

NISTIR 6774

Workshop On Fire Testing Measurement Needs: Proceedings

William Grosshandler
(Editor)



NIST

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

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Building and Fire Research Laboratory

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U.S. Department of Commerce
Donald Evans, Secretary

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Dr. Karen H. Brown, Acting Director

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

A2LA

Peter Unger
President
18 June 2001

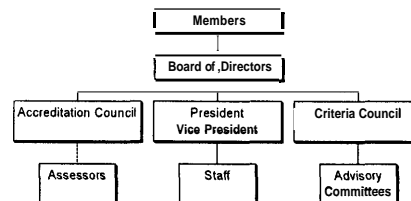
What is A2LA

- Non-profit, public service
- Non-governmental
- Membership organization
- One-stop accreditation service

A2LA Background

- Established in 1978
- Over 20 years in using ISO Guides
- 33 highly-talented staff
- Largest U.S. multi-discipline laboratory accreditation system
- Third largest system in the world

A2LA Organization



A2LA Programs

- Laboratory accreditation
- Inspection body accreditation
- Proficiency testing providers
- Reference materials producers
- Laboratory quality training

A2LA Funding

- Dues from members
- Fees charged to applicants
- Fees for training seminars and courses
- Grants and donations

A2LA Assessors

- Independent Peer Experts (about 110)
- Partner with ICBO ES assessors
- Each with over 10 years of experience in their technical field
- Trained to ISO 17025 & must pass exam
- Ongoing training
- Peer and laboratory reviewed

Transition to ISO/IEC 17025

- Enhanced quality management system requirements
- Strengthened staff competence requirements
- Method validation further elaborated
- Test lab procedures for calculating uncertainties now required
- Opinions and interpretations

Mutual Recognition Arrangements

- ILAC Arrangement (40 signatories)
- APLAC Multilateral Agreement (17 other signatories)
- EA MRAs for Calibration and Testing (25 other signatories)

Regional Body Memberships

- Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
- European cooperation for Accreditation (EA)
- Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)
- National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA)

For More Information

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