

Rev B October 6, 2016

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0. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the process for third-party accreditation of testing laboratories and to specify the minimum criteria for those accreditations to meet requirements of the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation. This Sector Specific Technical Requirement Evaluation Procedure is not intended as a restatement of ISO/IEC 17025. There are also additional requirements for ISO/IEC 17011 as well as additional Sector Specific Technical Requirements.

The additions, or modifications, or where clarifications are considered necessary, are only listed. Accreditation is defined in ISO/IEC 17000 third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. Assessment includes quality system and documentation review as well as on-site assessment of technical competence. Accreditation is granted for the specific tests/calibrations that are documented in the Scope section of the Letter of Accreditation.

For the purposes of this document an accredited laboratory is one that complies with ISO/IEC 17025 and the additional Sector Specific Technical Requirements of this Evaluation Procedure. Compliance is determined by the results of assessment and documented in the Letter of Accreditation from a recognized accrediting body.

1 Scope

Accreditation is defined in ISO/IEC 17000 third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. Assessment includes quality system and documentation review as well as on-site assessment of technical competence. Accreditation is granted for the specific tests/calibrations that are documented in the Scope section of a Letter of Accreditation issued by an independent third party.

The scope of the CMT field, as described in this document, includes the following materials areas: concrete and aggregates, cement, soils, bituminous materials, roofing materials, masonry, steel and non-destructive tests related to construction. Accreditation may be offered for one or more tests in each area. Additional areas may be added upon request. As an option, a laboratory may also obtain accreditation for one or more of the following construction materials engineering standards:

- ASTM E329 Specification for Agencies Engaged in the Testing and/or Inspection of Materials Used in Construction
- ASTM C1077 Practice for Laboratories Testing Concrete and Concrete Aggregates for Use in Construction and Criteria for Laboratory Evaluation
- ASTM D3666 Specification for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Testing and Inspecting Bituminous Paving Materials
- ASTM D3740 Practice for Evaluation of Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soils and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction
- ASTM C1093 Practice for Accreditation of Testing Agencies for Unit Masonry
- ASTM E1212 Practice for Establishment and Maintenance of Quality Control Systems for Nondestructive Testing Agencies
- ASTM E543 Practice for Evaluating Agencies that Perform Nondestructive Testing
- ASTM A880 Practice for Criteria for Use in Evaluation of Testing Laboratories and Organizations for Examination and Inspection of Steel, Stainless Steel and Related Alloys
- AASHTO R 18 Establishing and Implementing a Quality Management System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories

When accredited for one of these engineering standards, the laboratory's scope of accreditation shall indicate "Construction Materials Testing".

2 References

NACLA Accreditation Body Evaluation Procedure

ISO/IEC 17011:2004 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies

ISO/IEC 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of calibration and testing laboratories

AASHTO R18, Recommended Practice for Establishing and Implementing a Quality Management System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories

3 Additional Requirements to ISO/IEC 17011 for Accreditation Bodies

- 3.1 This section defines both general and specific requirements for the application of the ISO/IEC17011 to accreditation bodies in the CMT field.
- 3.2 The Accreditation Body in developing and implementing its accreditation program shall follow the requirements in the NACLA Evaluation Procedure and ISO/IEC 17011. In addition, the following requirements shall also apply.

3.2.1 Quality Manual

3.2.1.1 The Accreditation Body shall, as a minimum, hold annual meetings with all assessors in the appropriate construction/test area to discuss complaints, inconsistencies in assessments, changes in procedures, etc.

