



The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

F323 – Application for Accreditation: TNI Proficiency Testing Provider / Stationary Source Audit Provider Accreditation Program

Document Revised:
September 15, 2011

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For A2LA Office use Only: MASTER CODE:

ASSESSMENT NO:

CERT NO:

Preface A - Preparation

This application form is intended for those organizations seeking accreditation as TNI environmental proficiency testing providers and/or TNI stationary source audit sample providers herein referred to as PT/SSAS Providers. Applicants seeking accreditation as proficiency testing providers in all other areas shall complete A2LA form F302.

Please take the following steps before you begin this application to ensure an effective application process. Note: All A2LA documents referenced in this application can be accessed by using the “document finder” link located on the home page at www.A2LA.org or by contacting A2LA Headquarters at 301 644 3248.

1. Please obtain and read a copy of the A2LA [R303 – Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers](#) the [A2LA P102 - Policy on Measurement Traceability](#) and the [A2LA P101 – Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy](#). This will help to ensure a basic understanding of the accreditation process and the criteria for accreditation. Please note that your organization will be evaluated against these requirements, and other requirements/policies referenced in the *A2LA R303 Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers* document.
2. Please obtain an official copies of ISO/IEC 17043:2010, ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and ISO Guide 34:2009 from http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=29366 . Also obtain an official copy of the TNI EL-V3: 2009 at http://www.nelac-institute.org/standards.php?pab=1_3#pab1_5. SSAS applicants shall obtain an official copy of the TNI SSAS Program Volume 1, Module 1, General Requirements for Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers at <http://nelac-institute.org/ssas/>
3. Create and implement a Quality Manual and Management System (policies and procedures) that meet ISO/IEC 17043 the applicable A2LA requirements and the applicable TNI requirements.
4. Perform a self-assessment/internal audit in accordance with section 5.14 of ISO/IEC 17043 to verify compliance with all applicable A2LA requirements, ISO/IEC 17043, the proficiency testing provider’s own management system and applicable scope schemes and document the results.
5. Perform a management review in accordance with section 5.15 of ISO/IEC 17043 and document the results.
6. Provide a list of proficiency testing schemes for which accreditation is being sought.
7. Please read the policies found in the “Policies” section (Preface B) of this application.
8. Download and complete the F303 – Ownership Confirmation: TNI PT/SSAS Requirements form and submit to A2LA.
9. Obtain and complete the following checklists:
 - a. TNI PT Providers C317– Specific Checklist: ISO/IEC 17043, TNI EL-V3, ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO GUIDE 34 Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation Program.
 - b. TNI SSAS Providers C315 – TNI SSAS Provider Accreditation Program



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Preface B - Policies

A. A2LA Confidentiality Policy: See [R303 – Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers](#), Part C, Section XV. Please place a checkmark in the appropriate block.

1. I authorize A2LA to release information regarding our application status.

2. I do not authorize A2LA to release information regarding our application status.

B. Language Policy: All documentation must be provided in English and the assessment conducted in English. An appropriate English translation of pertinent documentation must be provided as well as a translator, if needed, to facilitate the on-site assessment. Please refer to, [R303 – Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers](#) Part C, Section I.

Part I. Application Information

A. Authorized Representative's Name

Authorized Representative's Title

Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr.

B. PT/SSAS Provider's Name (as it will appear on your Scope of Accreditation and the A2LA website).

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C. PT/SSAS Provider's Address (please enter the physical address of the organization, as it will appear on your Scope of Accreditation and the A2LA website).

Address (Street number, Street, City, State, Zip Code and Country)

D. PT/SSAS Provider's Website Address (please place a checkmark in the box and enter the web site address of your organization, if you wish to include a link to your website on the A2LA website).

