

our support is your

# eledge



*promoting confidence through accreditation since 1978*



## Know that your accreditation has the broadest possible acceptance

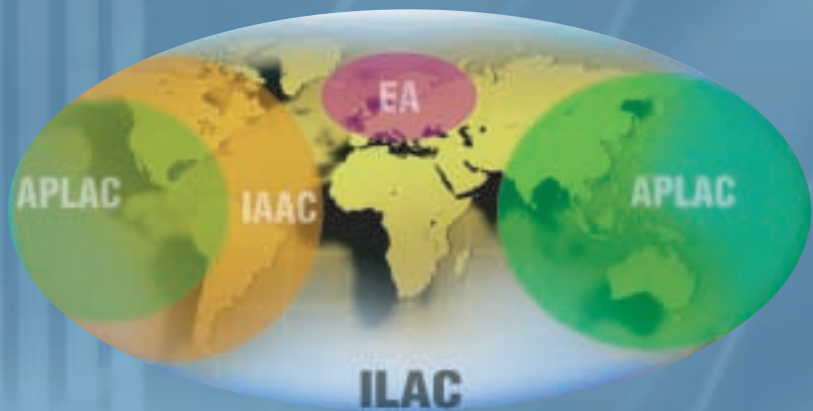
Laboratory accreditations are not all alike. Although all accreditors claim to assess and attest to the capability of a laboratory, the requirements and assessments vary considerably by organization and program. Some programs involve only minimal review of a laboratory's qualifications, and many of the accreditation programs are industry or application specific. **That's why it's critical to choose A2LA accreditation to show your market that your lab meets rigorous internationally recognized standards.**

A2LA accredits laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025 and field-specific requirements developed with specifiers and regulators. When your laboratory is A2LA accredited, it means the laboratory has achieved a prescribed level of technical competence to perform specific types of testing, measurement, and calibration activities. Commercial labs and captive (internal) labs of all kinds, around the world, value A2LA accreditation.



To further the acceptance of test and calibration data among A2LA-accredited labs and regulatory bodies, A2LA has mutual recognition agreements with:

- International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
- European cooperation for Accreditation (EA)
- Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

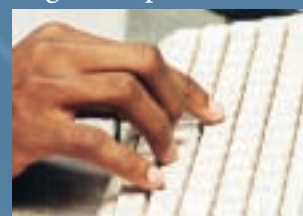


## Be at the forefront of laboratory accreditation

A2LA believes firmly in the value of laboratory accreditation and is committed to advancing its development by being an active participant in industry organizations. Members of our staff hold leadership positions in accreditation cooperations and standards-writing committees and work to improve and enhance laboratory standards and accreditation requirements everywhere.

## Help advance the development of laboratory accreditation everywhere

Because A2LA understands the value that accreditation brings to buyers, regulators, and all who base critical decisions on test data, we work within the accreditation community to help shape policy and procedures. As a signatory to the ILAC Arrangement, A2LA is firmly committed to developing a global network of accredited testing and calibration laboratories that can be relied on to provide accurate results. The ILAC Arrangement provides the technical underpinning for test data accompanying exported goods to be more readily accepted in overseas markets. This effectively reduces or eliminates the need for products to be retested in another country, which reduces costs for both the manufacturer and the importers. Over 22,000 laboratories are now accredited worldwide by ILAC MRA Signatories.



## Add your voice to our influence

Another way A2LA promotes accreditation is by giving our members a voice. While membership is separate and distinct from accreditation—you don't need to be a member to receive A2LA accreditation, nor does membership confer accreditation—it gives members a forum where they express their ideas and opinions and exchange valuable professional contacts.

A2LA membership is open to all individuals, organizations, and institutions with a belief in the integrity of data and an interest in furthering laboratory accreditation. In addition to representation in the accreditation community, it offers benefits including training courses, a subscription to *A2LA News*, e-mail notification of important information, the ability to vote for the board of directors, and discounts on accreditation fees and publications. To learn more about A2LA membership, see the enclosed insert.

## Raise your organization's profile

In today's accountability-driven market, the quality of an organization's products or services is only as good as the test data used to back up its claims. Data is what everyone ultimately relies on to prove in the marketplace that something performs to expectations and meets required standards or specifications.

A2LA accreditation gives your lab's data instant credibility in the marketplace. A2LA accreditation recognizes that your facility's technical ability and your staff's competency have been proven through rigorous initial assessment and periodic reassessment and proficiency testing.\*

A2LA accreditation definitively conveys to the market and regulatory institutions that your laboratory has achieved the highest level of technical competence in performing specific types of testing, measurement, and calibration activities.

## Break through barriers to widen distribution of your products

Organizations in a global market have to get their deliverables out there to the largest possible market in the shortest amount of time. That means overcoming various compliance standards and other requirements. A2LA accreditation helps you break through these regulatory barriers that can limit your organization's access to broader distribution and international trade.