3.2.2 Assessment

- 3.2.2.1 The assessor shall verify that the laboratory has the appropriate equipment, calibration and verification records, test procedures, and trained personnel to perform every procedure in the proposed scope.
- 3.2.2.2 The assessor shall observe a complete demonstration of each test on the scope that appears on the list of test procedures listed in Appendix A. The assessor shall use check-lists to record all findings. Test procedures shall be performed with applicable materials.
- 3.2.2.3 The assessor shall observe all test procedures from areas not covered by test procedures listed in Appendix A. For those tests not listed in Appendix A, the assessor must also observe a complete demonstration of the tests within a particular discipline. The assessor shall use checklists to record all findings.
- 3.2.2.4 The accreditation body shall verify that the laboratories' testing equipment used in the test procedures listed in Appendix A meet the standards. The accreditation body shall either own all the appropriate equipment for this verification or have a third party provide the equipment. A recommended list of equipment can be found in section 5. The assessor has the option of either verifying the test equipment him/herself or observing laboratory personnel verify the test equipment with the equipment that is owned or controlled by the accreditation body. This program shall ensure that the measurements made are traceable to the International System of Units (SI) or if appropriate a consensus standard.

3.2.3 Surveillance and Reassessment of Accredited Laboratories

3.2.3.1 The accreditation body shall evaluate a laboratory's status at least annually. The annual evaluation shall at a minimum take into consideration the laboratory's performance in proficiency testing programs.

4 Additional Requirements to ISO/IEC 17025 for Laboratories

- 4.1 This section defines both general and specific requirements in addition to those contained in ISO/IEC 17025. As a minimum it is expected that all requirements of 17025 be satisfied, with the exception of clauses that can be justified, and documented, as "Not Applicable" to a particular laboratory.
- 4.2 The requirements for the CMT field are based on the applicable requirements of the specific standards for which accreditation is sought. The requirements of AASHTO R18, Establishing and Implementing a Quality System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories were considered in developing this document.
- 4.3 Each of the following statements should be understood to be mandatory laboratory requirements.

4.4 Management Requirements

4.4.1 Organization

4.4.1.1 Operational position descriptions shall identify the position and include a description of the duties associated with the position, required skills, education and experience, and supervision exercised and received.

4.4.2 Quality System

4.4.2.1 The quality manual or related documentation shall contain a brief biographical sketch, noting the education, work experience, licensure, certifications, and current position of supervisory technical staff involved in testing areas included in the scope of accreditation.

4.4.3 Technical Records

- 4.4.3.1 The laboratory shall retain results of participation in proficiency sample programs including data sheets, summary reports, and documentation describing steps taken to determine the cause of outlying results and the corrective actions taken.
- 4.4.3.2 Records pertaining to testing, equipment calibration and verification, test reports, internal audits and management reviews, proficiency sample testing, test technician training and evaluation and personnel shall be retained by the laboratory in a secure location for a minimum of five (5) years.
- 4.4.3.3 The laboratory shall maintain calibration and verification records for all equipment used for the correct performance of the tests on the scope of accreditation. Such records shall include:
 - 4.4.3.3.1 detailed results of the work performed (dimensions, mass, force, frequency, temperature, time, etc.)
 - 4.4.3.3.2 description of the equipment calibrated or verified including model and serial number or other acceptable identification
 - 4.4.3.3.3 date the work was done
 - 4.4.3.3.4 identification of the individual performing the work
 - 4.4.3.3.5 identification of the calibration or verification procedure used
 - 4.4.3.3.6 the previous calibration or verification date and the next due date and the identification of any in-house calibration or verification device used (including serial numbers, lab numbers or other identification used to establish traceability of items such as standard masses, proving rings, standard thermometers, balances, calipers, etc.)

4.4.4.1 The laboratory's management shall review the quality system established to satisfy the requirements of this standard at least annually. In addition the laboratory shall also have a policy to perform a management review when there is a reason to suspect problems in the quality of the CMT work, such as technical complaints, proficiency testing (PT) results, etc.

4.5 Technical Requirements

4.5.1 Personnel

- 4.5.1.1 The training procedure shall indicate what position(s) or employee(s) is responsible for the laboratory's training program and maintenance of training records, shall describe the distribution of records to management and shall identify the location of resulting records.
- 4.5.1.2 The training procedure shall also describe the method(s) used to evaluate staff competency to ensure that each test covered by the scope of accreditation is performed in accordance with standard procedures. This description shall include the frequency of evaluations for each technician and indicate what position(s) or employee(s) is responsible for evaluating staff competency and maintaining records, shall describe the distribution of records to management and shall identify the location of resulting records. The procedure shall ensure that each technician performing each test method is evaluated.
- 4.5.1.3 Training records shall include a form for recording training and competency evaluation activities including the name of the trainee, name of the evaluator, test method evaluated, the dates, and results.

