

Establishment of testing laboratory accreditation under NVLAP – The DHS perspective

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What is NVLAP?

■ NVLAP is:

- A system for accrediting laboratories found competent to perform specific tests or calibrations or types of tests or calibrations

■ NVLAP is not:

- A certifier of test data
- A certifier of products
- An operator of a certification program

The National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)

- A **process for accreditation** of testing and calibration laboratories
- **NIST** manages NVLAP program
- Based on **ISO/IEC standard 17025**
- **Fee supported** program

Laboratory Accreditation

Independent, third party evaluation of a laboratory's **technical competence.**

- Evaluation is based on a Standard
- Evaluation of **specific scope of accreditation**
- Evaluation by peer technical experts
- Results in formal recognition

NIST Handbook 150

NVLAP General Procedures and Requirements

- ✓ General Information
- ✓ Accrediting a Laboratory
- ✓ Conditions and Criteria for Accreditation
- ✓ Sections 4 and 5 contain the managerial and technical requirements of **ISO/IEC 17025:2005**
- ✓ **Supplement created for specific subject areas, i.e. Cryptography, and now Biometrics**

Stimulus for Biometrics LAP

TSA mandated by Public Law to develop
biometric testing guidance and establish a list

Collaboration with NIST and industry

Guidance included testing to be performed by
NVLAP accredited laboratory

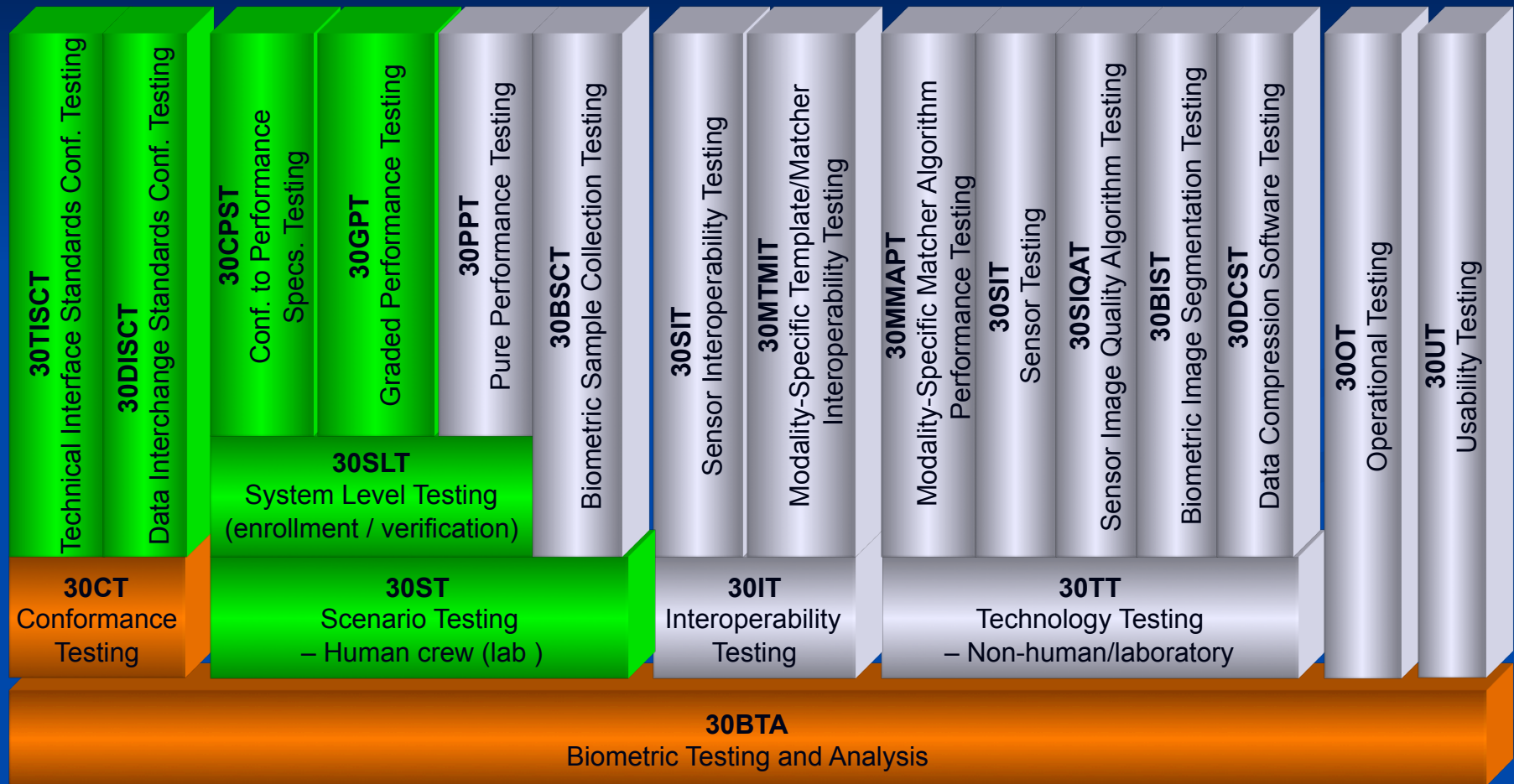
Guidance published 2005

NIST Handbook 150-25

Biometrics

- NVLAP Specific Biometric Testing Procedures and Requirements
- Defines “Scopes” of Accreditation – labs choose which Scopes they seek accreditation
