A2LA Attends Forensic Conferences

By Karin Athanas, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer

A2LA attended two separate forensic conferences in the month of July 2012. From July 1-6, staff visited Boston, Massachusetts to attend the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) Conference – Annual Meeting. The conference boasted over 900 attendees and 60 vendors who enjoyed engaging presentations by forensic toxicologists from across the country.

From July 23-27, A2LA forensic accreditation program contact, Karin Athanas, and Director of Medical and Marketing Affairs, Larnell Simpson, represented A2LA at the International Association for Identification (IAI) annual conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. This was A2LA’s third year at the conference and many familiar faces came by the booth to greet us. In addition, increased interest has been expressed from the areas of crime scene investigation as well as digital forensics and forensic toxicology.

In addition to meeting with the forensic community in the exhibitor’s hall at the conference, A2LA offered an 8-hour workshop for forensic organizations, which was very well received. Ms. Athanas taught the class, which consisted of a review of available international standards, explanation of the differences between accreditation, registration and certification, instruction on reading and evaluating the international standards and assessing a forensic facility’s documents and staff for compliance. A quick survey of workshop participants found that approximately 75% were from crime scene units and approximately 85% were preparing to apply for accreditation.

With several forensic conferences on the horizon, A2LA continues to support and promote the forensic accreditation program. For further information on where we will be and details regarding our forensic accreditation program requirements, please contact Karin Athanas at kathanas@A2LA.org (301 644 3236).
NCSLI 2012

By Rob Knake, A2LA Program Manager

The 2012 NCSLI conference was held at the Sacramento Convention Center in Sacramento, California from July 30 to August 2, 2012. The theme this year was “The Business End of Metrology - Quality and Testing”. A2LA was represented by Pamela Wright, Accreditation Manager, Rob Knake, Program Manager, Ashly Carter, Senior Accreditation Officer, and Roxanne Robinson, A2LA Vice President/COO. A2LA was one of approximately 100 exhibitors that attended the conference, many of whom were accredited organizations. There were a number of excellent committee meetings, panel discussions, and technical paper presentations that also took place. A2LA was very involved in the tutorial programs offered during the conference. Pamela Wright presented a full day course on “Understanding ISO/IEC 17025 Requirements and Most Common Deficiencies” and Robert Knake presented a half day course on “Root Cause Analysis”. Both courses were well attended and received positive feedback. Thank you to everyone who attended. For more information on training opportunities provided by A2LA please visit: http://A2LA.org/training/index.cfm.

A2LA sincerely thanks 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: http://www.A2LA.org.

2012 IEEE EMC Symposium

By Adam Gouker, A2LA Program Manager

The 2012 IEEE EMC Society’s International Symposium on Electromagnetic Compatibility was held in Pittsburgh, PA from August 6-10, 2012. A2LA was represented by Adam Gouker, EMC Program Manager, and Trace McInturff, Director of Operations. The symposium was attended by more than 1500 individuals and approximately 200 exhibitors.

On Monday August 6, A2LA attended ACIL’s Conformity Assessment Section (CAS) meeting and was invited to give a presentation on the status of our accreditation program. We also had the opportunity to hear presentations from a few of our fellow ILAC MRA signatory accreditation bodies and learn about news in their programs as well. During the CAS meeting there was much discussion about the recently A2LA-accredited ACIL EMC PT Program, “ACIL Corporation for EMC Proficiency Testing Inc. (ACE-PT Inc.)”. Discussion focused around whether or not EMC test labs will now be required to participate in this new program, as it is now the only accredited PT program of its kind. At this time, A2LA is not requiring participation in this program by our accredited EMC test labs. There is still discussion that must take place in our technical advisory committee, as well as with regulatory authorities such as the FCC. We also plan to discuss this topic with other accreditation bodies that currently accredit EMC test labs to ensure that requirements are implemented equivalently across the board. In the future, if a decision is made (either by A2LA or a regulatory authority) to require participation in this program, we will issue a separate notice to all affected entities on this subject.

A2LA also participated in a joint meeting with the VCCI Council (Japan) on Tuesday August 7 to discuss details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our organizations. We learned that VCCI’s rules for registration of test facilities are being simplified. Test labs will now only be identified by one registration code with the VCCI, whereas in the past they were required to register each type of facility and capability separately. In addition, the VCCI mentioned that they have no plans at this time to implement testing requirements for the newly published CISPR 32. The VCCI indicated that it could be another 2 years before this new standard is adopted. The next renewal of A2LA’s MOU with the VCCI is scheduled for 2013.

