	<i>The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation</i>	
	R219 – Specific Requirements: TNI Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (FSMO) Accreditation Program	Document Revised: 11/15/2011 Page 1 of 3

This document describes the accreditation requirements for organizations performing activities associated with field sampling and measurement activities.

DEFINITIONS

TNI NEFAP Field Sampling and Measurement Organization: Organizations engaged in environmental sampling and field measurement activities. Accreditation is available in two ways:

- Umbrella Accreditation: To a parent FSMO operating under a single common Management system (e.g., at a corporate or divisional level), and providing field sampling and measurements across various jurisdictions from multiple non-contiguous fixed-based locations; or
- Individual Accreditation: To a single fixed-base FSMO entity or to each noncontiguous entity of a parent FSMO, each with its own management system, providing sampling and measurements across various jurisdictions.

To clarify umbrella organizations - in some cases, an accredited laboratory may employ or contract with another organization to act as their field testing/calibration technicians. If the field work is done completely under the auspices of that other company (i.e., done under their own name and presented on a final report on their own letterhead), then the accredited laboratory must treat this as sub-contracting and must meet all ISO/IEC 17025 and *P101 – Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy* requirements related to sub-contracting.

If the field work is to be done under the auspices of the accredited laboratory, then these field technicians must be included in the A2LA assessment process and all requirements for field work as outlined in this document must be applied to that other company, as they are considered to be employees or contractors of the accredited lab. For example, the accredited laboratory must include the field technicians from the other company on their organization chart, must maintain training records for them, must provide them with relevant portions of the accredited lab's quality manual, and must ensure that they do not perform any key functions (e.g., reporting, contract review, etc.). All final reports must be issued by the accredited laboratory and, unless the laboratory wishes to pay for the A2LA assessor to visit the field technicians at their remote locations, all key functions must be performed by and through the accredited laboratory itself.

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GENERAL CRITERIA

The general criteria for accreditation are contained in ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, as referenced in Part A of the A2LA's *R101 - General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories*.

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 field sampling and measurement activities are contained in The NELAC Institute Field Sampling and Measurement Organization (TNI FSMO) Volume 1, adopted May 1, 2007. This document is available from:


The NELAC Institute (TNI)
P.O. Box 2439
Weatherford, TX 76086
Phone: 817-598-1624
<http://www.nelac-institute.org/>

The TNI Standard is conformant with A2LA's *R101 - General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories*. Some of the major additional clauses specific to FSMO's include:

Pre-Assessment: the assessment team shall determine whether site access or security advance planning/notification is required and whether any special site safety procedures may be required of the assessment team.

On-site Assessment: the entry briefing shall include a review of any safety considerations necessary for assessor protection while in certain parts of the FSMOs' facilities.

Corrective Actions: the FSMO shall provide a corrective action for any identified deficiencies within 30 days after receipt of the assessment report, regardless of whether the laboratory is a new or renewal applicant. An extension to this thirty-day period may be agreed if possible enforcement actions have been indicated. The accreditation body shall respond as to the acceptability of the proposed corrective action. If a second corrective action is found unacceptable, the accreditation body *shall* consider denial of initial accreditation or re-accreditation status.

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Accreditation Decisions: once denied, the accreditation body shall require the FSMO to wait six months before again reapplying for accreditation and the FSMO may be subject to additional fees as determined by the accreditation body.

Suspension of Accreditation: the suspended FSMO shall not have to reapply for accreditation (and pay any fees) if the cause(s) for suspension is corrected within six (6) months after written notification of the suspension (the effective date). The FSMO's accreditation shall be revoked in total or in part if the FSMO fails to correct the causes of suspension within six (6) months after the effective date of the suspension.

PROFICIENCY TESTING

Please refer to A2LA's *R103 – General Requirements: Proficiency Testing for ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories*, the associated *R103a – Annex*, and the applicable requirements identified in section 5.9 of *ISO/IEC 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

Document Revision History

Date	Description
December 04, 2008	Initial Issue
November 15, 2011	-Added definition of FSMO and two ways accreditation is available (umbrella or individual). Clarified A2LA definition of umbrella organizations. -Defined additional requirements on top of R101 to include the pre-assessment, on-site assessment, corrective actions, accreditation decisions, and suspension of accreditation.

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