



Effective May 1, 2009 until April 1, 2010

A2LA will begin offering Accreditations to ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 for the EPA WaterSense Program May 1, 2009.

EPA requires all products bearing the [WaterSense label](#) to be independently certified. This certification provides consumers with confidence in both the water efficiency and performance of WaterSense labeled products. To ensure that WaterSense labeled products meet specific efficiency and performance criteria, EPA has released its final [WaterSense product certification system \(PDF\)](#).

The WaterSense product certification system becomes effective on April 1, 2009, although EPA will be transitioning from the interim certification process through April 1, 2010. Certifying bodies not currently licensed by EPA should be accredited directly to these requirements.

During the interim certification process through April 1, 2010, *A2LA may accept* the accreditations from certifying bodies previously accredited by another “EPA approved” accreditation body (i.e. ANSI, IAS), provided the certification body submits the following items:

1. Complete and Submit the F309 application for Accreditation to ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996; including the supporting evidence as listed in part V. and payment for the application fee, annual fee and product certification surcharge fee as listed in part IV of the application.
2. Evidence of current accreditation from an accreditation body approved by the EPA for the WaterSense program.
3. The assessment report and corrective action responses (with evidence of implementation) that was used by the applicant’s current Accreditation body to determine compliance to the relevant requirements.
4. Any additional information A2LA may request in order to aid in the determination of compliance to ISO/IEC Guide 65, the EPA’s WaterSense Program Requirements, the management system of the applicant, and the A2LA R307 General Requirements for Product Certification Bodies.
5. A copy of your policy and procedure for controlling the use of the term “A2LA” and the “A2LA Accredited” symbol, in accordance with the A2LA P101 Reference to A2LA Accredited Status – A2LA Advertising Policy document.

Once this information is received and initially reviewed by A2LA staff, one of the following options will be communicated to the applicant:

- 1) An off-site document review and information review (a teleconference may be necessary) will be performed either by an A2LA staff and/or A2LA assessor, as appropriate. The result of the off-site document review may be that an on-site assessment is required or accreditation is granted to the certification body with an expiration date being set in accordance with A2LA R307 General Requirements for Product Certification Bodies.
- 2) An on-site assessment by an A2LA Assessor is required to determine compliance to the relevant requirements.

Note: If it is determined that an on-site assessment is required, the applicant will also be responsible for the actual assessment costs incurred in accordance with part IV. of the F309 application.