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ACIL - NACLA Sign New Agreement on Accreditation Standards

ATLANTA, GA, OCTOBER 12, 2007—The American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) and the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to launch the creation of a new strategic partnership that will develop supplemental technical requirements for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories.

ACIL will lead in the joint development of supplemental technical requirements starting in areas such as food testing, electromagnetic compatibility, and construction materials testing. Specifiers and regulators will participate in the drafting, review, acceptance, and updating of these supplemental technical requirements. The resulting requirements will be recommended by ACIL's Supplemental Accreditation Requirements Committee for NACLA approval and then incorporated into NACLA's recognition process. ACIL and NACLA will jointly publish these documents.

According to Walter Poggi, Chair, ACIL's Government Affairs Committee and Past Chair of the ACIL Board of Directors: "This agreement is important for two reasons. First, it will give both the testing industry and specifiers of accreditation programs in the U.S. more involvement in the accreditation process. Second, it will produce more consistent technical requirements across multiple accreditation bodies. As a result, we expect to give specifiers and regulators greater confidence in laboratory results."

Commenting on behalf of NACLA, Tony Anderson, Executive Director, stated: "Through this new partnership with ACIL, NACLA will now be able to develop meaningful supplemental technical information with its participating specifiers and regulators. This will provide the technical oversight and consistency that has been lacking. Each accreditation body will then be able to expand their scopes of accreditation accordingly."

After approval of the technical requirements, ACIL will develop companion accreditor training classes that explain the requirements so that they are applied in a uniform, consistent manner.

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