

The logo for A2LA is displayed in a large, dark blue, serif font. The letters are bold and well-spaced. The background of the page features a large, light gray circular shape on the left side, which contains a network of white dots connected by thin white lines, resembling a globe or a data network. The rest of the page is white.

A2LA

A Better World Through Accreditation

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



2018

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March 30, 2019
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MESSAGE FROM

The Chair of the Board



“

Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together. -James Cash Penney

Brad Goskowitz, Board of Directors Chair

It has been my privilege to serve my first full year as the A2LA Board of Directors Chair in 2018. In 2018, we decided to change the structure of the A2LA Board, splitting into two; an Advisory Board and a Governance Board. We took this action of restructuring to be more effective, give better support to A2LA staff, make decisions more efficiently and meet more often with shorter meetings. We endeavor to set the foundation for A2LA to be sustainable for 100 years and beyond, starting with this change.

Part of establishing a sustainable business is to ensure there are continuous opportunities for new growth. The Board had challenged Lonnie to identify these opportunities, a significant one in 2018 being the acquisition of WorkPlace Training. As a Board, we were happy to support this action and applaud the work of A2LA staff and WorkPlace Training staff in accomplishing this.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to introduce three new Board members who were voted in during 2018. Ms. Mary Kay Krogull, VP of Business Administration at Eurofins, Ms. Robin Stompler, President of Auburn Health Strategies, LLC, and Mr. Brian Kenna, Chief Executive Officer of SIMCO Electronics, will join the A2LA Board for 2019.

Thank you to the A2LA Board for their efforts in 2018. I look forward to continuing to serve the Association, its staff, customers and stakeholders in 2019!

MESSAGE FROM

The President / CEO



“

Customer service should not be a department. It should be the entire company.” -Tony Hsieh

Lonnie Spires, President/CEO

As we moved into the 2018 year, I communicated lofty goals we had for the A2LA staff to achieve. I'm happy to report that by the end of the year, we have met each one of the ambitious goals we set. A2LA continued its pattern of growth, including the first acquisition in its history. The acquisition of WorkPlace Training was completed in August 2018, which expanded our industry leading training capabilities into e-learning formats.

Our successes can be directly attributed to the hard work of A2LA employees and contracted subject matter experts (assessors and instructors). The various internal departments and stakeholders worked cohesively throughout the year to complete projects and initiatives in timely and effective ways.

At the end of 2018, we started the process of forming a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity, which will go by the name A2LA WorkPlace Training. By splitting off into a separate entity, this further allows A2LA to expand its offerings and better meet the needs of our customer base. We are excited to announce the launch of A2LA WorkPlace Training and this will be the industry's go-to source for in-person training, e-learning and consulting.

In 2019, we will continue building A2LA's focus on its customers. We will expand our training offerings further, introducing new subject areas, putting content into different formats, and expanding on the subject areas we currently train on, with the intent of remaining an indispensable partner for our customers, providing subject matter expert instruction on the topics they need most. Our Membership base will benefit from increased content and value in their relationship with us.

We are proud to continue supporting our International relationships with our participation in ILAC, IAF, IAAC and the newly formed APAC. We are also happy to announce a new focus at A2LA in working with Government to encourage use of third-party conformity assessment with the creation of the Director of Government Relations role. Randy Querry will be utilizing his 20 years of experience at A2LA to build and maintain relationships with key government officials to communicate A2LA's priorities, mission and vision while leading efforts to obtain approval in new regulatory programs.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we will be growing to meet needs of new customers, while also maintaining our focus on making every current A2LA customer's experience with us the best it can be. Thank you to all A2LA's employees, members, customers and stakeholders for an excellent year. I look forward to another outstanding year in 2019!

Introduction

About A2LA

A2LA is a non-profit, nongovernmental, public service, membership society dedicated to the formal recognition of competent laboratories and related activities. During 2018, A2LA operated the following types of voluntary accreditation programs to recognize competency in support of assuring the quality of data used in decision-making:

- Accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories (regardless of ownership), the essential requirements being technical competence and compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and the newly published ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- Accreditation of clinical testing laboratories to ISO 15189:2012 and CLIA requirements
- Accreditation of inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020:2012
- Accreditation of proficiency testing providers to ISO/IEC 17043:2010
- Accreditation of reference material producers to ISO 17034:2016
- Accreditation of product certification bodies to ISO/IEC 17065:2012

During 2018, A2LA maintained a membership of 641 individuals and organizations. Membership in A2LA is separate and distinct from accreditation. Members elect the Board of Directors, receive discounts on training and accreditation fees and are encouraged to provide input on a variety of national and international activities and initiatives.

