Status of the A2LA Online Renewal of Accreditation System

By Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

In the June 2011 issue of A2LA Today, we announced that a new online system for the renewal of accreditation process was in the beta testing stage. Since then the process has been finessed and finalized and – if you have not done so already – you are urged to familiarize yourself with the system as soon as possible. It is not necessary to wait until your renewal of accreditation is initiated, as you will find that valuable information related to your accreditation is available to you throughout your accreditation cycle.

Some of the most significant benefits of the online renewal system include:

- No concerns over file size when transmitting documentation to A2LA.
- No more searching the A2LA website for documents. All of your checklists (including C101 – General Checklist: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories for all testing and calibration labs), forms, requirements, etc. specifically related to your particular organization’s Scope of Accreditation are readily available through the “Relevant Documents” link on your Conformity Assessment Body Login home page.
- Availability of your draft Scope of Accreditation in an editable format, allowing you to submit requests for updates during your renewal.
- Ability to monitor your organization’s progress through the renewal process.
- And, coming soon, access to current invoices and details on the payment status of your organization.

If you have any questions or require assistance in navigating through the online process, please contact your A2LA Accreditation Officer.

Updates on A2LA:
- Status of the A2LA Online Renewal of Accreditation System
- New Explanations of ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements
- New & Updated Documents
- A2LA Welcomes New Staff
- New Staff Structure

General Notices & Press Releases:
- Remembering Gladys Berchtold
- A2LA Accredits First Forensic Testing Lab
- Spring 2012 Training Schedule
- Upcoming Webinar Training Events
- 2011 NCSLI Conference Awards
- NCSLI Technical Exchange
- Online Training Available through the National Institute of Justice

Meeting Summaries:
- 2011 NCSLI Conference
- 16th IAAC General Assembly Meetings

Newsletter Staff:
- Editor: Teresa Barnett
- Layout Design: Gina McInturff
The following documents have been updated within the controlled A2LA management system. All of these documents are available on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org) through the “Document Finder” option unless otherwise indicated.

- **R202 – Specific Requirements: Automotive EMC Laboratory Accreditation Program (AEMCLAP)** was made obsolete on September 15, 2011.
- **I106 – Available Proficiency Testing Programs** was updated on September 15, 2011. (Document Finder category: Information & Instructional Documents)
- **R103a – Annex: Proficiency Testing for ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories** was updated on September 15, 2011. (Document Finder category: General Requirements)
- **G106 – Guidance on Scopes of Accreditation for PCBs under the TCB Accreditation Program** was updated on September 1, 2011. (Document Finder category: A2LA Guidance Documents)
- **R308 – Specific Requirements: Telecommunication Certification Body Accreditation Program** was updated on September 13, 2011. (Document Finder category: Specific Requirements)
- **P101 – Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy** was updated on October 26, 2011. (Document Finder category: Policies)
- **C104 – General Checklist: Reference to A2LA Accredited Status-A2LA Advertising Policy** was updated on November 7, 2011. (Document Finder category: General Checklists)
- **R219 – Specific Requirements: TNI Field Sampling & Measurement Organization Accreditation Program** was updated on November 15, 2011. (Document Finder category: Specific Requirements)
- **P112 – Flexible Scope Policy** is a new document created on November 21, 2011. (Document Finder category: Policies)
- **R101 – General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories** was updated on December 1, 2011. (Document Finder category: General Requirements)

If you have any questions about these updates, please contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or your Accreditation Officer directly.
A2LA Welcomes New Staff

By Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Over the past several months, A2LA has welcomed seven new staff members: Tim Reachmack, Larnell Simpson, Steve Sites, Ashley Kamauf, Sarah Adelman, Christina Ramsey and Christine Weber.

**Tim** joins A2LA as the Association’s Director of Finance. Prior to joining A2LA, he was a Controller with Carriage House Samplings (Silver Spring, MD), Hess Construction (Gaithersburg, MD), Prepaid Experts (Baltimore, MD) and Rockville Mailing (Rockville, MD). He also held the position of Interim Chief Financial Officer with The Kingsbury Center (Washington D.C.) and the position of Treasurer as a self-employed CPA. Tim has a B.A. in Business Administration-Finance from Loyola University in New Orleans, LA and is a licensed Maryland CPA.

