FIPS SQL standard, and used at the discretion of individual Federal procurements, no transitional period or delayed effective date is necessary.

11.2 Acquisition. All conforming implementations of a specific SQL/ERI profile will support some aspects of the FIPS SQL standard. However, such implementations will not normally be full function database management systems and conformance will often be dependent upon SQL schema definitions and other requirements provided as part of each individual procurement. In most cases, a procurement will not be able to simply point to an SQL/ERI profile and demand conformance to it. Instead, successful procurements will normally use an appropriate SQL/ERI profile, together with an application-specific schema definition, as one aspect of overall procurement requirements. In many cases, vendors of products that provide a limited SQL interface will define their interfaces in terms of a fixed SQL schema definition. In those cases, procurements can point to the vendorprovided schema definition and to an appropriate SQL/ERI profile as a procurement requirement. In some cases, especially in those situations where schema definitions and requirements are not known in advance, a request for a proposal (RFP) may require that an SQL schema, and adherence to one of the SQL/ERI Server profiles, be presented as part of the response proposal.

11.3 Interpretation. NIST provides for the resolution of questions regarding specifications and requirements of the FIPS for SQL Environments, and issues official interpretations as needed, Procedures for interpretations are specified in FIPS PUB 29–3. All questions about the interpretation of FIPS SQL Environments should be addressed to: Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, Attn: SQL Environments, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Telephone:

(301) 975–2833.

11.4 Validation. Implementations of the FIPS for SQL Environments may be validated in accordance with NIST Computer Systems Laboratory (CSL) validation procedures for FIPS SQL (FIPS PUB 127). Recommended procurement terminology for validation of FIPS SQL is contained in the U.S. General Services Administration publication Federal ADP & Telecommunications Standards Index, Chapter 4 Part 2. This GSA publication provides terminology for three validation options: Delayed Validation, Prior Validation Testing, and Prior

Validation. The agency may select the appropriate validation option and may specify appropriate time frames for validation and correction of nonconformities.

Implementations may be evaluated using the NIST SQL Test Suite, a suite of automated validation tests for SQL implementations. Although this test suite was designed to test conformance of full-function SQL database management systems, it can be modified to accommodate testing of SQL/ERI Server implementations. The results of validation testing by the SQL Testing Service are published on a quarterly basis in the *Validated Products List*, available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS).

Current information about the NIST SQL Validation Service and the status of validation testing for SQL Environments is available from: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Computer Systems Laboratory, Software Standards Validation Group, Building 225, Room A266, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, (301) 975–2490.

12. Where to Obtain Copies. Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161, telephone 703–487–4650. When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 193 (FIPSPUB193), SQL Environments. Payment may be made by check, money order, or deposit account

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## Workshop on National Voluntary Conformity Assessment Systems Evaluation (NVCASE) Program

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: This is to advise the public that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) will conduct a workshop to brief interested parties on the NVCASE program and to review documents that will be used as the generic basis for requirements of the operational program. The workshop will be in two parts:

- (1) A briefing on the purpose and operation of the NVCASE program: the presentation will proceed step-by-step through the procedures set forth in the April 22, 1994 **Federal Register** Notice (15 CFR part 286); and
- (2) A review of present and proposed international documents that will be

used as the generic basis for program requirements.

The public is encouraged to call to NIST's attention documents useful for this purpose.

DATES: The workshop will be held Thursday, March 9, 1995, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Registration will start at 9:30 am.

ADDRESSES: The workshop will be held in the Green Auditorium at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: (1) For administrative and logistic information, contact Ms. Marilyn Stream, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 417, Room 107, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; Phone: (301) 975-4029. Fax: (301) 963-2871. (2) For information concerning the NVCASE program contact Mr. Robert Gladhill, Program Manager, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 417, Room 107, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; Phone: (301) 975-4273. Fax: (301) 963-2871. (3) For information on how to obtain copies of the documents, contact the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, New York 10036, USA; Phone: (212) 642-4900. Fax: (212) 398-0023.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) offers a voluntary program on a fee-for-service basis to evaluate the competence of conformity assessment activities.

The National Voluntary Conformity Assessment Systems Evaluation (NVCASE) Program may be applied to activities related to laboratory testing, product certification, and quality system registration. NVCASE evaluates and provides official recognition to qualifying bodies in the United States that effectively demonstrate that they satisfy established criteria and applicable regulatory requirements of other countries.

NVCASE recognition (1) provides other governments with a basis for having confidence that qualifying U.S. conformity assessment bodies are competent, and (2) promotes the acceptance of U.S. products in regulated foreign markets based on U.S. conformity assessment results.

NVCASE offers evaluation services to support U.S. trade in regulated foreign markets, but not for domestic applications. NVCASE does not unilaterally establish program areas. All requests to establish evaluation services in a specific product sector are first published for public advice and comment. If another U.S. Government