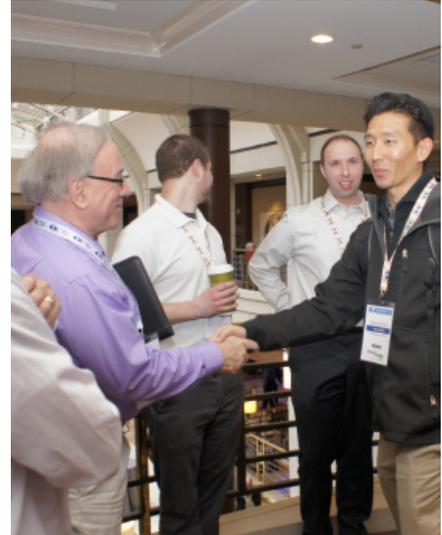
Recognition of A2LA accreditation programs comes from organizations around the world with which A2LA has mutual recognition arrangements or other forms of recognition.

Assessors

Assessor selection is based on confirmation of the assessor's technical expertise, successful completion of the training process, and continued satisfactory performance of assessments. **The key requirement is deemed competence in the technical areas the assessors are assessing.** All testing and calibration assessors are required to pass the five-day A2LA assessor orientation course that includes instruction on ISO/IEC 17025 as well as A2LA's policies and procedures for performing assessments. Specialty assessor orientation courses are also held in the areas of product certification (focusing on ISO/IEC 17065), inspection (focusing on ISO/IEC 17020), clinical testing laboratories (focusing on ISO 15189 and CLIA requirements), proficiency testing providers (focusing on ISO/IEC 17043) and reference material producers (focusing on ISO 17034).

A2LA lead assessors must be approved by the A2LA Senior Director of Accreditation Services (SDAS) on a yearly basis. The SDAS monitors and manages all newly trained assessors from initial training through to successfully completing the staff evaluation to conduct the technical and management system portions of the on-site assessment. All assessors are continuously monitored and are on-site evaluated on a regular basis. A2LA had more than 225 contracted assessors in 2018.

More than 150 assessors attended the 2018 A2LA Technical Forum and Annual Meeting in Reston, Virginia to discuss issues affecting accreditation and to continue development of policies to further consistency and uniformity in assessments. **The main focus for the A2LA Assessors at the 2018 Tech Forum was training to the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 conformity assessment standard.** A2LA conducted six separate sessions in an effort to control not only the number of the attendees in each session, but also the technical makeup of the attendees. A2LA recorded one of the sessions so that the videos could be viewed by new assessors brought on board after the session and for those assessors that couldn't attend the 2018 Forum. After the training, exams were administered to all participants for evidence of competence.



Training

The A2LA Mission

The mission of A2LA's public training program is to provide IACET-accredited, world-class training and continuing education services for conformity assessment bodies (CABs), e.g., testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, and product certifiers.

A2LA's Training Program offers a variety of courses designed to equip organizations to achieve and maintain accreditation to international standards. Courses have been developed to:

- Assist with honing management systems that conform with International Standards and support processes that complement the organization's processes
- Provide measurement assurance and analysis tools to ensure consistency of product and reduce consumer risk
- Offers tools to build internal training programs that increase retention and performance

Training course enrollment was very strong in 2018

Year	Class Growth	Student Growth
2016-2017	38%	20%
2017-2018	58%	64%

The following classes were publicly available in 2018*:

Type	Description	CEUs
Standards	ISO 15189 and CLIA Clinical Requirements for Medical Laboratories	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17020 & Inspection Body Accreditation	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17025 The New Standard for Laboratory Competence	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging the Gap from 2005	0.7
	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Marcando la Diferencia con la Versión 2005	0.7
	ISO/IEC 17025 for Cannabis Testing Laboratories	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17025 w/ AOAC Food Program Guidelines	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17034 for Reference Material Producers	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17043 for Proficiency Testing Providers	1.4
	ISO/IEC 17065 and Product Certification	1.4
Quality Processes	Documenting Your Quality System	0.7
	Internal Auditing to ISO 19011	1.4
	Leading an Effective Audit Team	0.7
	Management Review	0.7
	Cause Analysis and Corrective Action	0.7
Technical	Applied Measurement Uncertainty for Calibration Laboratories	1.4
	Applied Measurement Uncertainty for Testing Laboratories	1.4
	Basic Statistics	0.7
	Design of Experiments	1.4
	Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty	0.7
	Measurement Systems Analysis Using Excel Statistical Tools Method	1.4
	Validation	0.7
	Reducing Risk in Conformance Decisions	1.4
Soft Skills	Effective Training Strategies	0.7
Coming Soon	ISO/IEC 17025:2017 La Nueva Norma para la Competencia del Laboratorio	1.4
	Managing Risk in Laboratory Processes	0.7
	Introduction to Control Charting for Testing and Calibration Laboratories	0.7
	Intermediate Statistics for Laboratory Professionals	1.4

*A2LA has been very active in increasing the number and variety of training programs available to members, accredited organizations and the public. In addition to our traditional public courses, we also offer training provided at a customer's location (upon request) as well as training partnerships with a variety of organizations.

Training (Cont.)

On August 27th, at the NCSLI Workshop and Symposium's opening reception, A2LA and WorkPlace Training announced A2LA's acquisition of WorkPlace Training. The addition of WPT's robust e-learning modules will complement A2LA's wide-reaching instructor-led classroom training offerings. E-learning modules offered by WPT include tutorials, practice, assessments and record keeping on topics such as measurement, calibration and ISO/IEC 17025.



WPT was founded in 1989, with the purpose of delivering a comprehensive, relevant and current measurement science training curriculum.

Membership in the Association

Accreditation Accepted Everywhere

A2LA is a professional society driven for and by its members. We forge strong connections with professionals who believe in the same vision: "Accreditation Accepted Everywhere." Our members receive the information, education, and resources needed to advance their personal and career objectives in the field of accreditation. A2LA is committed to the following objectives:

1. **Provide** forums for members to build relationships with tangible business benefits, including networking, education, and advocacy
2. **Foster** a comprehensive peer network of industry professionals through the A2LA Technical Forum and other networking opportunities
3. **Support** government and global affairs efforts through work with legislative, regulatory, and industry groups that share common goals
4. **Lead** by example within quality assurance, accreditation, and technical communities to support our vision of creating a single accreditation that is accepted everywhere
5. **Advocate** for this vision among global peers while developing reciprocal recognition of our accredited results
6. **Promote** clients with a global interest

As of December 31, 2018, membership in the Association was as follows:

Membership Type	Number of Members
Accreditation Council Member	215
Accredited Laboratory Member	235
Honorary Member	8
Individual Member	118
Institutional Member	6
Organizational Member	35
Trial Membership	24
Total Members	641

Financial Summary

A comparison of the total revenue and support plus investment income less expenses resulting in a change in net assets (in \$000s) for the years ended at December 31st since 2012 is shown below.

Year	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Total Revenue & Support	\$19,263	\$18,209	\$16,382	\$15,628	\$14,422	\$13,424	\$12,487
Total Expense	\$18,826	\$17,540	\$15,634	\$15,151	\$14,056	\$13,017	\$12,129
Change in Net Assets	\$437	\$669	\$748	\$477	\$366	\$407	\$358

*Includes investment income and losses

International Activities

Internationally, A2LA continues to participate in the activities of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and associated regional bodies. In 2000, A2LA signed the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) between 36 accreditation bodies from 28 economies worldwide. ILAC membership as of October 2018 is as follows:

- 100 Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA) representing 103 economies
- 13 Associates representing 12 economies
- 12 Affiliates representing 20 economies
- 24 Stakeholders
- 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies (includes 5 Recognized Regional Cooperation Bodies)



The ILAC membership consists of 155 organizations from 126 different economies worldwide. Almost 68,000 laboratories and over 9,500 inspection bodies are accredited by the ILAC Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA). The latest statistics and graphs on the number of accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories and inspection bodies are available from the [ILAC FACTS & FIGURES PAGE](#).

Established in 1977, ILAC is the premier international forum for the harmonization of laboratory and inspection body accreditation procedures and policies as a means of reducing technical barriers to trade and the promotion of laboratory and inspection body accreditation as a mechanism to enhance confidence in testing, calibration and inspection facilities, both domestically and internationally.

A2LA also actively participates in the activities of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF). A2LA has been a member of the multi-lateral arrangement (MLA) for the main scope, product certification, with IAF since May 16, 2011. As of December 31, 2018, there are 83 economies represented through the members and signatories of the MLA. The primary function of the MLA is to develop a single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon.

Other international cooperation arrangements in effect during 2018 included the MRA with the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), and the multi-lateral agreement with the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC). Copies of the MRAs/ MLAs are available upon request. A2LA will testify to the competence of each accreditation system with whom it has an MRA/MLA and attest to the fact that they follow the recognized norm for operating such systems, ISO/IEC 17011, and use relevant ISO/IEC standards as the basis for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies. Up-to-date information on cooperating accreditation systems maybe obtained by visiting our website or contacting A2LA Headquarters.

Staff members from A2LA continue to hold key leadership positions in ILAC, IAF, APLAC and IAAC.



Mr. Trace McInturff, A2LA Senior Director of Accreditation Services, is a member of the APLAC Board of Management. He served as a member of the ISO CASCO Working Group 44 on the revision of ISO/IEC 17025; is a recognized lead evaluator for ILAC, APLAC and IAAC; is a member of the ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC), ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC), ILAC Proficiency Testing Working Group (PTWG), and APLAC Technical Committee; is the Co-convenor of the ILAC/World Anti-Doping Association (WADA) Liaison Committee; and is the A2LA Delegate to the ILAC General Assembly and the APLAC MRA Council and General Assembly.



Rob Miller, A2LA General Manager, is a recognized lead evaluator for IAAC and evaluator for APLAC. He is also a member of the IAF Technical Committee (TC), IAF MLA Committee (MLAC), IAF Management Committee (MLA MC), IAF/ILAC Joint Management Committee (JMC), IAAC Laboratory Subcommittee (LSC), IAAC Certification Body Subcommittee (CBSC), IAAC Peer Evaluator Management Subcommittee (PEMS) Vice-Chair and IAAC Inspection Body Subcommittee (IBSC).



Randy Querry, Director of Government Relations, and **Rob Knake**, A2LA Accreditation Manager, are recognized lead evaluators for APLAC



Adam Gouker, A2LA General Manager, **Roger Brauning**, A2LA Program Manager, **Mike Buzard**, A2LA Training Development Manager, and **Pamela Wright**, A2LA Quality Manager, are recognized evaluators for APLAC and IAAC

A2LA National Involvement

Standardization activities in accreditation and conformity assessment remain a high priority for the Association. In addition to its ISO standards activities, A2LA participates on ASTM Committee E36 on Accreditation and Certification. The Committee is involved in accreditation and inspection standardization activities that A2LA considers important to support. A2LA also participates in the ANSI International Conformity Assessment Committee to provide input to the ISO standardization process. Staff members are also involved in numerous ASTM, ANSI and NCSL International committees related to technical and accreditation issues.

A2LA staff's commitment to serving on these and numerous other committees enables the Association to provide insight on conformity assessment activities, as well as to gain knowledge from the given industry groups. This provides us with a better understanding of the needs of our stakeholders and accredited entities.

Board of Directors

The Association is managed by its Board of Directors (BOD). The 2018 Officers and BOD included (as of December 31, 2018):

Executive Committee:

CHAIR: Brad Goskowicz

PAST CHAIR: Robert Whitehead

FIRST VICE CHAIR: David Evanson

SECOND VICE CHAIR/ETHICS OFFICER: Judith Morgan

SECRETARY: Dean Williams

TREASURER/ FINANCE COMMITTEE: David Fischer

CHAIR, ACCREDITATION COUNCIL: Niel Zuern

CHAIR, BUSINESS COMMITTEE: Eric Rieders

Members:

Ryan Colker

Mark Kellogg

David Kilhefner

Kerie Price

Isabel Wright

Tony Youssef

Liaison Members of the Board:

Louis Bluhm

Tim Brooke

Eamon Monahan

Dan R. Reid

Counsel:

James Hostettler

President:

Lonnie Spires

Accreditation Council

The Accreditation Council at the end of the year, consisted of 215 people. This Council reviews and takes final action, subject to the rights to appeal otherwise provided for in the Bylaws, on accreditation applications to the Association or to revoke accreditation once granted. All decisions relating to accreditation or revoking accreditation must be approved by 2/3 of those voting on the Accreditation Council. Generally, at least two affirmative ballots (with no unresolved negative ballots) of the three ballots distributed must be received before accreditation can be granted. If three or more AC members are required to ensure a full review of the organization's activities, (re)accreditation may not be granted until these votes have been received and any negative votes resolved. At the end of 2018, the Accreditation Council members included:

Chair:

Niel Zuern

Vice Chair:

Charles Blank

Members:

Aaron Brudenell

Ada Hensley

Adeniyi Salam

Alena Stavitski

Alex Klein

Amy McGuckian

Anne Andrews

Anne Gray

Ashley Malchow

Aysegul Konu

Benoit Nadeau

Billy Liu

Bradley Harper

Bradley Rauch

Bradley Stawick

Brenda Jackson

Brent Summerville

Brian Lane

Brian Lee

Bruce George

Bryan Wilkerson

Calista Daigle

Candy Friday

Carlos Silva

Carol Larson

Charles Blank

Charles Fallon

Charles Schaefer

Christie Parker

Christopher Krug

Christopher Sandlin

CK Li

Coleen McFarland

Corey Ritter

Craig Glunt

Craig Spooner

Dainna Lowrance

Daniel Sigouin

Daniel Tholen

Darla Ewalt

Dave Wilson

David Elam

David Evanson

David Miller

David Sugiyama

David Waitt

David Zimmerman

Dawn Mettler

Deanne Emory

Deedra Hughes

Denise Archer

Denise Dubois

Dennis Bloom

Dennis McCully

Diane Allingham Hawkins

Diane Cooper

Dixie Marlin

Don MacArthur
Donald Perron
Douglas Cowles
Douglas Kramer
Ebony Patterson
Edward Ewing
Ehab Michael
Elizabeth Selya
Erik Reisdorf
Evangelos Ntrivalas
Felipe Narcio
Frank Jarke
Fred Fetterolf
Gary Bennett
George Riley
Gina Steiner
Glenn Knight
Greg Cooper
Gregory Gogates
Guy Robinson
Harry Spinks
Heidi Phillips
Henry Chernow
Howard Baum
Howard Schiff
J. Jeff Kelly
Jake Fahlenkamp
James Agin
James Markwiese
James Platte
Janet Norris
Jason Holliday
Jeanne Mensingh
Jeffrey Lewis
Jeffrey Chin
Jeffrey Fisher
Jeffrey Smith
Jennifer Fleenor
Jenny Bazov
Jerry Reed
John Adams
John Kinsella
John Knicely
John Murphy
John Vurpillat
John Young
Jordan Shaw
Jorge Martins
Joseph Thomas
Joseph Kellum
Joseph Reisinger
Julia Sancricca
Justing Cheng

Karen Dunning
Karen Semer
Karen Swiggard
Karl Haynes
Karthik Balasubramanian
Kathryn Gumpfer
Kaveh Moraghebi
Keith Kokal
Kelcey Terrell
Kelly Black
Kumar Amit
Larry Depew
Larry Presley
Lauryl Smith
Lester Burgess
Linda DeWitt
Lisa Walters
Lon Miles
Lorena Villarreal
Luke Hards
Lynn Langford
Marc Kelemen
Maria Carlos
Maria Damian
Maria Friedman
Marianne Farallo
Mark Gerfin
Mark Gusack
Mark Ruefenacht
Marsha Deitz
Marwa Adly Abdalla Mohamed
Mary Halstead
Matthew Friday
Michael Bosley
Michael Crewdson
Michael Gentry
Michael Haines
Mohammad Azroul
Mohammed Maqbool
Nathan Belsher
Nicole Smalls
Niel Zuern
Pamela Jarman
Patrice Siravo
Patrick Foley
Paul Matera
Paul Keep
Peter Boers
Philip Poston
Philip Cotter
Prashant Aklekar
Prashant Umare
Qussay Albakri

Rahul Yarala
Raimundo Gil
Rana Tayyarah
Randy Van Wie
Ranee Ho
Ray Lafferty
Raymond Schiltz
Richard Sheibley
Robert Crookston
Robert Thompson
Robert Audette
Robert Bredt
Robert Brooks
Robert Schaal
Roger Miller
Ronald Gantz
Ronald McCulloch
Ronald Ryniewicz
Rosa Villanueva
Ryan Hyer
Samantha Dizer Carter
Sandra Bohlen
Scott Swiggard
Sharon Ehrmeyer
Shawn Burton
Shawn Mason
Sheila Sennet
Shuya Chang
Simina Siddiqui
Siu Lin Fung
Srinivasa Kasturi
Stacy Enemark
Steli Loznen
Susan Orton
Tatum Strickler
Ted Doiron
Terry Combs
Tessie Gamber
Thomas Bell
Thomas Dickten
Thomas Daggart
Thomas Powis
Thomas Smith
Thomas Wiandt
Tiffany Brigner
Tina Buffington
Tracey Ray
Tuan Dang
Walter Lehmus
Warren Udy
Werner Schaefer
Yi-Wei Tang