4.5.2 Equipment

- 4.5.2.1 The laboratory's records shall include a list(s) giving a general description of equipment for performing the test methods on the scope of accreditation which require calibration or verification. Each item on the list(s) shall include information on the interval of calibration or verification, a reference to the calibration or verification procedure used and the location of the calibration or verification records.
- 4.5.2.2 The test equipment listed in AASHTO R18 Tables A1.1-A1.9 shall be calibrated or verified at intervals no greater than those shown in those Tables unless the laboratory has documentation that a different calibration/verification interval is appropriate.
- 4.5.2.3 Each piece of equipment shall be labeled to identify the specific calibration due date, or usage equivalent.
- 4.5.2.4 The laboratory shall have detailed written procedures for all in-house calibration and verification activities not addressed in standards. These procedures shall indicate the equipment required to perform the calibration or verification.
- 4.5.3 Assuring the Quality of Test and Calibration Results

4.5.3.1 Proficiency Testing

- 4.5.3.1.1 Applicants under Construction Materials Testing are required to participate in all the available proficiency testing programs for the tests included in their scope of accreditation. Enrollment in the programs related to a laboratory's scope of accreditation satisfies this requirement.
- 4.5.3.1.2 If a laboratory's results are deemed outliers or unacceptable (ratings of "0" or "1" for the above programs), then the laboratory shall promptly investigate and determine the cause(s) for such unacceptable results, correct any problems identified, and report to AB.

- A. Concrete Applicable Standards: ASTM C39, C138, C143, C173, and C192.
- B. <u>Cement</u> Applicable Standards: ASTM C109, C114, C115, C151, C185, C186, C187, C188, C191, C204, C266, C430, and C451.
- C. <u>Masonry</u> Applicable Standards: ASTM C91, C109, C151, C185, C187, C188, and C266.
- (AASHTO equivalent standards are in parentheses after each ASTM designation)
- D. <u>Bituminous</u> Applicable Standards: ASTM D5 (AASHTO T49), D70 (T228), D92 (T48), D1754 (T179), D2042 (T44), D2170 (T201), D2171(T202), D2872 (T240).
- E. <u>Soils</u> Applicable Standards: ASTM D422 (AASHTO T88), D698 (T99), D854 (T100), D2844 (T190), D4318 (T89 & T90).
- F. <u>Aggregate</u> Applicable Standards: ASTM C88 (AASHTO T104), C117 (T11), C127 (T85), C128 (T84), C131 (T96), C136 (T27).
- G. <u>Bituminous Concrete</u> Applicable Standards: ASTM D5 (AASHTO T49), D1559 (T245), D1560 (T246), D1856 (T170), D2041 (T209), D2170 (T201), D2171 (T202), D2172 (T164), D2726 (T166), D3203 (T269), D5444 (T30).

4.5.4 Reporting Results

4.5.4.1 The laboratory shall have a procedure that describes methods used to prepare, check and amend test reports. The procedure shall identify the individual(s) responsible for maintaining test reports, shall describe the distribution of test reports, and shall identify the location of stored test reports.

5 Equipment for Verification Checks

Several of the checklists for construction materials tests require assessors to perform verification checks of laboratory equipment. The following list includes recommended equipment for per-forming those checks. This list is not considered mandatory or exhaustive. The Accreditation Body is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate equipment is used for each verification, and that it is appropriately calibrated

Dimensional Equipment

Angle gauge (90° ± ½°) for cube molds

45° with 2 ½ - in. circumference gauge (for flexure apparatus)

Bar mold height/width gauge

Bar mold length gauge

Calipers - Inside, outside; various sizes

Dividers (for measuring gauge length)

Feeler gauges

Feeler wires (for mechanical mixer)