**Larnell** joins A2LA as the Director of Medical and Marketing Affairs. Prior to joining our team, he worked as a Client Support Manager, Sales Representative and Sales Implementation Specialist at Solstas Lab Partners in Baltimore, MD. Larnell also has experience as an Account Sales Representative with Quest Diagnostics, a Client Relationship Manager with IBM and a Clinical Services Consultant with Kinetic Concepts International. He has a B.S. in Global Business Administration from Bellevue University.

**Steve** joins A2LA as Financial Manager. Prior to joining us, he was Staff Accountant with David H. Peters & Associates, P.A. in Sharpsburg, MD. Steve has a B.S. in Accounting and Business Administration (concentration in Financial Planning) from Shepherd University.

**Ashley** joins A2LA as an Accreditation Officer. Prior to joining our team, she was an intern with Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems in Baltimore, MD. Ashley has a B.S. in Materials Science & Engineering from Lehigh University.

**Sarah** also joins A2LA as an Accreditation Officer. Prior to joining us, she was an intern at Materials Modification, Inc. in Fairfax, VA. Sarah has a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Maryland.

**Christina** joins A2LA as our Accounts Receivable Specialist. Prior to joining our team, she was an Accounts Payable Specialist at American Public University Systems. She also has experience as an Accounts Receivable Specialist with Apptix, Inc. and an Accounts Payable Specialist at BP Solar (Wind). Christina has an Associates Degree in Communications Design from NOVA Community College in Sterling, VA.

**Christine** joins A2LA as an Accreditation Associate. She has previous experience as an administrative assistant, a secretary and a paralegal secretary. Christine has an Associates Degree in Recreation Leadership from Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario.

*We welcome Tim, Larnell, Steve, Ashley, Sarah, Christina and Christine to the growing A2LA family!*
A2LA Staff Title & Structure Changes

By Diana Gavin, A2LA Director of HR

This fall A2LA has been busy with changes to our current organizational structure! A2LA has undergone these internal restructuring changes in an effort to strengthen lines of communication between staff and stakeholders and emphasize our commitment to service.

A2LA recognized a need to balance the travel demands of our staff with the need to have consistent staff availability for those stakeholders that need assistance on a day-to-day basis. As such, A2LA has created a functional division of labor in the Accreditation Services Department – Accreditation Officers and Accreditation Specialists.

Accreditation Officers are comprised of staff members based at our Frederick, Maryland corporate location who assume travel responsibilities to perform assessments, attend technical tradeshows, and represent A2LA at technical committee meetings.

Accreditation Specialists will be permanent in-house staffers who do not travel. They are tasked with ensuring that stakeholders always have an experienced contact at A2LA that they can reach for accreditation-related assistance and questions. These individuals are key participants in daily operations and offer extensive accreditation experience and services to our stakeholders.

A2LA also took the opportunity to optimize the efficiency of its Finance Department, remaining consistent with the division of labor within our accreditation division. Previously, these individuals were known as Financial Services Officers. This title was somewhat ambiguous and confusing to external stakeholders. To instill greater understanding of the roles within this group and to make Financial Services a more accessible entity to its stakeholders, A2LA has reevaluated and updated the titles. The new titles now highlight primary responsibilities and examples include Billing Specialist and Accounts Payable Specialist.

Other titles have been changed to best reflect those individuals’ primary responsibilities and to better assist stakeholders who may contact A2LA with specific concerns.

The final change to our staffing structure resides within upper management. A2LA has changed many of the “Manager” titles in upper management to “Directors”.

Overall, the new structure is intended to allow stakeholders to quickly identify the best A2LA staff member to contact to facilitate their particular request.

The A2LA family would like to thank you for your attention in reading this update. If you have any questions or comments regarding this reorganization, please contact Diana Gavin, Director of HR, at dgavin@A2LA.org.
Remembering

Gladys Berchtold

By Troy Francis Stallard, Peter Unger, A2LA President/CEO, and Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality.

A2LA is saddened to announce that Gladys Stallard Berchtold passed away on November 9, 2011 at the age of 89. Gladys served as Chair of the A2LA Board of Directors in the 1980s and was a true inspiration and a great leader.

