



February 15, 2012

Memorandum

To: Forensic Testing Organizations

From: Karin Athanas, Forensic Examination Accreditation Program Contact

Regarding: Participation in a FBI QAS Pilot Program

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation has been approved by the National DNA Index System (NDIS) board to offer FBI QAS assessments to assist Forensic facilities in meeting the following requirements:

Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories, Section 15.2:

“At least once every two years, an external audit shall be conducted by an audit team comprised of qualified auditor(s) from a second agency(ies) and having at least one team member who is or has been an analyst previously qualified* in the laboratory’s current DNA technologies and platform.”

Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories, Section 15.2:

“At least once every two years, an external audit shall be conducted by an audit team comprised of qualified auditor(s) from a second agency(ies) and having at least one team member who is or has been an analyst previously qualified* in the laboratory’s current DNA technologies and platform and one team member who is currently or was previously a qualified analyst from a databasing laboratory.”

***Qualified auditor** is a current or previously qualified DNA analyst who has successfully completed the FBI DNA Auditor’s training course.

In support of this assessment initiative A2LA is currently offering assessment to the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Testing and Databasing to all applicant organizations currently approved by the NDIS board seeking external assessment to meet the above listed requirements. For the first three facilities to apply and submit all required documentation, all application and assessment costs will be waived.

Program Highlights

1. A2LA will begin accepting applications on May 1, 2012.
2. Applicant organizations wishing to be considered for the pilot program must submit:
 - a. A completed copy of *F101 - Application for Accreditation: ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories*
 - b. A completed copy of *F230 – Application to Participate in an A2LA Pilot Program*
3. All applications received between May 1, 2012 and May 15, 2012 will be reviewed and the first three applicants to meet all requirements of the program shall be selected. Those organizations selected for the Pilot Program will be assessed to the FBI QAS for DNA Testing and/or Databasing requirements at no cost to them (all application and assessment costs will be waived)¹.

¹ Please note that assessment to the FBI QAS requirements does not include assessment and accreditation to an ISO/IEC standard. If your organization is seeking accreditation to an ISO/IEC standard (i.e. ISO/IEC 17025) you are required to apply as a new applicant and pay all associated assessment and annual fees). If your organization is accepted into an A2LA Pilot Program, your application fee will be waived and a portion of your assessment fees associated with the Pilot Program will be deducted from your final invoice.

4. All other applicants will be assessed an \$800 application fee and will be subject to all applicable assessment fees.
 - a. Applicants not chosen for the Pilot Program will be afforded an opportunity to withdraw from the program prior to the application of any fees.
5. At completion of the assessment the applicant laboratory will receive a completed copy of the FBI QAS audit document for forensic testing and/or databasing and a letter of affirmation attesting to the applicant organization's assessment to the relevant FBI QAS document.

Mailing/Emailing Instructions:

If mailing, please return the above listed applications along with the supporting documentation requested within them to:

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation
5301 Buckeystown Pike, Suite 350, Frederick, MD 21704

If emailing, please submit to: applications@A2LA.org

Please direct all questions regarding this application to our office at 301 644 3248.

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