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|  | <i>The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation</i> |                    |
|   | I101 – Fact Sheet  | September 18, 2008 |
|   |  | Page 1 of 2        |

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society. The mission of A2LA is to provide comprehensive services in laboratory accreditation and laboratory-related training. Services are available to any type of organization, be it private or government. Laboratory accreditation is based on internationally accepted criteria for competence (ISO/IEC 17025:2005). A2LA also offers programs for accreditation of inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers and product certification bodies.

**Goals:** The fundamental goals of A2LA are to:

- Establish and maintain global acceptance of A2LA accreditation services for the accredited bodies and their accredited data recognition and establish and maintain effective international and domestic Mutual Recognition Arrangements;
- Establish and maintain programs to meet existing and emerging needs for accreditation services in the marketplace.
- Increase market share and expand into new areas consistent with our non-profit status and/or expand market opportunities and customer base;
- Improve the productivity and effectiveness of the A2LA management system to ensure and enhance the quality of customer services and accreditations;
- Establish and maintain beneficial relationships with peers, laboratories, users and other stakeholders to enhance the value of A2LA accreditation;
- Provide continual improvement opportunities for participants in the administration of A2LA, including staff, assessors, advisory committee members, Council members and Board members.


**Membership:** Membership in A2LA is open to any individual, institution or corporation interested in supporting its mission. Members pay dues, elect the Board of Directors, attend meetings sponsored by the Association, and receive the Association's publications including its periodic newsletter, *A2LA News*.

**Accreditation Programs:** As of January 1, 2008, A2LA has 1,909 accredited laboratories in 48 States in the US and several foreign countries. Laboratories are accredited in the following fields: Acoustics & Vibration, Biological, Calibration, Chemical, Construction Materials, Electrical, Environmental, Geotechnical, Information Technology, Mechanical, Medical, Nondestructive, and Thermal. In addition to these broad fields, specifically-tailored programs are available for aerospace testing, animal drugs, automotive electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), environmental, environmental lead (Pb), fertilizers, food testing, putting green materials testing and veterinary testing. Users of laboratory services are advised to seek the specific scope of accreditation from any accredited laboratory or to visit our searchable directory of accredited laboratories on the A2LA website ([www.A2LA.org](http://www.A2LA.org)). The scope identifies the specific testing or calibration capabilities for which the laboratory is accredited.

A2LA also offers accreditation programs for Inspection Bodies, Proficiency Testing Providers, Reference Materials Producers and Product Certification Bodies.

**Training:** Periodic public training courses are offered on topics such as laboratory accreditation and the international standard ISO/IEC 17025, laboratory quality management, internal auditing, assessor training, and measurement uncertainty.

**Recognition:** A2LA is a signatory to several bilateral and multilateral recognition agreements. These agreements facilitate the acceptance of test and calibration data between A2LA-accredited laboratories and more than 46 economies around the globe. In addition, A2LA has recognition from over 30 federal, state and local government agencies, companies and associations. *These partners recognize the competence, quality of service and cost effectiveness of A2LA.*

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|---|--|--------------------|
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|   | I101 – Fact Sheet  | September 18, 2008 |
|   |  | Page 2 of 2        |

**Organization:** A2LA is governed by a Board of Directors (BOD). Members of the BOD represent various professions, industry, laboratories, and government.

**Councils:** The Board maintains two councils: (1) the Criteria Council which reviews and approves criteria documents and (2) the Accreditation Council which makes accreditation decisions, based on the assessment and evaluation provided by the A2LA assessors and staff. Appeals of Accreditation Council decisions are made first to an Appeal Panel of the Accreditation Council and then to the Board of Directors.

**Funding:** A2LA is funded by dues from members, fees charged to participants and training courses. Most funds are used to monitor the performance of participants.

**A2LA Online:** The A2LA website: [www.A2LA.org](http://www.A2LA.org), includes complete information on all accreditation programs, a fully searchable directory of accredited organizations, and a directory of staff contact information.