- Initial publication Fall 2009

Biometrics LAP-Scopes



Biometric Scopes

30/CT Conformance Testing

30/TISCT Technical Interface Standards Conformance Testing

30/DISCT Data Interchange Standards Conformance Testing

30/ST Scenario Testing – Human Crew (Laboratory)

30/SLT System Level Testing (enrollment/verification)

30/CPST Conformance to Performance Specifications Test

30/GPT Graded Performance Testing

30/PPT Pure Performance Testing

30/BSCT Biometric Sample Collection Testing

30/IT Interoperability Testing

30/SIT Sensors Interoperability Testing

30/MTMIT Modality-Specific Template/Matcher Interoperability Testing (one-to-one or one-to-many)

30/TT Technology Testing – Non-human/Laboratory

30/MMAPT Modality-Specific Matcher Algorithm Performance Testing

30/STT Sensors Technology Testing

30/SIQAT Sensor Image Quality Algorithm Testing

30/BIST Biometric Image Segmentation Testing

30/DCST Data Compression Software Testing

30/OT Operational Testing

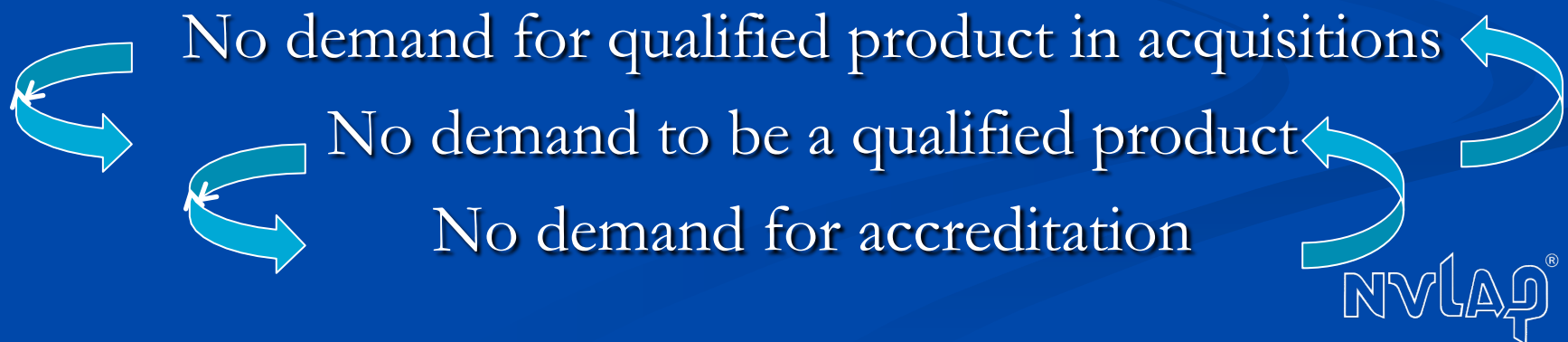
30/UT Usability Testing

DHS Perspective

- Utilize Biometrics LAP stimulated by TSA
- Strong motivation to share re-usable test results across the Department (potential for inter-Departmental as well)
- DHS SCO collaborated with TSA/TWIC and commissioned NIST to establish a testing results Management Plan
- Desire to add Scopes (e.g. Quality Algorithm)

ONE BIG ISSUE!

- Slow uptake by biometrics testing organizations
 - Low volume of testing demand
 - No ROI (to recover up front costs)
- DHS S&T has interest in methods to incentivize/stimulate testing organizations
- “Chicken-and-Egg” situations:



Thanks for your attention

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- <http://www.nist.gov/nvlap>
- NIST Handbook 150, 150-25

