



Policy TITLE:	Relationship of NGAB Certificates of Recognition and the NGAB Evaluation Process
Policy NO.:	7-100
REVISION NO:	1.0
Program	NGAB

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Policy Effective Date:	1/17/2025

I. PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy describes the relationship between issuance of Certificates of Recognition and the three or four-year evaluation cycle for the Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies (NGAB).

II. DEFINITIONS

Certificate of Recognition: The document that officially designates a NGAB as being “approved” to accredit organizations to a TNI standard.

Evaluation Team (ET): A team comprised of the Lead Evaluator (LE), and other technical evaluators, approved to conduct a review of a NGAB for the purposes of granting TNI recognition to the NGAB.

Good Standing: The NGAB’s most recent evaluation was satisfactory.

Lead Evaluator (LE): A member of the Evaluation Team (ET) who leads the team and is responsible for the final report regarding NGAB recognition, after receiving input from the entire team.

TNI Non-Governmental Accreditation Body Recognition Committee (TNRC): A group appointed by the TNI Board of Directors to recognize NGABs to accredit applicant organizations to the TNI Environmental Laboratory Standards.

Recognition Committee (RC): A committee formulated and approved by the NEFAP Executive Committee and PT Program Executive Committee. The committee must be balanced to represent both NEFAP and PT Program interests. The RC votes and prepares a recommendation letter regarding the recognition of the NGAB’s conformance to the TNI requirements. The NEFAP Executive Committee and PT Program Executive Committee (as appropriate) independently review the recommendation letter from the RC and vote to endorse the recommendation and recognize the NGAB.

III. RELATED DOCUMENTS

SOP 7-100, Evaluation of Non-Governmental Accreditation Bodies (NGAB) for Accrediting Environmental Laboratories under Recognition by The NELAC Institute (TNI)

Relationship of NGAB Certificates of Recognition and the NGAB Evaluation Process

SOP 7-101, TNI Accreditation Body Evaluation and Recognition Procedure Used by the PT Program
Executive Committee and NEFAP Executive Committee

IV. POLICY

All NGAB in good standing are issued a Certificate of Recognition annually assuming that the NGAB wishes to continue with the program.

V. CONTINUED RECOGNITION STATUS

As documented in the evaluation SOPs (SOP 7-100 and SOP 7-101), the final step of an NGAB evaluation is the decision concerning whether to continue recognition. In the unexpected event that the evaluation is unsatisfactory, and the decision is to not renew an NGAB's recognition, then the NEFAP EC and PTPEC in communication with the RC or the TNI Board of Directors in communication with the TNRC, will determine a suitable amount of time for organizations to seek accreditation with a different NGAB and, based on that determination, set an "end date" for the NGAB then-currently-valid Certificate of Recognition. In this case, the Certificate issued to that NGAB would expire on the date determined, regardless of the "normal" annual expiration date on the Certificate when it was issued.

Revision No.	Effective Date	Description of Change
0	6/21/19	New Document
1.0	1/17/25	Revised all definitions. Added SOPs 7-101 to Section III. Changed future tense to current tense. Move Good Standing from section IV to Section II. Edited section IV for clarity. Renamed title of section IV. Added section V.