

NIST Handbook 143, Program Handbook for OWM Laboratory Recognition

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A draft of the 9th edition of NIST Handbook 143, Program Handbook (last published in 2019) has been posted for comments on the OWM website. You can download and review the document and submit comments via a Word comments document throughout the remainder of the year until December 31, 2021. Submitted comments should also include proposed language where necessary for suggested changes. The draft, comment form, and instructions for submitting comments can be found online [here](#).

In addition to the proposed draft (in PDF), the prior and current publications of the technical content - as published - are also posted with a “track-change” version for your convenience in comparing prior, current, and proposed technical requirements. Please submit a separate comment form for reviewing the primary sections of the handbook, each appendix, and each annex. Significant technical discrepancies and/or disagreements will be reviewed by a working group made up of those who comment. Editorial comments will be resolved by OWM staff.

Major changes to this draft document include the reincorporation of technical requirements into NIST Handbook 143 as annexes, using the same approach as NVLAP Handbook 150-2 rather than referencing each measurement parameter in the NVLAP criteria. This is being done to (1) consolidate all technical content with program criteria for state labs in one document based on feedback from laboratories and (2) ensure the most recent technical content is being used for state weights and measures laboratories.

Several of the NVLAP annexes were adopted with very minor changes to ensure as much consistency as possible but with application additions appropriate for legal metrology. The mass and volume annexes proposed for NIST Handbook 143 have the most significant differences from the NVLAP criteria based on extensive comparisons of the NVLAP criteria, the Handbook 143 5th edition (2007) technical criteria, the latest content in the NIST Handbook 105 series, and review of OWM and other internationally accepted documentary standards and calibration procedures. Final track-change versions will be submitted to NVLAP for their consideration in future updates to Handbook 150-2 in hopes of ensuring consistent requirements and laboratory evaluations.