Website address

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Part I. Application Information (continued)

E. PT/SSAS Provider's Mailing Address (if different from the PT/SSAS Provider's physical address).

Address (Street number, Street, City, State, Zip Code and Country)

F. PT/SSAS Provider's Billing Address (if different from the PT/SSAS Provider's physical address).

Address (Street number, Street, City, State, Zip Code and Country)

G. PT/SSAS Provider's Accounts Payable

1. Contact Name

2. Telephone

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3. Fax Number

4. Email

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H. If the PT/SSAS provider works in shifts, please note the times for each shift:

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Part II. Scope of Accreditation

A. Please complete this table for all proficiency testing schemes for which accreditation is being sought:

1. Scheme Name (Include test/calibration method if relevant):	2. Frequency of Program:	3. Detailed description of sample/artifact types (include physical description):
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Part III. Subcontractors Information

A. Please complete this table for all subcontractors with which the proficiency testing provider has formal arrangements to perform activities specified in the ISO/IEC 17043 standard and that affect the quality of a proficiency testing scheme. These may include but are not limited for the production, testing, measurement, sampling, storage, and distribution of the PT materials/samples or measurement artifacts, and for data.

1. Collaborator Name and address:	2. Accreditations held (if applicable):	3. Description of activities/services rendered:
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Part IV. Conditions for Accreditation

A. To attain and maintain accreditation, an applicant must agree to:

- 1) Afford accommodation and cooperation as is necessary to enable A2LA to verify compliance with the requirements for accreditation including provision for examination of documentation (including documents that provide insight into the level of independence of the applicant from any other related activities undertaken by their organization, where applicable) and access to all calibration and testing areas, equipment, records and personnel (including arrangements for witnessing accredited activities when requested and practicable) for the purposes of assessment, surveillance, reassessment, resolution of complaints, and fulfillment of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and/or specifier requirements;
- 2) Comply at all times with the criteria relevant requirements documents (e.g., [R303 – Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers](#), [P101 – Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy](#), [A2LA P102 - Policy on Measurement Traceability](#)) and conditions for accreditation;
- 3) Maintain impartiality and integrity;
- 4) Retain all quality records and technical records supporting reported results as defined in the relevant management system standard(s) (such as ISO/IEC 17043:2010) throughout the period between A2LA full assessments. Please bear in mind that adequate records must be available to demonstrate full compliance with the requirements for accreditation;



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Part IV. Conditions for Accreditation (continued)

- 5) Claim that it is accredited only in respect of services for which it has been granted accreditation and which are carried out in accordance with these conditions;
- 6) Pay such fees as shall be determined by A2LA;
- 7) Not use its accreditation in such a manner as to bring A2LA into disrepute and not make any statement relevant to its accreditation which A2LA may consider misleading or unauthorized;
- 8) Upon suspension, withdrawal or expiration of its accreditation (however determined) discontinue its use of all advertising matter that contains reference thereto and return any certificates and scopes of accreditation to A2LA. In addition, Product Certification Bodies must notify any affected customers of the change in their accredited status;
- 9) Not use its accreditation to imply product approval by A2LA;
- 10) Endeavor to ensure that no certificate or report, nor any part thereof, is used in a misleading manner;
- 11) In making reference to its accreditation status in communication media such as advertising, brochures, comply with the requirements of A2LA;
- 12) Inform A2LA headquarters within 30 days and in writing of changes or pending changes in any aspect of the organization's status or operation that affects the organization's legal, commercial or organizational status; organization or management (e.g., managerial staff); policies or procedures, where appropriate; premises; personnel, equipment, facilities, working environment or other resources, where significant; authorized signatories; or such other matters that may affect the organization's capability, or scope of accredited activities, or compliance with the criteria, requirements and conditions for accreditation;
- 13) Carry out any adjustments to its procedures in response to due notice (by A2LA newsletter, email and/or hardcopy) of any intended changes by A2LA to the criteria, requirements, or conditions for accreditation, in such time as in the opinion of A2LA is reasonable;

Note: Updates to A2LA policies will be provided to enrolled and accredited organizations via email, whenever possible.

In order to apply, the applicant's AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE and DEPUTY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, must agree to the above conditions for accreditation and must attest that all statements made on the application are correct to the best of his/her knowledge and belief. An accredited organization's AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE is responsible for ensuring that all of the relevant conditions for accreditation are met as of the date this document is signed. In the absence of the AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE the DEPUTY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE is responsible for ensuring that all of the relevant conditions for accreditation are met as of the date this document is signed. During the on-site assessment, the assessor(s) will examine records and documentation to verify compliance with these Conditions for Accreditation as of the date it was signed.

As the applicant Organization's Authorized Representative and Deputy Authorized Representative, I agree to the above conditions for accreditation. I attest that all statements made on this application are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



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Part IV. Conditions for Accreditation (continued)

1. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

A. Authorized Representative Printed Name

B. Authorized Representative Title

Mr. , Mrs. , Ms.

C. Telephone Number

D. Fax Number

E. Email Address

F. Signature of Authorized Representative

G. Today's Date

2. DEPUTY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

H. Deputy Authorized Representative Printed Name

I. Deputy Authorized Representative Title

Mr. , Mrs. , Ms.

J. Telephone Number

K. Fax Number

L. Email Address

M. Deputy Authorized Representative Signature

N. Today's Date

Part V. Fee Schedule

A. Payment Options: Please remit a check payable to A2LA. If your organization utilizes Purchase Orders/Contracts please place a checkmark in the box on page 7 of the application. Please be sure to include the purchase order/contract with the application. An invoice will be provided by A2LA for payment. If you elect to make payment with a Credit Card, please contact the Financial Services Department at 301-644-3248 or visit our website at www.A2LA.org.

- 1. Initial Application Fee for PT/SSAS Providers:** This is a one time non-recurring application fee. This fee is non-refundable. The fee is reduced if the organization currently holds A2LA Accreditation in another field of accreditation at this site.
- 2. Annual Fee for PT/SSAS Providers:** Although accreditation is granted for two years, payment of a yearly Annual Fee is required to continue accreditation into the following years.



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Part V. Fee Schedule (continued)

3. **A2LA Accredited Organizational Membership Discount:** A PT/SSAS Provider can become a member and purchase an organizational membership from A2LA. Please refer to the A2LA [membership](#) website link found on the A2LA web site for additional information and descriptions of benefits and discounts. **If you do not have an A2LA membership, please skip to item number 7.**

4. **Assessor Deposit:** The Assessor Deposit is \$2,000 for each PT/SSAS Provider. Upon request the assigned Assessor can provide the organization with an estimate of the costs of travel and lodging and number of billable hours that are reasonably anticipated before the visit and will leave a written estimate of actual assessment costs upon departure. The PT/SSAS Provider will be billed (or refunded) the difference between the actual cost of the assessment and the amount of this deposit. Accreditation will not be granted until all fees are paid. Actual costs are computed based on:
 - Total Assessment Time at \$1200 per 8-hour day per assessor;
 - Travel (airfare, rental car, or private auto @ IRS allowable rate); and
 - Accommodations & Miscellaneous (hotel, meals, parking, calls, etc.).

Note: the assessor deposits are only *partial* payments of the assessment costs and it is likely that the actual assessor charges will exceed the deposit amount. **Variable factors such as the PT/SSAS provider's size, desired scope of accreditation, documentation structure and adequacy of its preparation for the assessment as well as the costs of assessor travel and lodging will impact on the actual accrued assessment costs.**

8. **Total Amount Due:** Please Remit Check Payable to A2LA. For Credit Card payments, please contact Financial Services to arrange processing or visit our website at www.A2A.org.

Note 1: If travel takes more than two hours, an additional cost at one half the assessment rate will be added for each additional hour. It is to the PT/SSAS provider's advantage to be prepared and to help prepare the assessor(s) beforehand. If any part of the management system documentation is not sent to the assessor(s) beforehand, the assessor(s) will need additional on-site time. If the scope of accreditation changes significantly as the assessment progresses, the assessor(s) will also need more time. If there are significant deficiencies, the assessor(s) follow-up time may also be charged. A2LA audits the expenses and pays assessors. Do not pay assessors directly. Do check the assessor's written estimate of assessment costs.

Note 2: If a PT/SSAS provider withdraws the application before completion of the assessment, it may apply for a refund of up to 50 % of the A2LA annual fee and the balance of the unexpended assessor deposit. There will be no refund of annual fee after the assessment has been completed. Refunds of any balance remaining on the assessor deposit will be made at the time of the accreditation decision. Any withdrawal or refund request must be in writing.

Payment Options

If your Organization utilizes Purchase Orders/Contracts please check here.



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Part V. Fee Schedule (continued)

1. Initial Application Fee:

Note: This fee is reduced to \$1,200 if the applicant is already accredited with A2LA under another program, such as laboratory accreditation (at the same location).

2. Annual Fee

3. A2LA accredited organizational membership discount. If you do not have an A2LA membership, skip to item 7.

4. Assessor Deposit.

5. TOTAL AMOUNT DUE – Please Remit Check Payable to A2LA.

Have you ever received an estimate for the costs of A2LA accreditation?

Yes No

If yes, when, and under what MASTER CODE?

Calculation

Fee	Total
\$2000	
\$5000	
\$(200)	
\$2000	\$2000
\$USD _____	

Date:

MASTER CODE:



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Part V. Fee Schedule (continued)

Ongoing Monitoring Fees

As prescribed in the A2LA [R303 – Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers](#), section VII, A2LA conducts ongoing monitoring of the proficiency testing provider's proficiency testing schemes. The following table includes the fee structure for this program. A2LA will invoice the applicant for the monitoring on a quarterly basis. The ongoing monitoring activities commence following accreditation being initially granted.

Type of PT Study	Oversight Fees per Study
Drinking water	US\$ 600
Non-Potable water	US\$ 400
Soils	US\$ 300
Add-ons	
Microbiology	US\$ 250
Radiochemistry	US\$ 400
Asbestos	US\$ 400
Environmental toxicology	US\$ 250
Air	US \$ 400

Part VII. Supporting Information

Please use this checklist to review your application package prior to submission to A2LA. Completion of the required items is necessary for the efficient processing of your application. Delays may occur if clarification or additional information is needed. Before mailing your application to A2LA, please be sure you have read and done the following:

- Read [R303 – Specific Requirements: Accreditation of TNI Proficiency Testing Providers and Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers](#) and other referenced requirement and policy documents to ensure a basic understanding of the accreditation process.
- Enclosed an organization chart.
- If the Proficiency Testing Provider is part of a larger organization, enclosed a chart of its position and reporting relationships within that organization.
- Enclosed a completed relevant TNI PT and or SSAS Provider checklists.



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Part VII. Supporting Information (continued)

- Enclosed a copy of the PT/SSAS Provider's current uncontrolled quality manual, operating procedures and work instructions.
- Completed all sections of the application.
- Read, understood, signed and returned the Conditions for Accreditation (pages 4 and 5).
- Reviewed the Fee Schedule and paid the appropriate fees. An application cannot be considered complete until payment, or an arrangement for payment is made.

Part VIII. Survey

A. Please indicate your reason(s) for pursuing accreditation with A2LA and list any sector specific requirements, including specific international technical directives and recognition requirements for approval.

B. Please indicate how you heard about A2LA (e.g. tradeshow, trade magazine, colleague, website, presentations, etc.). Please also identify any A2LA Staff Members that assisted you with this application.

C. Please list all accreditations currently maintained with any other accreditation body, accreditation/recognition with a government agency, or additional supplier audits. Note: A2LA may accept some or all portions of valid accreditations granted by other accreditation bodies on a case by case basis.



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Part IX. Mailing Instructions

Please return the entire application, along with the requested supporting documentation and payment of fees to:
The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation
5301 Buckeystown Pike, Suite 350
Frederick, MD 21704

If emailing, please submit the entire application along with the requested supporting documentation to:

applications@A2LA.org

If emailing the application, please mail payment of fees to the address above.

Please direct all questions regarding this application to our office at 301 644 3248.

(END OF APPLICATION)

DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Date	Description
9/15/11	Updated assessor fees and all references of NELAC to TNI.