

Laboratory Accreditation Update

Accu-Chek, Inc. is proud to announce and inform our customers about an important decision we made this year regarding our laboratory accreditation. We chose to change the accreditation body we use to assess our quality management system and laboratory's technical competence. First and foremost, it should be noted that this change in no way diminishes our laboratory capability or our accreditation status. On the contrary, in our opinion, this change puts us in a better position for years to come and provides value-added services that have been lacking. For years, we have used the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA). However, we felt it was important for Accu-Chek, as well as our customer base, to make a change for the future.

Accu-Chek, Inc. is now accredited to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994 by the accreditation body Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services (ACLASS). ACLASS is owned by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB).

A joint partnership of the [American National Standards Institute](#) (ANSI) and the [American Society for Quality](#) (ASQ), ANAB is a global leader in the accreditation of certification bodies for ISO 9001 quality management systems, ISO 14001 environmental management systems, and other industry-specific certification programs. With the acquisition of ACLASS, ANAB added to its existing programs the accreditation of laboratories (to ISO/IEC 17025), inspection bodies (to ISO/IEC 17020) and reference material producers (to ISO Guide 34).

ANSI and ASQ are both respected and prominent organizations within the quality industry. Similarly, ACLASS has earned respect and global recognition by becoming a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asian Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). The following links provide access to a complete list of signatories for both the ILAC and APLAC:

http://www.ilac.org/documents/ILAC_Mut_Rec_Signatories_dec_1807.pdf

http://www.aplac.org/aplac_mra.html

Over the past couple of years, Accu-Chek has been considering other organizations to possibly replace A2LA. Needless to say, ANAB's decision to merge with ACLASS got our attention. This acquisition validated ACLASS as being an accreditation body (AB) that has earned its rightful place as a leading AB in the industry. In addition, since ANSI is the standards delegate for the United States, it puts ACLASS in a unique position in the quality world.

Let it be known that we have never been "A2LA Accredited". Accu-Chek was previously accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 via A2LA. Our ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation status remains unchanged. We simply changed the entity that performs the audit. That simple change has resulted in great returns for us thus far. Take a moment and read an excerpt taken direct from the ACLASS website:

[Our strategy is to treat the customer as a partner while maintaining the integrity of the standard. ACLASS helps not only our customers, but our customers' customer recognize the value and importance of ISO accreditation. We help our customers enhance their business and technical performance by citing opportunities for improvement during our assessments, while ensuring the competence of testing and calibration laboratories meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. ACLASS assessors understand and practice a congenial approach to assessments and are technically competent. Coupled with ACLASS' competent assessors, our strong customer service and experience make ACLASS the number one choice for ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.](#)

Now that Accu-Chek has completed the ISO 17025 assessment and have dealt with ACLASS throughout the entire accreditation process, we couldn't agree more with their own sentiments. ACLASS does indeed develop a partnering relationship between them and their customer which makes them #1 in our book. Again, now that we have completed a full assessment, Accu-Chek is happy and proud to be a partner of ACLASS!

Sincerely,

David Smith
Quality Manager
Accu-Chek, Inc.