



[National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NACLA Joins US Chamber of Commerce

February 9, 2012 - Washington, DC - The National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) is now a member of the United States Chamber of Commerce (Chamber). The decision to join the Chamber was made during a recent meeting of the NACLA Board of Directors.

"As a domestic recognition body, it made sense for NACLA to cooperate with and take advantage of the resources and strength of the US Chamber of Commerce," said Arman Hovakemian, NACLA President. "Strengthening NACLA's position in the market was one of the reasons we made the decision," Hovakemian continued. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations. More than 96% of U.S. Chamber members are small businesses with 100 employees or fewer. "The US Chamber of Commerce is proud of the significant resources that we make available to our association members," stated Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, Executive Director, Political Affairs & Federation Relations.

The National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1998. It was founded by representatives of public and private-sector organizations to provide coordination and focus for laboratory accreditation programs in the U.S. NACLA's primary mission is to evaluate U.S. laboratory accreditation bodies (ABs) and to grant recognition to those ABs found to be in compliance with NACLA procedures and the relevant international standards for competent ABs. NACLA also provides educational and training opportunities to persons interested in laboratory accreditation.

NACLA is a stakeholder organization. Accordingly, its leadership body, the Board of Directors is composed of balanced representation from the four key stakeholder groups: Industry, Government, Laboratories and Accreditation Bodies. NACLA Recognitions: 1. *Evaluation Procedure for Accreditation Bodies Assessing to ISO/IEC 17025 (17025)*; 2. *Evaluation Procedure for Accreditation Bodies Assessing to Technical Requirements of ANSI/NCSL Z540.3, Subclause 5.3 (Z540.3)*; and, 3. *Evaluation Procedure for Accreditation Bodies Assessing to Technical Requirements for Construction and Materials Testing (CMET)*.

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