Gage blocks - for flow table, verification of dimensional handtools

Micrometers – Inside, outside; various sizes

Protractor

Pocket optical comparator (7X)

Rulers (scales)

Squares with level (6 in & 12 in)

Tampering rod gauge

Telescoping gauges (0.5 in, 2 in)

Mechanical Equipment

Charpy Samples

Durometers (A, D)

Glass Plate (12 in x 12 in)

Hardness blocks (Rockwell, Brinell)

Hoke valve

Load cells Masses

- Assorted set (Class S)
- Set of 4 2000g weights, 2 1000g, 2 500g, Class S
- Set of tolerance weights for unit weight scales

Resilience Tester

Spherometer

Stopwatch

Tachometer

Tee mount for gauges

Torque wrench (50 foot pounds capacity)

Vacuum Gauge and accessories

Vibration tester

Temperature/Thermodynamic Equipment

Barometer

Brass Wells (3)

Motorized psychrometer

Sling psychrometer

Sling thermometers

Thermometers – Autoclave, 110 °C, 150 °C

Electrical

Microammeter test set

Pair of leads with alligator clips

${\bf Appendix \ A: \ Test \ Methods \ Which \ Require \ Complete \ Demonstration} \\ \underline{\sf SOIL \ Test \ Methods}$

Dry Preparation	T87/D421
Particle-Size Analysis (Hydrometer)	T88/D422
Liquid Limit	T89/D4318
Plastic Limit	T90/D4318
Shrinkage Factors	T92/D427
Standard Proctor (5.5-lb)	T99/D698
Specific Gravity	T100/D854
Moisture-Density Soil-Cements	T134/D558
Wetting and Drying Soil-Cements	T135/D559
Freezing and Thawing Soil-Cements	T136/D560
Wet Preparation	T146/D2217
Sand Equivalent	T176/D2419
Modified Proctor (10-lb)	T180/D1557
R-Value	T190/D2844
California Bearing Ratio (CBR)	T193/D1883
Unconfined Compressive Strength	T208/D2166
Sand Permeability	T215/D2434
Consolidation	T216/D2435
Direct Shear	T236/D3080
Moisture Content	T265/D2216
Unconsolidated Undrained (UU) Triax	T296/D2850
Consolidated Undrained (CU) Triax	T297/D4767
Nuclear Gauge - Density	T310/D2922
Nuclear Gauge - Moisture Content	T310/D3017
-No. 200 Wash	D1140
Classification of Soils	D2487
Description / Identification of Soils	D2488

Flexible-Wall Permeability	D5084
Density & Unit Weight by Sand Cone	D1556
Density & Unit Weight by Rubber Balloon	D2167
Calibration of Laboratory Mechanical-Rammer Soil Compactors	D2168
Description & Identification of Soils (Visual-Manual Procedure)	D2488
Density by Drive Cylinder Method	D2937
Preserving & Transporting Samples	D4220
Maximum Index Density by Vibratory Table	D4253
Minimum Index Density	D4254
One-Dimensional Swell or Settlement Potential	D4546
Density by Sleeve Method	D4564
Determination of Water Content of Soil by Microwave Oven	D4643

BITUMINOUS Test Methods

Solubility	T44/D2042
Cleveland Flash	T48/D92
Penetration	T49/D5
Float	T50/D139
Ductility	T51/D113
Softening Point	T53/D36
Water in Petroleum	T55/D95
Distillation of Cut-Back	T78/D402
Tag Flash	T79/D3143
Thin-Film Oven (TFO)	T179/D1754
Kinematic Viscosity	T201/D2170
Absolute Viscosity	T202/D2171
Specific Gravity	T228/D70
Rolling Thin-Film Oven (RTFO)	T240/D2872
Hydrometer	T295/D3142
Force Ductility	T300
Elastic Recovery	T301
Bending Beam Rheometer (BBR)	T313
Direct Tension (DT)	T314
Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR)	T315
Rotational Viscosity (Brookfield)	T316/D4402
Residue of Specified Penetration	D243
Nickel Crucible	D3289
Toughness and Tenacity	D5801