Gladys was born near Keystone, WV on August 1, 1922. Her mother died early in Gladys’ life and she was then raised by her older siblings – 6 sisters and 3 brothers. She was an excellent student and was able to graduate from Concord College in Athens, WV with a degree in chemistry at the age of 19. She then began her professional life with Union Carbide in Charleston, WV and later acquired the technical skills associated with coal testing at Godwin Laboratories in Bluefield, WV. At the same time, she also taught chemistry and physics at Bluefield College.

In 1950, Gladys established her own company, Standard Laboratories Inc., and under her leadership the company has grown to over 750 employees in 16 states with global partners in 4 countries. Her success in business also extended into the national professional association world as she became the first woman president of the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), an organization of more than 32,000 members. She represented ASTM in congressional hearings and was the United States representative to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) meetings around the world. Gladys was named “Fellow” by the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) and was elected Chair of A2LA.

In addition to her business and professional life, Gladys had a passion for the arts. She obtained a B.A. from the University of Charleston and was a prolific painter, using a variety of mediums. One of her landscapes is currently exhibited in the Emma Byrd Gallery at the University of Charleston and a three-panel piece painted by Gladys has occupied pride of place in the main A2LA conference room for decades. Also gifted with verbal skills, she authored a science fiction novel, Beyond the Paradigm, with her grandson, Troy Frank Stallard.

Gladys married Troy Raymond Stallard on May 31, 1943 and had three children. She also had eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Gladys was a member of Mensa and has donated her brain to the University of Kentucky Sanders Brown Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center.

Gladys lived a full life characterized by a love of education, a willingness to challenge all obstacles and an overwhelming love of family. Peter Unger, A2LA President/CEO, called her “a savior of A2LA in the late eighties.” “If it weren’t for her,” he said, “A2LA would not be where we are today as the leading accreditation body in the United States and one of the most respected in the world.”

Donations or contributions in her memory may be sent to the Gladys Berchtold Scholarship Fund, Office of Advancement, University of Charleston, 2300 MacCorkle Avenue, Charleston, WV 25304.

A2LA sends its sincerest condolences to Gladys’ family. She will be greatly missed.
A2LA accredits its first forensic testing lab

By Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

On November 11, 2011, A2LA accredited its first forensic laboratory, Forensic Testing Laboratories, Inc., to ISO/IEC 17025. This accreditation marks the first of many to come and is the result of diligent work by our staff and A2LA contracted assessors, with assistance from our member organizations and supporters.

The laboratory, a supporter of A2LA and A2LA-accredited in the field of Biology (under the name Genetic Testing Laboratories, Inc.), first contacted A2LA with an interest in accrediting their forensic testing activities in 2010. Following this first contact and with the assistance of Karin Athanas, A2LA contact person for the forensic accreditation program, the laboratory was assessed to ISO/IEC 17025 and the A2LA supplemental document, R221 – Specific Requirements: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program – Testing, by an A2LA-contracted forensic assessor.

When asked about the success of the program, Ms. Athanas commented, “As a leading internationally-recognized accreditation body, A2LA sees it as our duty to offer our customers and the community accreditations to fit their needs, and the forensic examination accreditation program is only one example of A2LA’s willingness to do this. Through our Forensic Examination Advisory Committee (FEAC), qualified contracted assessors and our contacts with forensic associations and organizations, we see only growth and success in this field and look forward to the challenges to come.”

Forensic Testing Laboratories, Inc.’s forensic Scope of Accreditation (A2LA certificate number 2574.02) includes presumptive testing for blood, semen and saliva as well as DNA testing of forensic samples for nuclear DNA. It may be found on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org) under the parent company name, Genetic Testing Laboratories, Inc.

If you have any questions about A2LA’s accreditation program for forensic examination organizations, please contact Karin Athanas at 301 644 3236 or kathanas@A2LA.org.

Spring 2012 Training Schedule

Course:

Title: Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
- February 27-28, 2012 - Scottsdale, AZ ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)
- June 25-26, 2012 - Columbus, OH ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)

Title: ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation
- February 29-March 2, 2012 - Scottsdale, AZ ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 members)
- April 2-3, 2012 - Charleston, SC ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members) (2-DAY COURSE)
- June 27-29, 2012 - Columbus, OH ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 members)

Title: Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action
- April 4, 2012 - Charleston, SC ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 members)

Title: Assessment of Laboratory Competence
- April 16-20, 2012 - New Orleans, LA ($1595.00 non-members, $1545.00 members)

Venues:

February 26-March 2, 2012
Doubletree Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley
5401 North Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85250
480 315 2013   Rate: $169.00 per Night

April 1-4, 2012
Courtyard Marriott Charleston Historic
125 Calhoun Street
Charleston, SC 29401
843 805 7900   Rate: $179.00 per Night

April 15-April 20, 2012
Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
504 523 3341   Rate: $179.00 per Night

June 24-29, 2012
Hilton Columbus at Easton
3900 Chagrin Drive
Columbus, OH 43219
614 414 5000   Rate: $185.00 per Night

For additional information, please contact Julie Collins, A2LA Training & Membership Administrator, at 301 644 3235 or jcollins@A2LA.org.
We are in the process of developing new marketing materials and would like to promote our members’ organizations however possible. Any interested association members are invited to submit photos of their organization to photos@A2LA.org. We will certainly provide a preview of how your photos will be displayed and credit will be given to the organizations whose photos we use. If you have any questions about the marketing materials we are developing and how your photos will be incorporated within them, please feel free to contact Larnell Simpson, A2LA Director of Medical & Marketing Affairs, at lsimpson@A2LA.org or 301 644 3231.

A2LA is Seeking Food Assessors

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation is seeking technically qualified individuals interested in serving as paid, technical assessors to conduct ISO/IEC 17025 assessments of Food Testing Laboratories. Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:

✓ 10+ years technical experience in Food Microbiology
✓ Great communication skills
✓ Knowledge of the AOAC Food Guidelines*
✓ Experience with Quality Management Systems
✓ Willingness to work with great people!

Please send resume to:
Trace McInturff
A2LA Director of Operations
at tmcinturff@A2LA.org

* A2LA Food Program requirements utilize the AOAC International Accreditation Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food and Pharmaceuticals

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Upcoming Webinar Training Events -
Offered by A2LA in Partnership with WorkPlace Training.

**TITLE:** Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty

2 Hours: February 7, 2012  1:00 PM EDT

**TOPICS:**
- Measurement uncertainty definitions
- Why measurement uncertainty is required
- Measurement uncertainty and ISO/IEC 17025/ANSI Z540.3
- Minimum measurement uncertainty contributors
- Simplified process for determining measurement uncertainty
- Measurement uncertainty references

**TITLE:** Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty-Testing Laboratories

2 Hours: February 8, 2012  1:00 PM EDT

**TOPICS:**
- Determining sample size
- Determining repeatability and reproducibility
- Type A and B uncertainty classification
- Combining uncertainties
- Assigning k-factor and t-distribution
- Reporting in an uncertainty budget

**TITLE:** Practical Methods for Reporting Measurement Uncertainty on a Calibration Report per ILAC P14 guidelines

2 Hours: February 9, 2012  1:00 PM EDT

**TOPICS:**
- Understanding ILAC P14 requirements.
- Metrological traceability
- Measurement uncertainty contributors
- Reporting customer’s measurement uncertainty
- Test Uncertainty Ratio (TUR) and compliance statements
- Helpful spreadsheet techniques.

For more information about these upcoming webinars and for instructions on how to register, please visit our website at: http://www.A2LA.org/training/workplace.cfm
A2LA would like to congratulate Rob Knake, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer, and NCSLI Maryland Section Coordinator on his NCSLI Section Coordinator of the Year Award for the Southeast Region. His hard work was also rewarded by a promotion to the NCSLI Section Coordinator for the Southeast Region.

A2LA would also like to extend congratulations to Mr. Dilip Shah who was awarded with the NCSLI 2011 Education and Training Award, the second highest award the organization presents to an individual.

