

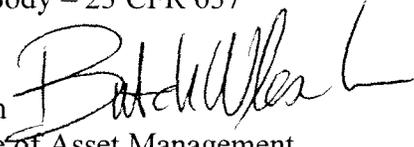


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Approval of Comparable
Accreditation Body – 23 CFR 637

Date: JUN 4 2012

From: Butch Wlaschin 
Director, Office of Asset Management

In Reply Refer To:
HIPT-20

To: Directors of Field Services
Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers
Director of Technical Services
Division Administrators

In the regulation titled “Quality Assurance Procedures for Construction” – 23 CFR 637 paragraphs 637.209 (a) (2), (3) and (4) require laboratories to be accredited by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Accreditation Program or a comparable laboratory accreditation program. On September 22, 2004, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a Notice in the Federal Register to document the criteria that was to be used to determine a comparable laboratory accreditation program. Those criteria are now outlined in paragraph 3b of our Non-regulatory Guidance NS 23 CFR, Part 637B.

On May 30, 2012, the Construction Materials Engineering Council’s (CMEC’s) ISO 17025 accreditation program was recognized by the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) for meeting the technical requirements of the NIST IR 7012 document. The FHWA participated in the evaluation process. The CMEC’s ISO 17025 program meets the requirements for comparable laboratory accreditation bodies listed in the September 22, 2004, Federal Register Notice. As such, the laboratories that are accredited under CMEC’s ISO 17025 accreditation program are considered to meet the quality assurance requirements in 23 CFR 637.209(a) (2), (3) and (4).

For reference NACLA’s Web site is at www.NACLA.net and CMEC’s Web site for accredited laboratories is at <http://24.73.159.98/fmi/iwp/cfi?-db=CMEC&-loadframes>.

If you have any questions please contact Michael Rafalowski at (202) 366-1571.