



**MEMORANDUM TO:** All Food and Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratories undergoing initial or renewal A2LA assessments in the Biological /Chemical fields of testing

**DATE:** 08/10/2010

**FROM:** Roger Brauninger, BioSafety Program Manager

**RE:** A2LA's transition pertaining to the 2010 revision of the "*AOAC Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Feed and Pharmaceuticals*"

---

Beginning August 1, 2010, A2LA will begin offering accreditation under the revised A2LA Food Testing Program using requirements based on the March 2010 revision of the "*AOAC Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Feed and Pharmaceuticals*". This document contains both the full text of the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard as well as the specific criterion pertinent to Food Testing laboratories and is only available from *AOAC International* ([www.aoac.org](http://www.aoac.org)). The associated assessor checklist, because it also utilizes the full text of the requirements document will not be made available electronically at the A2LA web site. **Copies of the checklist will instead be made available only to those who can provide evidence that they have obtained a legitimate copy of the revised document.** Please contact A2LA for further information.

As of January 1, 2011, all A2LA laboratories pursuing accreditation to the A2LA Food and Pharmaceutical program requirements shall be assessed against the revised "Guidelines". **Prior to this date, assessment to the new requirements is optional and may be performed if the laboratory can demonstrate ownership of the revised text.**

#### Assessment Options for Accredited Laboratories

Laboratories are normally assessed against new requirements during the regularly scheduled renewal assessment conducted every two years. However, several other options are available to accredited laboratories that may wish to demonstrate compliance to the new requirements sooner. Options include the following:

(1) Accredited laboratories can elect at any time to undergo an **interim** gap assessment in order to verify compliance with the new requirements. With this option, the current anniversary date would not change because of the assessment. [For newly accredited laboratories, the mandatory first year on-site surveillance can easily be modified to include an interim assessment of the new requirements.]

(2) Alternatively, laboratories may elect to undergo an **early renewal** (full reassessment to determine compliance with the new requirements and ISO/IEC 17025:2005). Laboratories undergoing a full reassessment would then receive a new anniversary date that is good for a two-year accreditation period. This option may be selected at any time during the normal two-year accreditation cycle.

If you have any questions related to this transition, please contact, Roger Brauninger, via e-mail at [rbrauninger@A2LA.org](mailto:rbrauninger@A2LA.org), or via phone at (301) 644 3233.