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This document describes the accreditation requirements applicable to the A2LA Inspection Body: Special Inspections field which are designed to meet the needs of users seeking third-party attestation of the competency of inspection bodies. Internationally accepted accreditation criteria and guidance documents developed by the International Code Council (ICC) and ASTM committees form the basis for accrediting inspection bodies under this field

One of the major objectives of A2LA is to provide regulators responsible for approving Special Inspection Agencies and other users of inspection bodies with an effective alternative for evaluating and recognizing competent organizations. A2LA is committed to working with government agencies to realize this objective.

The scope of this field includes, but is not limited to, the following areas of Special Inspections: general building construction, fire protection systems and fire-resistant construction, plumbing and mechanical systems, structural materials and construction operations. Applications for accreditation may be made for one or more areas. Additional areas may be added upon request.

As an option, an inspection body may also obtain accreditation for the following inspection of materials engineering standards:


ASTM E329 Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection and/or Testing

GENERAL CRITERIA

The general criteria for accreditation are contained in ISO/IEC 17020-1998, “*General Criteria for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection*”, as referenced in Part A of A2LA document R103 - General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17020 Inspection Bodies.

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 or jurisdiction. The specific criteria for the Special Inspection field are based on the applicable requirements of the specific standards for which accreditation is sought. Special Inspection Agencies seeking accreditation for specific inspections must also meet the additional criteria outlined in the annex which pertains to the relevant jurisdiction(s).

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Document Revision History

Date	Description
August 2010	Original issue of document.