of its Common Criteria Testing (CCT) Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP) to incorporate a revision to the NVLAP accreditation process, as well as revision of the test methods listed on the scopes of accreditation for laboratories accredited in the CCT LAP.

NIAP, in collaboration with the International Common Criteria community, has made policy changes that impact the products accepted for evaluation and the assurance activities performed as part of evaluations. NIAP will only accept products into evaluation that conform to one or more NIAP-approved Protection Profiles (PPs). NIAP-approved PPs include tailored assurance activities that are not comparable with the current statement of scope based upon EAL levels. The tailored assurance activities defined in each PP will meet or exceed the current CC assurance level of EAL1, but there may be additional assurance activities that are not defined in the currently published Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM), Version 3.1, revision 4, CCMB-2012-09-004.

The NVLAP program-specific handbook for the CCT LAP, NIST Handbook 150-20, is currently being revised to incorporate these changes. As of the date of this bulletin, NVLAP will begin taking the following actions regarding revision of the CCT LAP:

1. Effective August 9, 2013, the scope of accreditation under the CCT LAP will be APE, ASE, EAL1, and evaluations against NIAP-Approved Protection Profiles or Collaborative Protection Profiles.
2. By August 30, 2013, the published scopes of accreditation for existing CCTs will be revised to reflect the new format for listing a laboratory's technical capability.
3. The proficiency demonstration process has been revised and this revision has been incorporated into the changes within NIST Handbook 150-20. The results of each CCT product evaluation will be used in place of periodic proficiency demonstrations. At the close of each evaluation, NIAP/CCEVS will provide NVLAP with an analysis of CCT proficiency and a summary of CCT activities that support the testing performed for the product evaluation. NVLAP will use these results as evidence to maintain the CCT's accreditation. *Please note that all future proficiency demonstration activities will be against the test methods as listed on the revised scope of accreditation.*

4. NVLAP, with input from NIAP, is streamlining the accreditation process for candidate laboratories. The process for initial accreditation has been revised to allow for one on-site assessment visit. Once a candidate laboratory successfully completes its initial on-site assessment, the successful completion of the candidate CCTL's proficiency demonstration will provide further evidence that the quality system is being properly executed.

As such, the accreditation process has been revised within the CCT LAP and no additional on-site assessment is mandatory. However, it should be noted that if significant concerns are identified during the initial on-site assessment and/or during the proficiency demonstration, NVLAP reserves the right to require an additional on-site assessment prior to granting initial accreditation of the candidate laboratory.

5. An update to NIST Handbook 150-20 will be published that documents the above changes and aligns the CCT LAP with current NIAP and International Common Criteria policies and direction. The target date for a final draft of the handbook revision is August 15, 2013, with publication to follow once the appropriate publication approvals have been obtained.

Questions concerning the accreditation procedures should be directed to Dana Leaman, NVLAP Program Manager, [dana.leaman@nist.gov](mailto:dana.leaman@nist.gov), 301-975-4679.

Questions concerning additional technical information regarding these test method revisions should be directed to NIAP at [niap@niap-ccevs.org](mailto:niap@niap-ccevs.org), 410-854-4458.