Criteria Council

The Criteria Council is appointed by the President/CEO and includes at least one person having expertise or qualifications for each field of testing/calibration in which the Association is offering accreditation. The Council shall act to define the fields of testing/calibration in which the Association shall grant accreditation and approve general and specific criteria for each of the fields of testing. The 2018 Criteria Council members included:

Vice Chair:

Niel Zuern

Members:

Albert Liabastre
Alex Klein
Arlene Fox
Biren Patel
Bradley Stawick
Charles Gortakowski
Charles Meeker
Constantin Bolintineanu
Craig Spooner
Daniel Tholen
Dawn Mettler
Deborah Miller

Gary Cornell
George Riley
Jeff Gust
John Murphy
John Vurpillat
Kelly Black
Kenneth Stoub
Klaus Jaeger
Louis Bluhm
Luke Hards
Michele Hoppenrath
Mitzi Miller

Niel Zuern
Patrice Siravo
Robert Audette
Samantha Dizer Carter
Susan Audino
Susan Oldfather
Thomas Smith
Werner Schaefer
William Kavanagh
William Watson
Yi-Wei Tan

Mutual Recognitions

International Mutual Recognition (ILAC)

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)

On November 2, 2000, A2LA signed the mutual recognition arrangement with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). The Arrangement was signed in Washington, D.C. at the General Assembly of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and entered into force on January 31, 2001. More than 30 accreditation bodies from 26 economies signed the arrangements. Since then, additional accreditation bodies have become signatories.

A cornerstone of the ILAC MRA is the utilization of existing or developing regional arrangements established in the **Americas** (IAAC), the **Asia-Pacific** region (APLAC), **Europe** (EA) and **Southern Africa**. The bodies participating in these regional arrangements are responsible for maintaining the necessary confidence in the competence of their member accreditation bodies that are signatories to the new ILAC Arrangement.

By signing the ILAC MRA, the signatory accreditation bodies commit to promoting acceptance of the test reports/calibration reports issued by the laboratories accredited by the signatory accreditation bodies.

A2LA staff can provide specific details regarding the names and contact information for the accreditation body in a specific country/economy **listed above**.

International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
Multi-Lateral Arrangement (MLA)

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) is an association of accreditation bodies interested in conformity assessment in the fields of management systems, products, services, personnel and other similar programs. A2LA is a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Arrangement (IAF MLA) as of May 16, 2011 for the main scope, Product Certification. Accreditation body members of IAF are admitted to the IAF MLA only after a stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer evaluation team which is responsible for ensuring that the applicant member complies fully with both international standards and IAF requirements. The primary function of the MLA is to develop a single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited certificates may be relied upon.

International Mutual Recognition (APLAC)

The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

On November 19, 1997, A2LA signed the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) mutual recognition arrangement. The arrangement is intended to facilitate the acceptance of test and calibration data with several Asia-Pacific countries whose national accreditation bodies have signed the APLAC arrangement. APLAC promotes the recognition and acceptance in all the signatory countries of certificates and reports issued by organizations accredited by national accreditation bodies that have signed the arrangement.

By signing the arrangement, the signatory accreditation bodies commit to promoting acceptance of the test reports/calibration reports issued by the laboratories accredited by the signatory accreditation bodies. However, accreditation bodies cannot guarantee acceptance by their stakeholders. As such, one of A2LA's primary functions is to assist A2LA-accredited laboratories in gaining acceptance of their data in the countries of the APLAC arrangement signatories. Likewise, A2LA is committed to helping laboratories accredited by the APLAC arrangement signatories obtain acceptance in the United States.

Through the APLAC MRA evaluation process, a uniform level of competence of the accredited bodies is assured, and the need for multiple assessments is diminished or eliminated. Ideally, a supplier would only need one certificate or report to satisfy the entire Asia-Pacific market and all governments.

A2LA is recognized by APLAC under the following scopes:

1. **Medical** ISO 15189
2. **Inspection** ISO/IEC 17020
3. **Calibration** ISO/IEC 17025
4. **Testing** ISO/IEC 17025
5. **RMP** ISO 17034
6. **PTP** ISO/IEC 17043

Please note that on December 31, 2018 the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and APLAC were dissolved and merged into a new entity – the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) – on January 1, 2019.

International Mutual Recognition (IAAC)

The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)
Multi-Lateral Arrangement (MLA)

On October 24, 2002, A2LA, INMETRO (Brazil) and SCC (Canada) signed the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) multi-lateral arrangement.

The IAAC is an association of accreditation bodies and other organizations interested in conformity assessment in the Americas.

2018

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