This document describes the accreditation requirements applicable to laboratories performing chemical and/or microbiological analyses in the examination of food and pharmaceutical products, ingredients in the production of food, in-process food samples, environmental samples pertinent to foods and final products. This document supersedes the previous (September 2006) revision of the A2LA Food Program Requirements. Participation in this program is voluntary.

GENERAL CRITERIA


SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Specific criteria are generally an elaboration on or interpretation of the general criteria plus those requirements of accreditation applicable to a certain field of testing, testing technology, type of test, or specific test. The specific criteria for food and pharmaceutical testing are contained in the AOAC INTERNATIONAL Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food and Pharmaceuticals (March 2010 revision). This document is available from:

AOAC International
481 North Frederick Ave., Suite 500
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2417, USA
Phone: 301 924 7077
Fax: 301 924 7089
www.aoac.org

PROFICIENCY TESTING

Please refer to A2LA’s R103 – General Requirements: Proficiency Testing for ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories and the associated R103a – Annex, in addition to the applicable requirements identified in section 5.9 of the specific criteria document, for the proficiency testing requirements applicable to this program.

INTERPRETATIVE GUIDANCE

Per ISO/IEC 17025 4.13.2.1, the laboratory is required to retain records containing sufficient information to establish an audit trail. The term sufficient information in this context is defined as being what a testing laboratory identifies as a critical parameter(s) to the satisfactory performance of the method. The laboratory is required to identify and document critical parameters for its methods. Once it has identified these parameters, the Laboratory shall be able to defend and / or justify the manner in which they have recorded the resulting data.
Occasionally there is also a need for interpretative guidance on applications of the specific criteria. The laboratory is encouraged to refer to the additional guidance on the application of these criteria which can be obtained by referencing the notes found in the *AOAC INTERNATIONAL Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food and Pharmaceuticals* and the AOAC website.

### Document Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>Revised to include additional guidance on defining records that constitute an audit trail.</td>
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