Dilip has been an in-demand trainer and speaker within NCSLI circles for many years. He has taught and consulted all over the United States on the subjects of measurement uncertainty and meeting lab accreditation requirements. Dilip has also participated in countless regional and section meetings as a guest speaker, covering such subjects as CCT Primer & Exam Refresher, Measurement Uncertainty, Measurement Systems Analysis (MSA) & Statistical Process Control (SPC), Risk Analysis Measurement, and Quality. He served as Chair of the 164.1 committee, as the L&D Marketing Liaison and was a committee member for both Phase I and Phase II of the multimedia DVD initiative. He also participates with the Learning & Development Group in their collaboration efforts with the American Society of Engineering Education Conference.

In addition to his significant involvements within NCSLI, Dilip is also a member of the A2LA Board of Directors and is a senior member of the American Society for Quality (ASQ) and has served as the Chair of its Measurement Quality Division. Today he continues to help shape the Measurement Quality Division educational goals as a division officer. Dilip is a co-author of the Metrology Handbook and has volunteered to contribute to its 2011 update. He is also a voting member of the Joe D. Simmons scholarship Board.

Not surprisingly, Dilip has previously been recognized for his outstanding contributions in several organizations by being presented with:

★ The ASQ Measurement Quality Division “Max J. Unis Award”, recognizing outstanding contributions to the Metrological community.

★ The Measurement Science Conference (MSC) “Algie Lance Award” for the best paper on “Gage R&R vs. ANOVA”.

★ The MSC “Andrew J. Woodington Award” for his overall contributions to the field of Metrology.

All of us at A2LA extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dilip and Rob for these well-deserved awards.

The Technical Exchange, developed by NCSL International (NCSLI), is a new education event designed to provide regional access to low-cost, high-quality metrology training solutions. It is being held on January 26 and 27, 2012 in Charleston, SC. At this two-day event, you will receive metrology training covering several fields. Each training session is taught by subject matter experts from throughout the industry.

The NCSLI Technical Exchange provides a forum for exchanging ideas, measurement techniques, best practices and innovations with others interested in metrology industry trends. It will build or enhance specific hands-on skills in the calibration of measurement and test equipment, and teach best practices along with introducing new and innovative calibration hardware, software and calibration services.

You are invited to join a global community of people passionate about the science of measurement and to build a network of peers to help resolve mutual metrology challenges. Many of the tutorials presented at this educational event will provide information that is part of the ASQ Certified Calibration Technician (CCT) body of knowledge sponsored by the ASQ Measurement Quality Division.

Technical Exchange Tutorials at a Glance:

◆ Understanding ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Most Common Deficiencies (by Rob Knake, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer)

◆ Applying NCSLI RP-16 to Metrology Lab Design and Construction (by Douglas Cooper, Precision Environments, Inc.)

◆ Microwave Measurement Basics (by Ronald Ginley, NIST)

For the complete tutorial program and information on the venue and reservations, please visit www.ncsli.org.
A2LA is seeking ...

... clinical laboratory professionals to serve as independent, (paid) contracted assessors (inspectors) in all regions of the United States and abroad.

We are seeking: Pathologists, Clinical Ph.D.s, Experienced Medical Technicians, Cytotechnologists, Histotechnologists, Clinical Chemists and Toxicologists.

A2LA is a non-profit, independent, third-party laboratory accreditation body applying for CMS deemed status to accredit medical testing laboratories. Participant medical laboratories will be accredited using CLIA and/or ISO/IEC 15189 standards. All selected participants will undergo intensive training on CLIA and ISO/IEC 15189 requirements.

Send CV or resume to medassr@A2LA.org or go to www.A2LA.org.

Online Training Available Through the National Institute of Justice

By Karin Athanas, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer

For those companies performing commercial testing and inspection, requests from lawyers are not common practice or expected. But in today’s atmosphere of civil litigation and a general sense of ‘fair play’, the need for commercial testing and inspection to assist in legal investigations is increasing.

When your company is contacted to perform work that will ultimately be presented in court, will you be prepared? Most crime laboratories and crime scene units have set procedures for maintaining the chain-of-custody of evidence and training programs for employees that cover ethics and court testimony. For the commercial company that may be requested once or twice a year to perform a failure analysis examination or examine a faulty foundation, staff may not have the needed training or procedures to ensure the work they perform is accepted by the court.

With this in mind, A2LA has identified the following sources of training and education that are available to those companies performing commercial forensic work.

