TRANSITION MEMORANDUM

To: A2LA Accredited and Enrolled Life Sciences Testing Laboratories Assessed to the Department of Defense Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (DoD ELAP) Quality Systems Manual

From: Chris Gunning, Environmental Sciences Program Manager

Re: Transition for Implementing DoD QSM Version 5.0

The Department of Defense (DoD) Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories (QSM) Version 5.0 was approved and released on July 23, 2013. The DoD has given a 2.5 year implementation timeframe to have all laboratories accredited to version 5.0. Therefore our expectation is that all renewal assessments may occur during the normally scheduled sequence based on the laboratories’ anniversary dates.

Beginning January 1, 2014, all assessments of testing laboratories falling under the DoD ELAP requirements will be subject to being assessed against version 5.0 of the QSM. Laboratories that are due to have assessments prior to January 1, 2014, and that are wishing to be assessed to version 5.0 before this date may do so by making a request to A2LA at the time of application. Laboratories that have already applied and completed checklists for version 4.2 of the QSM may also request to be assessed to version 5.0 without filling out new checklists but may incur additional costs due to increased assessor on-site time in preparing the assessment documents and records.

For more information, please contact Mr. Chris Gunning, Environmental Sciences Program Manager (cgunning@A2LA.org; 240 5757481).