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Who's Who in Calibration Accreditation?

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Acceptance of calibration reports from non-governmental laboratories continues to be a question that is raised by State programs. International agreements and domestic arrangements are continually changing. Thus it is important to stay up to date and regularly review whether or not calibration reports should be accepted from various organizations.

Based on recent changes to Handbook 130, and possible adoption in your jurisdiction, the acceptance of calibration reports will become increasingly important.

Recommendations for accepting calibration reports:

1. States are encouraged to continue to accept calibration reports from laboratories Recognized by the NIST Weights and Measures Division.
2. States MAY also accept calibration reports from laboratories accredited by organizations with recognition for calibrations (e.g., NACLA recognized, for calibrations) or full membership in international bodies only (e.g., IAAC, ILAC, or APLAC). See the table and graphic below to identify suitable organizations.

Summary Table of Relationships

	ILAC	NACLA	APLAC	IAAC
NVLAP	Full Member	Recognized	Full Member	Full Member
A2LA	Full Member	Withdrew	Full Member	Full Member
L-A-B		Recognized		
IAS	Full Member	Testing Only	Full Member	Full Member
ACLASS		Recognized	Full Member	Full Member
NACLA	Stakeholder	---	---	---
APLAC	Full Member	---	---	---
IAAC	Full Member	---	---	---

3. If you do accept calibration reports from laboratories other than your own, make sure that the recognition or accreditation is current and covers the scope (parameter, range, and uncertainty) are covered. E.g., mass, up to 1 kg, uncertainties less than applicable tolerances.

4. States continue to have regulatory authority to assess, spot check, inspect, and re-test standards used in authorized commercial activities even if calibration reports are accepted from laboratories other than their own - and to refuse acceptance if recurrent problems are found. (In the case of problems, it is essential to notify the laboratory and their accreditor as a formal complaint.)

Accreditation Bodies:

NVLAP - National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NIST)

A2LA - American Association of Laboratory Accreditation

L-A-B - Laboratory Accreditation Bureau

IAS - International Accreditation Service

ACLASS - Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services

Organizations that offer Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) and recognition of

Accreditation Bodies (ABs):

ILAC - International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

APLAC - Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

NACLA - National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation

EA - European Cooperation for Accreditation

IAAC - Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation