

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

A2LA Recognized as NELAP Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor / Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (PTPA/PTOB)

A2LA is now a National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP)-recognized PTPA/PTOB. The announcement was made on August 8, 2005, by Ms. Lara Autry, EPA, NELAP Director; during The Forum on Laboratory Accreditation - NELAC 11 Conference, held in Raleigh, NC.

By recognizing A2LA, the EPA and the NELAP Accrediting Authorities are gaining a PTPA/PTOB that has assessors with the technical experience to competently conduct the assessments to the stringent NELAC Requirements; a mature, efficient system in place to review and process the accreditations, and the statistical expertise needed to effectively implement the ongoing monitoring and oversight roles that have been absent from the program thus far.

The PT Providers in turn will receive one accreditation that covers all of the NELAC Fields of Proficiency Testing. The A2LA program also has the capabilities to provide the PT Providers an option to become accredited for PT schemes outside the NELAC Scope. Finally, the PT Providers' accreditation by A2LA will help facilitate the acceptance of their products globally.

A2LA has been accrediting proficiency-testing providers since 2000 and currently has nine providers accredited that offer PT schemes for various fields of testing and calibration.





UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

August 8, 2005

Mr. Randall V. Querry
American Association for Laboratory Accreditation
5301 Buckeystown Pike, Suite 350
Frederick, MD 21704

Dear Mr. Querry:

On behalf of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Board of Directors, the NELAC Proficiency Testing (PT) Board, and myself, as the NELAC and National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Director, it is my pleasure to announce that the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is hereby recognized as a Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (PTOB)/Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA). The PT Board has reviewed and determined that A2LA has established a program that meets the requirements of the NELAC Standard and its appendices to accredit and oversee PT Providers for the NELAC program. Both the NELAC Board of Directors and myself have reviewed the PT Board recommendation for A2LA's recognition and concur with this recommendation.

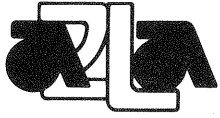
I applaud your success in the establishment of your program as a PTOB/PTPA for NELAC and want to congratulate you on a job well done. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (919-541-5544) or Richard Sheibley, the PT Board Chair, (717-346-8215).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lara P. Autry".

Lara P. Autry
NELAC/NELAP Director

cc: Richard Sheibley, PT Board Chair



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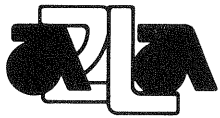
A2LA TIMETABLE FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS TO THE NELAC PTPA/PTOB REQUIREMENTS

August 5, 2005

A2LA will accredit those NELAC Proficiency Testing Providers in the *first class* who meet the deadlines specified in this timetable. The accreditations of these Proficiency Testing Providers will be granted and announced at the same time.

DEADLINE	ACCREDITATION PROCESS
September 1, 2005	A2LA Applications and related assessment documents are available hardcopy or www.A2LA.org .
October 31, 2005	<i>Completed</i> applications due. Application received but deemed incomplete by A2LA will not be considered, if this date is not met.
December 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006	On-site assessments are completed of the PTP that have met the application deadline, provided all necessary documents to the assessment team, and have cooperated in scheduling their assessment with the A2LA Lead Assessor.
July 31, 2006	A2LA announces the accreditations of those NELAC PTPs who have successfully completed the accreditation process in accordance with A2LA policies and procedures. Note: If all of the applicants in the first class have successfully completed the accreditation process prior to July 2006, A2LA will announce earlier.
October 1, 2006	A2LA initiates the raw data review and summary report oversight of the NELAC PTPs via database.





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A2LA FEE SCHEDULE FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS TO THE NELAC PTPA/PTOB REQUIREMENTS

August 5, 2005

ACCREDITATION PROCESS	FEE
Application Fee	\$ 2,000
The Application Fee is a one-time fee for all <i>new</i> applicant NELAC PT Providers. Accredited PT Providers currently accredited by A2LA, are subject to a \$ 1,000 application fee.	
Annual Fee	\$ 5,000 (subject to change)
Accreditation is granted for two years. An annual fee of \$ 5,000 is required to continue accreditation after the first year of accreditation.	
Assessment Fee	\$ 4,000 deposit \$ 960 assessor rate / 8 hour day
A2LA requires an initial Assessor Deposit for each assessor counted towards the actual assessment costs. The cost incurred may include travel, accommodations, meals, rental car, parking, tolls and related business expenses.	
PT Monitoring and Oversight Fees	\$ 5,000 deposit (initial year) \$ 400 / round
A \$ 5,000 Ongoing Monitoring Fee deposit is required with the initial application fee. A \$ 400 review fee per round will be charged to the applicant. A2LA will invoice the applicant for the monitoring on a quarterly basis.	

^{\$} 16,000 required with initial application (\$ 2,000 + \$ 5,000 + \$ 4,000 + \$ 5,000).

^{\$} 15,000 required with applications from currently accredited A2LA PT Providers.

Please note that A2LA offers accreditation for Reference Material Producers and Proficiency Testing Providers for analytes and products beyond the NELAC Scope. Applicants also seeking accreditation for Non-NELAC Proficiency Testing Schemes or Non-NELAC Reference Material Products may apply under A2LA's currently existing accreditation programs. The Non-NELAC application fee will be waived and the Non-NELAC Annual Fee will be reduced per A2LA's Policies. Accreditation for Non-NELAC Proficiency Testing Schemes is valid for four years.

