



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Karin Athanas
A2LA Contact for A2LA Forensic Examination Accreditation Program
American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
Phone: 301 644 3236
Email: kathanas@A2LA.org
Web: <http://www.A2LA.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation is proud to announce the launch of a Pilot Program in the area of forensic examination.

The A2LA Pilot Program is being offered in the area of Forensic DNA Testing and Databasing and will consist of waived application, assessment and annual fees for one year, an assessment to the FBI Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Testing and / or DNA Databasing, and an opportunity for participating organizations to contribute to the enhancement of the A2LA forensic examination accreditation program. Applicants will be offered voting member status on the A2LA Forensic Examination Advisory Committee (FEAC) and provided with opportunities to provide feedback to A2LA regarding the assessment process to include the completion of a Post Assessment Questionnaire.

The A2LA DNA QAS pilot program is being offered to those laboratories currently approved by the FBI who are seeking an assessment to meet the following requirements:

Quality Assurance Standards for Forensic DNA Testing Laboratories, Section 15.2:

“At least once every two years, an external audit shall be conducted by an audit team comprised of qualified auditor(s) from a second agency(ies) and having at least one team member who is or has been an analyst previously qualified* in the laboratory’s current DNA technologies and platform.”

Quality Assurance Standards for DNA Databasing Laboratories, Section 15.2:

“At least once every two years, an external audit shall be conducted by an audit team comprised of qualified auditor(s) from a second agency(ies) and having at least one team member who is or has been an analyst previously qualified* in the laboratory’s current DNA technologies and platform and one team member who is currently or was previously a qualified analyst from a databasing laboratory.”

***Qualified auditor** is a current or previously qualified DNA analyst who has successfully completed the FBI DNA Auditor’s training course.

A2LA will begin accepting applications for the Pilot Program on May 1, 2012. All applications received between May 1, 2012 and May 15, 2012 will be reviewed and the first three applicants to meet all program application requirements will be selected. For the first three facilities to apply and submit all required documentation, all application and assessment costs will be waived.

For additional information regarding the program or to apply for consideration, please visit the A2LA Pilot Program page at (<http://www.a2la.org/appsweb/pilot.cfm>) or contact Karin Athanas at 301 644 3236 or kathanas@A2LA.org.

ABOUT A2LA:

A2LA is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society, whose stated mission is *“provide world-class accreditation and training services for testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers and product certifiers. These and other future services should create stakeholder confidence in the quality, competence and integrity of all A2LA-accredited organizations and in their products and services.”*

A2LA continually strives to further strengthen and improve its programs through membership participation, customer outreach, and the contributions of its technical advisory committees. Through the development and use of Pilot Programs, A2LA hopes to further enhance our accreditation options and offer our customers the best possible service and accreditation.