



# Achieving Accreditation



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American Association of Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

Third International Symposium on Beryllium Particulates  
and Their Detection

November 17 - 19, 2008



American Association for Laboratory Accreditation



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# Topics

- Overview of Accreditation Process
  - Preparation
  - On-site assessment
  - Post assessment activities
- A2LA Requirements
- Benefits



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# Initial Accreditation Process

- Create a compliant Quality Manual
- Identify desired Scope of Accreditation
- Submit application and fees
- On-site assessment
- Non-conformance resolution
- Final Accreditation



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## Preparing for accreditation

- Study and understand requirements
- Generate compliant Quality Manual
- Review all technical procedures and quality manual with technical staff
- Perform thorough internal audits



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# Application Materials

- Application Form
  - Equip list
  - Staff matrix
- ISO/IEC 17025 compliant Quality Manual
- Completed Assessor Checklist
  - (General): ISO/IEC 17025
  - (Specific): Program Specific



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# Application Materials

- Scope: Test names w/corresponding IDs
- Measurement traceability activities
- Proficiency Testing activities:
  - (General): Enrollment & Successful PT
  - (Specific): PT data for all tests/methods



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# A2LA Accreditation Programs

- Automotive EMC
- Animal Drug Testing
- Calibration
- Food & Pharmaceutical Testing
- Environmental Lead Testing
- Construction Materials Testing
- Geotechnical Testing
- Kentucky/Wyoming Underground Storage Tank Testing
- Field Testing
- TNI FSMO\*



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## Pre-Assessment

- Assessors Assignment
- Prior Document Review
- Review Results & Follow Up
- Assessment Scheduled



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## About Assessors...

- Are technical experts
- Fact finder - collects information
- Have been trained and evaluated
- Have annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements
- Stay current on changes within their discipline



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## On-site Assessment

- Interview technical staff
- Witness testing activities
- Inspection equipment and facilities
- Review Objective Evidence of Compliance
- Review Evidence that Quality Manual is maintained



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## Post Assessment

- Assessment report and deficiency report
- Corrective Action Response (CAR)
- CARs reviewed by A2LA staff & assessors
- The Accreditation Council is balloted
- Accreditation is granted when all issues are resolved and all fees are paid



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## A2LA Proficiency Testing Requirements

- Extension of section 5.9 of ISO 17025
- One successful round prior to accreditation
- Four year plan to cover Scope
- Commercial PT must be used when available and appropriate



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## A2LA Traceability Requirements

- Extension of section 5.6 of ISO 17025
- Testing Labs → Calibrations
- Hierarchy of Achieving Traceability
  - Clause T1: MRA Partner Accredited Calibration Provider
  - Clause T9: In house calibration



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# Beryllium Particulates Detection

- Chemical Field
- Field Testing and/or Field Sampling Programs
- Only one live human being required
- Timeline: 5 to 6 months, but can be less



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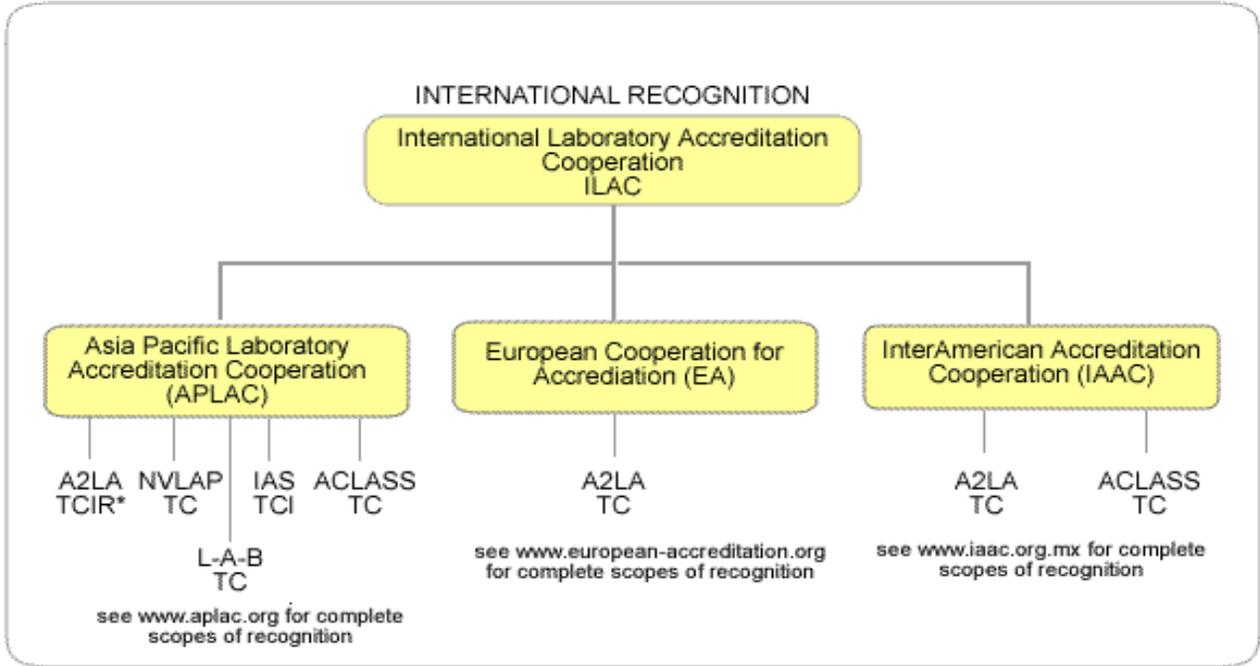
## Overall Benefits of Accreditation

- Corrective and preventive actions, method approval plans, and management review attach timelines to improvement processes ensuring completion
- Issues with methods, personnel, and equipment are identified and resolved more quickly.
- System is continually maturing and improving.
- Customer satisfaction improved.



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# International Recognition



\* T - Testing  
 C - Calibration  
 I - Inspection Body  
 R - Reference Materials Producer (in progress)



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## One Accreditation, Accepted Everywhere

- Benefits of International Recognition:
  - Entry into markets otherwise closed
  - Reduce the need for multiple Accreditations
  - Customer Assurance of Quality



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# For Further Information

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