A2LA appreciated the opportunity to attend this year’s symposium and looks forward to next year’s exhibition in Denver, CO, which is scheduled for August 5-9, 2013. We thank all of those who stopped by our booth to make personal introductions and ask questions relating to A2LA’s accreditation programs.

For inquiries or questions regarding the electrical field of accreditation offered by A2LA, please contact Adam Gouker at 301 644 3217 or via email at agouker@A2LA.org.
Upcoming Webinar Events

▶ October 29, 2012 - 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Calibration Interval Analysis

This 3 hour web event will cover:
- What is Calibration Interval Analysis?
- What are the ISO 17025/ANSI Z540.3 requirements as related to calibration intervals?
- Different interval analysis and optimization techniques.
- Other reliability issues.
- Reliability analysis tools.
$399.00 ($349.00 for A2LA Members)
(Discount Code: A2LAFALL)
Registration URL: https://student.gototraining.com/rt/3192843572906080768

▶ November 5, 2012 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty

This 2 hour web event will cover:
- Measurement uncertainty definitions.
- Why measurement uncertainty is required.
- Measurement uncertainty and ISO 17025/ANSI Z540.3.
- Minimum measurement uncertainty contributors.
- A simplified process for determining measurement uncertainty.
- Measurement uncertainty references.
$299.00 ($249.00 for A2LA Members)
(Discount Code: A2LAFALL)
Registration URL: https://student.gototraining.com/rt/4981094781153786368

▶ November 6, 2012 - 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Practical Methods for Reporting Measurement Uncertainty on a Calibration Report per ILAC P14 Guidelines

This 2 hour web event will cover:
- Understanding ILAC P14 requirements.
- Metrological traceability.
- Measurement uncertainty contributors.
- Reporting customer’s measurement uncertainty.
- Test Uncertainty Ratio (TUR) and compliance statements.
- Helpful spreadsheet techniques.
$299.00 ($249.00 for A2LA Members) (Discount Code: A2LAFALL)
Registration URL: https://student.gototraining.com/rt/5015613949433032704

Fall 2012 Training Schedule

Course:
Title: Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
- November 12-13, 2012-San Antonio, TX
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)
Title: ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation
- November 14-15, 2012-San Antonio, TX
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 members)
Title: Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action
- November 16, 2012-San Antonio, TX
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 members)
Title: Assessment of Laboratory Competence
- October 22-26, 2012-San Diego, CA
  ($1595.00 non-members, $1545.00 members)

Venues:
October 21-26, 2012-San Diego, CA
Courtyard San Diego Downtown
530 Broadway Street
San Diego, CA 92101
619 446 3000
Rate: $159.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: September 23, 2012)

November 11-16, 2012-San Antonio, TX
The Westin Riverwalk
420 West Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
210 224 6500
Rate: $189.00 per night
(room rate cut-off: October 11, 2012)

For additional information, please contact Julie Collins, A2LA Training/Membership Administrator, at 301 644 3235 or jcollins@A2LA.org.
A2LA Expands its Social Media Reach with Twitter

By Kelsey Roberts, A2LA Marketing Coordinator

A2LA is tweeting! A2LA will tweet with the handle "@A2LA_" and plans on sharing relevant organizational news as well as news related to accreditation, quality and standards as they pertain to specific programs. Twitter has become a necessary avenue for sharing information and engaging others; A2LA hopes to join in the conversation with relevant information to connect with customers and related companies in a new way.

A2LA would like to invite you to follow us on Twitter by visiting www.Twitter.com/A2LA_ or by searching for the Twitter handle, "@A2LA_." A2LA encourages open participation in the conversation by following, responding and re-tweeting.

New & Updated Documents

By Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

The following documents have been updated within the controlled A2LA management system in large part due to A2LA’s annual review and update of controlled documents. All of these documents are available on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org) through the “Search A2LA Site” tool unless otherwise indicated.

- **G109 – Template for Specifying Accredited Services** was revised on June 18, 2012
- **P101 – Rules for Making Reference to A2LA Accredited Status** and the corresponding **C104 – General Checklist: Rules for Making Reference to A2LA Accredited Status** were updated on July 2, 2012.
- **R309 – Specific Requirements: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Inspection** was updated on August 13, 2012 and the corresponding **C318 – Specific Checklist: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Inspection** was updated on June 27, 2012
- **R221 – Specific Requirements: Forensic Examination Accreditation Program-Testing** was updated on August 13, 2012 and the corresponding **C223 – Specific Checklist: Forensic Accreditation Program-Testing** was updated on June 27, 2012
- **R221a – Annex A: Specific Requirements for Forensic Facilities Licensed in Maryland** is a new document, dated June 27, 2012. A corresponding checklist, **C223a – Specific Checklist: Annex A – Forensic Facilities Licensed in Maryland**, was also created on June 27, 2012.
- **F233 – A2LA Forensic Facility Consent Agreement** was developed on June 27, 2012
- **R310a – Specific Requirements: Clark County Nevada Special Inspection Agencies** was published on June 27, 2012.
- **R310b – Specific Requirements: New York NY Special Inspection Agencies** was published on June 27, 2012.
- **F328 – A2LA Clark County NV Special Inspection Accreditation Consent Agreement** was published on June 27, 2012.
- **F329 – A2LA New York City Special Inspection Accreditation Consent Agreement** was published on June 27, 2012.
- **P102 – A2LA Policy on Measurement Traceability** was updated on June 29, 2012 and the corresponding **C105 – General Checklist: A2LA Policy on Measurement Traceability** was updated on August 7, 2012.

Continued on page 5
R303 – General Requirements: TNI Proficiency Testing and SSAS Provider Accreditation Program was updated on June 28, 2012.

R208 – Specific Requirements: Construction Materials Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program and the corresponding C210 – Specific Checklist: Construction Materials Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program were updated on June 22, 2012.

R209 – Specific Requirements: Harris County, City of Houston, Port Authority Geotechnical Engineering Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program was updated on June 22, 2012.


R308 – Specific Requirements: Telecommunication Certification Body Accreditation Program was updated on June 21, 2012.

C313 – Specific Checklist: OFTA Hong Kong Telecommunications Certification Body Evaluation was updated on June 21, 2012.


F234 – A2LA Houston Governmental Laboratory Consent Agreement was issued on August 7, 2012.

R223 – Specific Requirements: GE Aviation S400 Accreditation Program was updated on August 13, 2012.

R652 – Conditions for Accreditation for Medical Testing Laboratories Meeting ISO 15189 Requirements was updated on August 9, 2012.

I106 – Available Proficiency Testing Programs was updated on August 27, 2012.

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 C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Since the last issue of A2LA Today, Ms. Kelsey Roberts has joined A2LA as a Marketing Coordinator.

Kelsey has a B.A. in Management from Hood College in Frederick, MD and is working toward her M.B.A. with a concentration in Marketing. She also has experience as an administrative assistant at Bentz Street Hill LLC.

We welcome Kelsey to the growing A2LA family!
The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) held the 17th IAAC General Assembly meetings in Cartagena, Colombia the week of August 13, 2012.

The Oficina Nacional de Acreditación (ONA) of Nicaragua, was approved as a full IAAC member on April 15, 2012.

The Asociación Nacional de Organismos de Evaluación de la Conformidad, (ASOSEC), of Colombia, and the Sociedad Chilena de Química Clínica (SCQC) of Chile were approved as IAAC stakeholder members.

The IAAC MLA will include the scope of Medical Devices Management Systems (ISO 13485) once the resources are in place to begin evaluations.

Considering that the ILAC-endorsed transition of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 is March 1, 2015, accreditation certificates based on ISO/IEC 17020:1998 shall not be valid after March 1, 2015. Each MLA Group (MLAG) member is asked to submit a report to the MLAG on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 before each MLAG meeting held before the deadline. A2LA is implementing assessments to the new ISO/IEC 17020 requirements now.

Participation in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (R3E) project with Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) - related to the activities of testing laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies - was urged.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was endorsed between the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), and the European Accreditation Cooperation (EA), with the purpose of strengthening cooperation ties between both organizations.

A Statement of Technical Cooperation was endorsed between the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC), with the purpose of strengthening cooperation ties between both organizations.

New persons were elected to serve in key leadership position for 2012-14:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ileana Martinez</td>
<td>NVLAP</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>IAAC Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blanca Viera</td>
<td>OAE</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>IAAC Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander Pineda</td>
<td>OGA</td>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>MLA Committee Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johanna Acuña</td>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>MLA Committee Vice-Chair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The next IAAC interim meeting is to be held in Jamaica in late February 2013. The next IAAC General Assembly meeting is scheduled to be held in Trinidad from August 24-30, 2013. ☀️