

Manning, Diane M.

From: Bowyer, Matt E.
To: Manning, Diane M.
Cc: Devor, Linda S.; Bollinger, Nancy J.; Metzler, Rich; Berry Ann, Roland J.
Subject: Meeting with A2LA
Date: Thursday, January 16, 1997 8:42AM

Memorandum for the Record
From: Matt E. Bowyer
Subject: Meeting with A2LA

On Jan 8, 1997, a meeting was held the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) in Gaithersburg, MD. The Attendees were: Matt Bowyer and Paul Schlecht from NIOSH and Pete Unger, Warren Markel, Roxanne Robinson and Percy Pan from A2LA.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide NIOSH a better understanding of the accreditation program provided by A2LA, which is certified by the Registrar Accreditation Board (RAB) to accredit labs to ISO Guide 25 and ISO 9001 and 9002 .

In the course of the meeting, the following information was discussed:

1. A2LA is a private organization of currently 19 employees. However in conducting various lab assessments they employ assessors with the necessary technical expertise in the field the lab is seeking accreditation.
2. A2LA assessors must pass a RAB certified lead auditor course and a 3 day A2LA orientation including testing on ISO Guide 25.
3. A2LA is the largest multidisciplinary accreditation firm.
4. The average lab accreditation process takes approx. 7 months.
5. A2LA currently has an MOU with the EPA on accrediting lead testing labs. A copy of this MOU was obtained for reference.
6. The initial assessors visit takes approx. 3.5 days and upon accreditation the following year and every other year after there is a 1 day surveillance audit conducted. Every two years there a complete assessment.
7. A2LA recommended that we adopt ISO Guide 25 in whole for the accreditation program then identify any technical requirements in detail in a additional scope.