The National Institute of Justice hosts over 100 courses through their online portal: http://nij.gov/training/. These courses are offered mainly online and a large number are free and available to all interested parties. Of interest are courses on courtroom presentation, laboratory management and administration and laboratory safety as well as introductory courses on all major sub-disciplines of forensic science.

Additional training and educational courses are offered through several colleges and universities that are accredited by the Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC). These include: University of Alabama at Birmingham, Albany State University, University at Albany (SUNY), Arcadia University, Boston University School of Medicine, University of California at Davis, Duquesne University, Florida International University and West Virginia University, to name a few. A full listing may be found on the American Academy of Forensic Sciences website at: www.aafs.org/Accredited.

To assist with research and educational development, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (www.ncjrs.gov) has developed an online library of more than 210,000 justice and substance abuse resources. All abstracts are free for download and, in many cases, the full-text document is available as well.

Finally, A2LA has begun development of forensic-specific training courses to assist our accredited laboratories in gaining the needed knowledge and training to service the judicial system. Examples of courses being developed include Measurement Uncertainty for the Forensic Laboratory and ISO/IEC 17020 for Crime Scene Units. If you would be interested in an A2LA-sponsored course, would like to suggest a course for development or would be interested in hosting a course, please contact Karin Athanas at kathanasA@A2LA.org or our Training and Membership Administrator, Julie Collins, at jcollins@A2LA.org for more information.
This year’s NCSLI conference was held at the Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor, MD in August. The theme for this year’s convention was “50 Years: Reflecting on the Past – Looking to the Future”. A2LA was represented by Roxanne Robinson, Vice President/COO, Pamela Wright, Accreditation Manager, Phil Smith, Director of Public Affairs, Rob Knake, Senior Accreditation Officer, Ashly Bowers, Senior Accreditation Officer and Jason Poore, Accreditation Officer.

In keeping with this year’s theme, Rob conducted a half-day tutorial on “Information Technology (IT) Testing Accreditation as it Relates to Producers and Users of Calibration Software” and Pam conducted a half-day tutorial on “Applying for and Maintaining Accreditation – Common Pitfalls”, both of which were well received.

A2LA was one of over 100 exhibitors that attended the conference, many of which were our accredited laboratories.

It was especially nice to be able to meet with Lt. Colonel Ahmed Adel and Lt. Colonel Amr Ashour from our accredited laboratory, Metrology Engineering and Calibration Center (MECC), in Cairo, Egypt.

The conference allowed us to meet with professionals and experts in the calibration arena and explain the benefits that accreditation has to offer. It was also a valuable opportunity for our accredited laboratories and other interested parties to meet with A2LA staff in person and have their questions regarding accreditation answered.

We look forward to next year’s conference, which is scheduled for July 29 – August 2, 2012 in Sacramento, CA. The theme for 2012 will be “Metrology and Testing – the Business End of Metrology”.

We at A2LA wish to express our sincere thanks to those who stopped by the A2LA booth with questions regarding our accreditation programs. For inquiries or questions regarding the accreditation programs offered by A2LA, please contact A2LA headquarters at 301 664 3248 or visit us on the web at www.A2LA.org.
The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) held the 16th IAAC General Assembly meetings in Quito, Ecuador the week of August 20, 2011. During these meetings, A2LA President/CEO, Peter Unger, officially signed the IAAC Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for Inspection Bodies (ISO/IEC 17020). A2LA had been approved by the IAAC MLA group in August 2010 but was unable to sign the IAAC MLA until the prerequisite number of signatories was reached for this Scope.

A2LA is now a full member signatory to the IAAC MLA for the following Scopes:

- Testing Laboratories – ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 (for clinical/medical laboratories)
- Calibration Laboratories - ISO/IEC 17025
- Product Certification Bodies - ISO/IEC Guide 65
- Inspection Bodies - ISO/IEC 17020

This most recent milestone compliments the MLA/MRA signatory status A2LA has already achieved with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Also of notable importance to the accreditation community, the IAAC MLA Committee passed a resolution to expand the IAAC MLA to include the following Scopes:

- Green House Gas Emissions (GHG), according to all of the relevant standards;
- Proficiency Testing Providers, according to ISO/IEC 17043;

Further information will be available as these MLAs are developed. The next IAAC meeting is scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile from March 7-9, 2012.