

R204 – SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS: FOOD & PHARMACEUTICAL
TESTING LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM
January 2007

This document describes the accreditation requirements applicable to laboratories performing chemical and/or microbiological analyses in the examination of food and pharmaceutical products, ingredients in the production of food, in-process food samples, environmental samples pertinent to foods and final products. This document supersedes the A2LA *Food Chemistry Program Requirements* and the A2LA *Food Microbiology Program Requirements*. Participation in this program is voluntary.

GENERAL CRITERIA

The general criteria for accreditation are contained in ISO/IEC 17025-2005, *General Requirements for Accreditation of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*, as referenced in Part A of the A2LA's *R101 - General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories* ("green booklet").

SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Specific criteria are generally an elaboration on or interpretation of the general criteria plus those requirements of accreditation applicable to a certain field of testing, testing technology, type of test, or specific test. The specific criteria for food and pharmaceutical testing are contained in the *AOAC INTERNATIONAL Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food and Pharmaceuticals* (September 2006 revision). This document is available from:

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PROFICIENCY TESTING

Please refer the A2LA's *R103 – General Requirements: Proficiency Testing for ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories* and the associated *R103a – Annex* in addition to the applicable requirements identified in section 5.9 of the specific criteria document for the proficiency testing requirements applicable to this program.

INTERPRETATIVE GUIDANCE

Occasionally there is a need for interpretative guidance on applications of the specific criteria. The laboratory is encouraged to refer to the additional guidance on the application of these criteria which can be obtained by referencing the notes found in the *AOAC INTERNATIONAL Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food and Pharmaceuticals* and the AOAC website.

Document Revision History

Date	Description
December 2002	Initial version released. This new version replaces the A2LA <i>Food Chemistry Program Requirements</i> (June 2001) and A2LA <i>Food Microbiology Program Requirements</i> (June 2001) as of June 1, 2003.
September 2005	Revised to update to ISO 17025:2005 references.
January 2007	Revised version released. This version replaces the AOAC <i>INTERNATIONAL Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food and Pharmaceuticals</i> (September 2004).

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