Pressurized Aging Vessel (PAV)	R28	
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EMULSIFIED ASPHALT Test Methods

Residue by Distillation	T59 / D244
Residue by Evaporation	T59 / D244
Particle Charge	T59 / D244
Saybolt Viscosity	T59 / D244
Demulsibility	T59 / D244
Settlement	T59 / D244
Cement Mixing	T59 / D244
Sieve Test	T59 / D244
Storage Stability	T59 / D244

HOT-MIX ASPHALT Test Methods

TIOT WITCH TEST WEETINGS	
Mechanical Analysis of Extracted Aggregate	T30/D5444
Moisture or Volatile Distillates	T110/D1461
AC Content by Extraction	T164/D2172
Effect of Water on Cohesion	T165/D1075
Bulk Specific Gravity	T166/D2726
Compressive Strength	T167/D1074
Abson Recovery	T170/D1856
Max. Specific Gravity (Rice)	T209/D2041
Marshall	T245/D1559
Hveem	T246/D1560
California Kneading Compactor	T247/D1561
Percent Air Voids	T269/D3203
Paraffin Bulk Specific Gravity	T275/D1188
Resistance to Moisture (TSR)	T283/D4867
AC Content by Nuclear Method	T287/D4125
AC Content by Ignition Oven	T308/D6307
Gyratory Compactor	T312
Density of Bituminous Concrete in Place by Nuclear Methods	D2950
Rotavapor Recovery	D5404

Unit Weight, Marshall Stability, and Flow of Bitumine	ous Mix-tures CRD-C649
Density and Percent Voids	CRD-C650

AGGREGATE Test Methods

-No. 200 Wash	T11/C117
Unit Weight	T19/C29
Organic Impurities	T21/C40
Sieve Analysis	T27/C136
Sieve Analysis of Mineral Filler	T37/D546
Fine Agg Specific Gravity	T84/C128
Coarse Agg Specific Gravity	T85/C127
L.A. Abrasion	T96/C131
L.A. Machine, Large Size Coarse Aggregate	T96/C535
Sulfate Soundness	T104/C88
Clay Lumps and Friable Particles	T112/C142
Lightweight Pieces	T113/C123
Sand Equivalent	T176/D2419
Aggregate Durability	T210/D3744
Reducing Field Samples	T248/C702
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	C495
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Test Method for Pullout Strength of Hardened Concrete	
	C900
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	C1150
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HYDRAULIC CEMENT Test Methods

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Rock Test Method

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Resistance of Rock to Wetting and Drying	CRD-C169

METAL Test Methods

Zinc-Coated Steel Wire Rope and Fittings for Highway Guardrail

Ductility of Steel (Wrap Test)	M30
Adherence of Coating	M30
Mass of Zinc Coating	T65/A90
Tensile Strength	T244/A370

Steel Wire, Plain, for Concrete Reinforcement Steel Wire, Deformed, for Concrete Reinforcement

Tension Test	T244/A370
Bend Test	M32

Steel Welded Wire Fabric, Plain, for Concrete Reinforcement Steel Welded Wire Fabric, Deformed, for Concrete Reinforcement

Tensile Strength	T244/A370
Bend Test	M32/A82
Weld Shear Test	M55/A185

Gray Iron Castings

Tensile Strength	T68/E8
Flexure Test	M105

Zinc (Hot-Dip Galvanized) Coatings on Iron and Steel Products

Adhesion of Coating	M111/A123
Thickness of Zinc Coating	M111/A123

High-Strength Bolts for Structural Steel Joints

Brinell Hardness	F606
Rockwell Hardness	F606

Tensile Strength	F606
Proof Load Determination	F606
Rotational Capacity	F606

Structural Steel

Charpy V-Notch	T266/E23
Tension Test	T68/E8
Bend Test	T244/A370

Steel Strand, Uncoated Seven-Wire for Concrete Reinforcement

Tensile Strength	T244/A370
Low Relaxation Strand	E328

Epoxy Coated Reinforcing Bars

Film Thickness	G12
Continuity of Coating (Holidays)	G62
Adhesion of Coating (Bend Test)	M284/A775

