

PROJECT ANNEX

BETWEEN

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

CENTRO NACIONAL DE METROLOGIA
OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES

FOR

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF MEASUREMENT CAPABILITIES

Article 1. Scope and Objectives

Pursuant to Article VII of the Implementing Agreement between the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of the Department of Commerce of the United States of America and the National Council for Science and Technology and the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development and the National Center for Metrology (CENAM) of the United Mexican States Concerning Cooperation in Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering Measurement Sciences, Standards Related Activities and Interchange of Technical Information and Experiences signed on December 4, 1996 (hereinafter referred to as the "Implementing Arrangement, NIST and CENAM hereby agree to provide a mechanism for cooperation in measurement technologies and measurement standards.

The purpose of this cooperation is to recognize the degree to which equivalent measurement capability exists between the NIST technical laboratories and the CENAM technical laboratories and to augment the scientific and technical capabilities of the participating institutions. The signing organizations, based on past activities and knowledge, recognize and accept their respective measurement capabilities, including those associated with national standards, calibration certificates and reference materials. This cooperation shall develop procedures, through the use of measurement comparisons, reference materials and mutual visits, to document and maintain this measurement equivalence.

Article 2. Cooperative Activities

A. This Project Annex may consist of exchanges of technical information, reference data and materials, calibrations, and measurement standards; exchange visits; performance of

comparisons as needed to ensure measurement equivalence; cooperative research in disciplines of mutual interest; and other forms of cooperative activities as mutually agreed.

- B. Scientific areas of cooperation may include, but are not limited to such areas of mutual interest as:
 - 1. Joint development and maintenance of a database of international comparisons;
 - 2. Establishment of and the maintenance of mutual equivalencies;
 - 3. Joint development of measurement technologies and standards;
 - 4. Joint development and exchange of reference materials;
 - 5. Establishment of mutual traceability as defined in footnote 1; and
 - 6. Other activities as may be mutually agreed.
- C. Any activity carried out under this Project Annex must be agreed upon by the signing organizations in writing and shall be subject to further arrangements, as appropriate, in accordance with the laws and procedures of the United States of America and the United Mexican States.

Article 3. Planning and Review of Activities

- A. Upon entry into force of this Project Annex, both signing organizations shall name representatives who, at times mutually established, shall plan and review activities under this Project Annex and use their best abilities to mitigate disputes if any arise.
- B. An annual review meeting shall take place to identify and review the need for additional measurement comparisons and for the use of such comparisons to resolve measurement disputes and technical barriers to trade.
- C. The point of contact for implementation of these activities for NIST shall be the NIST Office of International and Academic Affairs, and for CENAM shall be the Director for Technology Services or other offices notified in writing.

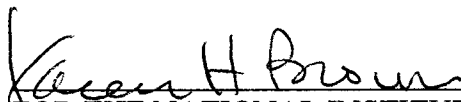
¹ Traceability is defined as the property of a measurement or the value of a standard whereby it can be related to stated references, usually national or international standards, through an unbroken chain of comparisons all having stated uncertainties. It is noted that traceability only exists when scientifically rigorous evidence is collected on a continuing basis showing that the measurement is producing documented results for which the total measurement uncertainty is quantified.

Article 4. Entry into Force and Termination

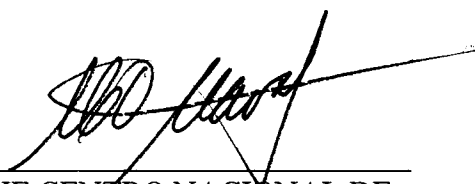
This Project Annex shall enter into force upon signature by both organizations and shall co-terminate with the Implementing Arrangement, unless terminated by either side upon ninety days written notice to the other side. This Project Annex may be amended or extended by written agreement of the signing organizations. The termination of this Project Annex shall not affect the validity or duration of projects under this Project Annex that are initiated prior to such termination.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective authorities, have signed this Project Annex.

DONE in duplicate at Charlotte, NC, United States of America, on the 13th day of July, 1999, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both being equally authentic.



FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOR THE CENTRO NACIONAL DE
METROLOGIA
OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES