

National Conference of Standards Laboratories

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1996

30 May 1996

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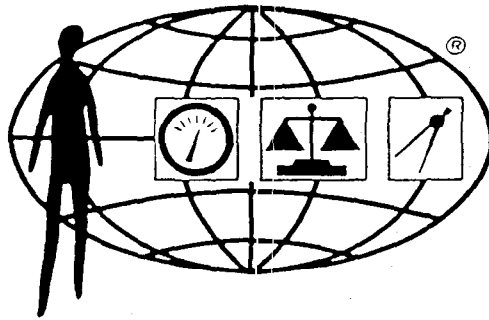
Dear Members:

Please find under COVET of this letter a copy of the NCSL Position on the Purpose! and Appropriate Use of NIST Test Report Numbers. I anticipate that this statement will be the first of several which the NCSL will make to clarify its position on a number of important issues relating to the measurement community.

This particular document was written in response to a need as expressed by many member organizations of the NCSL. I hope you will find it useful toward promoting sound measurement practices and that you will continue to find your membership in the NCSL of ever increasing value.

Sincerely,

Anthony Anderson
President



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STANDARDS LABORATORIES

POSITION


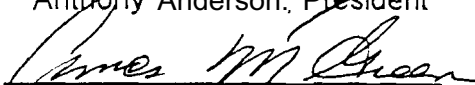
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PURPOSE AND APPROPRIATE USE OF NIST TEST REPORT NUMBERS

It is the position of the National Conference of Standards Laboratories (NCSL) that:

Test report numbers issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the United States Department of Commerce are intended to be used solely for administrative purposes. Although they are often used to uniquely identify documents which bear evidence of traceability, test report numbers should not be used nor required as proof of the adequacy or traceability of a test or measurement.

It should be noted that nationally and internationally recognized standards dealing with test and measurement quality requirements such as ANSI/NCSL 2540-I-1994, ISO 10012, ISO/IEC Guide 25, and the ISO 9000 series do not require the use or reporting of NIST Test Report Numbers to establish traceability. A definition of traceability appears in the International Vocabulary of Basic and General terms in Metrology, 1993, Section 6.10.


Anthony Anderson, President

Amos M. Green, Secretary