PLASTIC PIPE Test Methods

Corrugated Polyethylene Drainage Pipe

Pipe Stiffness	D2412
Pipe Flattening	M252
Elongation	M252

ABS and PVC Composite Sewer Piping

Stiffness and Deflection	
	D2412

Class PS46 PVC Pipe

Impact Resistance	
	D2444

Pipe Stiffness	D2412
Pipe Flattening	M278

Corrugated Polyethylene Pipe, 300 to 1200-mm (12 to 48-in.) Diameter

Pipe Stiffness	D2412
Pipe Flattening	M294
Brittleness	D2444

MASONRY Test Methods

Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortar	T106/C109
Mechanical Mixing of Hydraulic Cement Pastes and Mortars of Plastic Consistency	T162/C305
Air Content of Hydraulic Cement Mortar	T137/C185
Use of Apparatus for the Determination of Length Change of Hardened Cement Paste, Mortar, and Concrete	M210/C490
Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Tile Clay	C67
Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units	C140
Preconstruction and Construction Evaluation of Mortars for Plain and Reinforced Unit Masonry	C780
Sampling and Testing Grout	C1019
Compressive Strength of Masonry Prisms	C1314

APPENDIX B DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO NACLA EVALUATION COORDINATOR BY APPLICANTS FOR NACLA EVALUATION

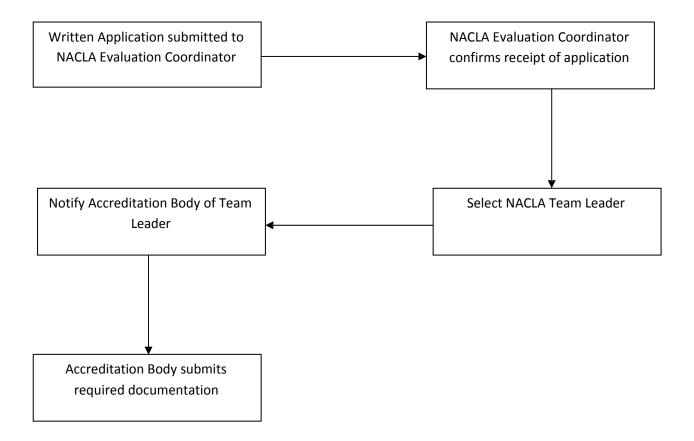
(NOTE: Each applicant shall submit two sets of these materials (either hard copy or electronic), along with its application fee.)

- 1. Completed Application Form, and applicable fee.
- 2. The Accrediting Body's (AB) Quality Manual, in which the policies and procedures of the AB and the responsibility for implementation of the quality system are clearly designated (see also ISO/IEC 17011).
- 3. Full details of the staffing of the AB, including their backgrounds and length of experience in CAB's, if not given in the quality manual.
- 4. All accreditation criteria and associated technical criteria required by the AB for the evaluation of CAB.
- 5. All criteria published, including formal rules or regulations affecting the AB's operation and the responsibilities and obligations of its accredited CAB.
- 6. A document giving a clause-by-clause cross-referencing of the AB's compliance with each section of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011, their CAB requirements and document with applicable standards.
- 7. The AB's policy for the applicable requirements that they are assessing the CAB's, see the appropriate Annexes for the applicable policies and procedures.
- 8. Guidance documents available to the organization and/ or enterprise published by the AB.
- 9. The policy on the surveillance and re-assessment of the accredited or applicant CAB.
- 10. Any other documentation that describes the mechanics of operation of the accreditation system, including annual reports, questionnaires, newsletters, etc.
- 11. A copy of the AB's Directory or other listings providing the name and scope of accreditation of each CAB accredited by the AB.
- 12. Detailed scopes of accreditation and draft scopes of accreditation of all CAB's to be visited during the preevaluation or evaluation visits.
- 13. Organizational charts describing the accreditation body and its relationships with any other related organizations.
- 14. Descriptions of any separate functions or affiliations of the AB for activities other than accreditation (such as product certification, standards writing, and management system registration).
- 15. Details of any formal agreement or recognition to which the accreditation body is party either nationally or internationally, including government authorities, private sector organizations, other accreditation systems, and any programs operated for other private or government agencies.
- 16. Reports on any relevant recent evaluations carried out by other 2nd and 3rd party organizations.

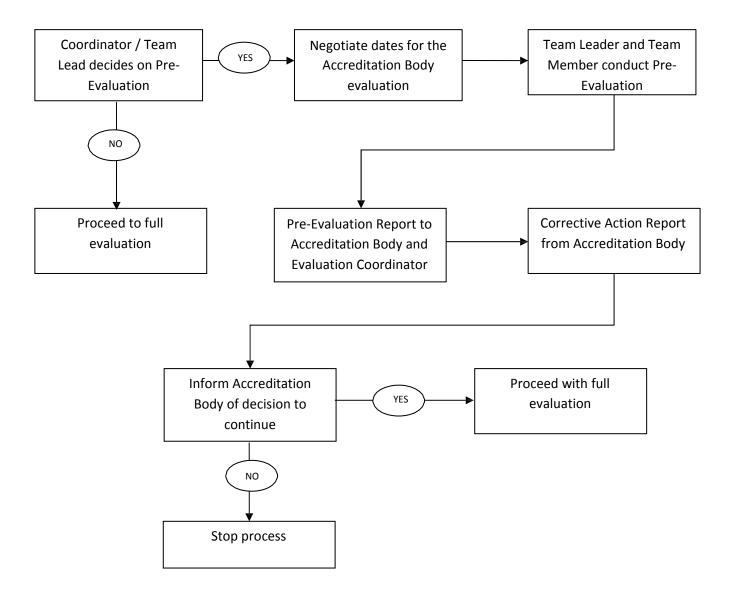
APPENDIX C FLOWCHARTS FOR THE NACLA EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Flow charts of the Application, Pre-evaluation, Evaluation and Corrective Action Processes are found on the following pages.

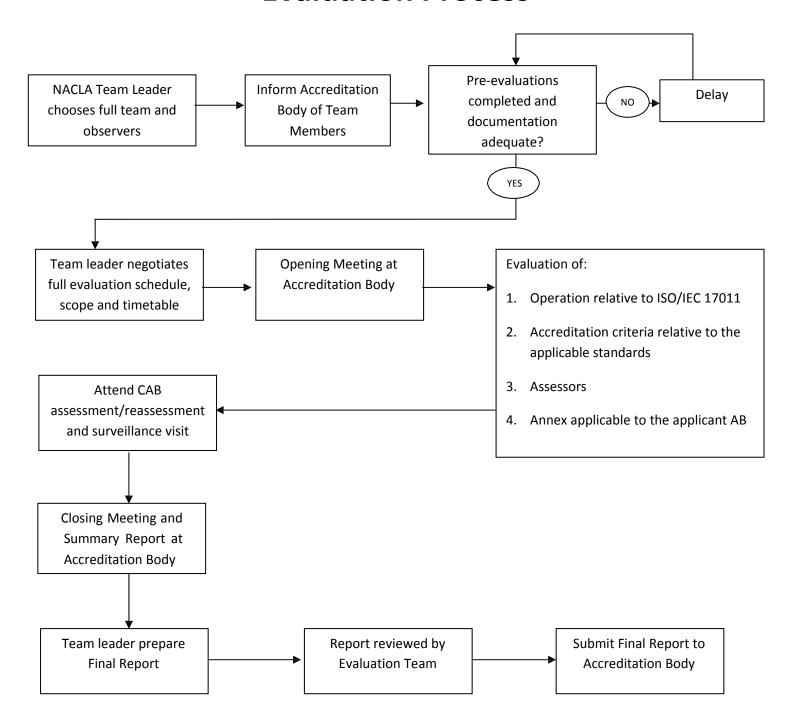
Application Process



Pre-Evaluation Process



Evaluation Process



Corrective Action Process

