



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STANDARDS LABORATORIES

### POSITION

on the

### 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 Z540-1-1994, 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