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| <b>Preparing Authority:</b><br><br>Adam Gouker | <div data-bbox="727 44 854 128" data-label="Image"></div> <p><b>P107 - Policy on Transferring Accreditation</b></p> | <b>Publication Date:</b><br><br>04/25/23 |
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A2LA offers accreditation across a wide spectrum of laboratory testing fields (including medical laboratory testing to ISO 15189) and calibration as well as several other conformity assessment schemes (i.e. Reference Material Producer, Inspection Body, Certification Body, Proficiency Testing Provider, and Biobanking) that are part of internationally recognized Mutual/Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MRA/MLA). As such, there are times when a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) accredited by one of our ILAC MRA or IAF MLA partners wishes to transfer their current accreditation to A2LA to take advantage of the benefits of an A2LA accreditation. This policy describes the process for accomplishing this. Please note that laboratories accredited under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA), Code of Federal Regulations Part 42 CFR 493, are not eligible to transfer accreditation under this policy.

In order for A2LA to accept an application from a CAB accredited by one of our MRA/MLA partners, A2LA must receive the following additional information along with the A2LA application that is available on the [A2LA website](#):

- The most recent full on-site assessment report and surveillance assessment report (when applicable). Pursuant to ISO/IEC 17011, an on-site assessment shall have been performed within the past 24 months in order to be accepted. The report, and/or associated documentation, shall include the following information:
  - Unique identification of the CAB;
  - Date and type of assessment;
  - Name of the assessor(s), and if applicable, technical expert(s) involved in the assessment;
  - Unique identification of all locations assessed;
  - The scope of accreditation assessed;
  - For Calibration labs, a list of the procedures and methods used to obtain the CMCs on the scope of accreditation (if not identified on the scope of accreditation);
  - A statement on the adequacy of the organization and procedures adopted by the CAB to give confidence in its competence, as determined through its fulfilment of the requirements for accreditation; and,
  - Where relevant, any further information that may assist in determining the competence of the CAB as determined through conformity with requirements (e.g. proficiency testing).
- A complete corrective action response with objective evidence of implementation for all findings (including opportunities for improvement/comments) to the most recent assessment by an ILAC or IAF MRA/MLA signatory accreditation body for the scope in question.
- A copy of the current and valid Scope of Accreditation from the CAB's current Accreditation Body.

Once A2LA receives the application and information, the decision to accept the MRA or MLA partner accreditation in lieu of an assessment will be made on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the number and nature of nonconformances cited in the previous assessment report(s), A2LA reserves the right to request further corrective action responses for any or all nonconformances. For calibration laboratories, measurement uncertainty budgets to support the Calibration and Measurement Capability (CMC) on the scope of accreditation may also be requested.

By applying for a transfer of accreditation under this policy, CABs may also be requested to authorize A2LA to contact their current accreditation body or regulator/specifier to make inquiries regarding their history and current status of accreditation. This may include related complaints, suspensions, regulatory concerns, or any other adverse actions that may raise doubt about the credibility of the CAB. A CAB that does not disclose or is later found to have concealed these issues while transferring accreditation, will be subject to adverse actions outlined in A2LA's General Requirements for Accreditation, to include immediate withdrawal of accreditation.

If the application is accepted, A2LA will provide the applicant with an invoice for the applicable costs associated with transferring the accreditation. If accreditation is transferred, the accreditation expiration date will be set at a maximum of 24 months from the date of the most recent, onsite technical assessment performed by the current Accreditation Body. The CAB will then be placed into the standard A2LA schedule of full, bi-annual assessments.

If transfer of accreditation is not fully accepted, A2LA may choose to perform a full, or a partial, assessment (potentially including a technical assessment of a portion of the intended scope) to enable the CAB to become A2LA accredited.

For CABs accredited under specific regulatory (or similar) program requirements, it is important to note that transferring accreditation to A2LA may not automatically be recognized by the higher level authority. CABs are urged to inquire with the relevant regulator or specifier of accreditation prior to applying for a transfer to A2LA.

For more information, please contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or at [info@A2LA.org](mailto:info@A2LA.org).

## DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

| Date     | Description  |
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| 04/25/23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Added Biobanking reference to intro paragraph and clarified that CLIA accreditations are not transferrable</li><li>➤ Added “Unique identification of all locations assessed” as information required in the previous report</li><li>➤ Included requirement for responses to all previous AB finding to include OFI/comments</li><li>➤ Added paragraph informing CABs applying for transfer that A2LA may need to reach out to their current AB and/or regulator/specifier for further information</li><li>➤ Added paragraph to inform CABs that transferring to A2LA does not automatically transfer their recognition under regulatory or other specific programs</li></ul> |