A2LA is a signatory to several recognition arrangements, which facilitate the acceptance of test and calibration data among 45 economies around the globe. A2LA is also the only domestic accreditation body to hold Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) signatory status in Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), European cooperation for Accreditation (EA), Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

# A2LA opens up new opportunities

## Gain an edge on your competition

Every day in the market, products and services are at risk of being one-upped or out-competed by low-ball competitors, knock-offs, and copycat marketers. Customer loyalty is fickle, and organizations can no longer rely on brand strength and proprietary knowledge alone to remain the leader.

A2LA accreditation is one of the most effective marketing tools you can use to distinguish your enterprise from the competition. It says that your laboratory has stood up to the industry's most thorough and stringent accreditation assessments.

The credibility of A2LA accreditation not only sets you apart from the competition, it solidifies current client relationships and convinces the market that your organization stands for quality, accuracy, and integrity.

A2LA accreditation has recognition from over 30 federal, state, and local government agencies, companies, and associations, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

A2LA accreditation also aligns your laboratory data with leading private sector organizations like the Big Three automakers, many Aerospace Prime Manufacturers, and the Safety Equipment Institute (SEI).

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\*Proficiency testing is a process for checking actual laboratory performance (usually by means of interlaboratory data comparison) and is required for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025.

# we know the business

## Avoid the confusion...Make better management decisions faster

When it's your job to make tough management decisions in your laboratory, you want to ensure your decisions align to the standards in your industry. But what are the standards?

In the US, where hundreds of organizations are involved in standards writing—including private sector organizations, federal government programs, state programs, and even local programs—discerning which standards make up the benchmarks in your industry can be confusing.



With A2LA accreditation, you can be assured that your facility is aligned to the most relevant international standards and practices. A2LA accreditation provides you with an accepted benchmark that makes it easier to achieve important management goals, such as:

- Maintaining your laboratory's competence
- Lowering the risk of bad quality results
- Improving your chances of winning government and industry bids
- Demonstrating that you are a competent supplier
- Expanding and selling globally
- Protecting yourself from potential legal action

*“The ILAC Arrangement provides the technical underpinning for test data accompanying exported goods to be more readily accepted in overseas markets.”*

## A2LA expert assessors speed your operations and processes

A2LA accreditation involves you with our expert technical assessors who will identify any deficiencies found during the assessment. Resolving these deficiencies can improve your operation and help your laboratory work more efficiently. These assessors work in their chosen disciplines and undergo mandatory training and testing, with ongoing performance evaluations and annual refresher courses.

Our technical assessors conduct a thorough evaluation of all factors in a facility that affect the production of technical data, including:

- Technical competence of staff
- Validity and appropriateness of the methods
- Traceability of measurements and calibrations to national standards
- Appropriate application of measurement uncertainty
- Suitability, calibration, and maintenance of test equipment
- Accommodations and environment
- Sampling, testing, and transportation of test items
- Quality assurance of test, inspection, or calibration data
- Reporting of data

Plus, A2LA's acceptance around the world helps you extend the validity of your laboratory testing without the need for expensive and time-consuming retesting.



# from your side

## How can I stay current on new standards and practices?

For the latest information and technical expertise—beyond the knowledge shared through the accreditation process—A2LA offers you a unique insider's view of the progress toward worldwide standardized laboratory accreditation.

Our status is unparalleled in the industry and includes leadership positions in the most ambitious efforts to harmonize standards.



- A National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) recognized accreditation and oversight body for proficiency test providers
- The only US accreditation body that has signed the Bilateral Mutual Recognition Agreement with the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA)
- ILAC, APLAC, and IAAC representation at many levels

This leadership position helps A2LA monitor and track the ever-changing business of testing and calibration accreditation. A2LA also provides our clients and members a conduit for updates on the latest developments affecting laboratory standards, requirements, and procedures. This timely information is disseminated through our quarterly newsletter *A2LA News*, A2LA e-mail bulletins, and the A2LA website, [A2LA.org](http://A2LA.org).

## Save on training opportunities

Your managers and technical staff can benefit from A2LA's formal training courses taught by specialists in their fields. A2LA training courses include:

- Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
- ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation
- Assessment of Laboratory Competence
- Quality Assurance Analysis Tools for Calibration and Laboratories

Plus, A2LA offers on-site training at your facility.

## Follow the leader in laboratory accreditation

Established in 1978, A2LA is the largest multi-discipline accreditation body in the United States and has accredited over 1,800 laboratories in many fields of testing and calibration.

A2LA also offers programs for accreditation of inspection bodies (ISO/IEC17020), proficiency testing providers (ILAC G13), reference material producers (ISO Guide 34), and bodies operating product certification systems (ISO Guide 65). In addition to these programs, A2LA has several specifier-specific programs, such as laboratories, food safety testing, environmental testing, and more.



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**American Association for Laboratory Accreditation**

**Phone: 301-644-3248**

**Fax: 301-662-2974**

**E-Mail: [info@A2LA.org](mailto:info@A2LA.org)**

**[www.A2LA.org](http://www.A2LA.org)**



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