

# Source Testing Company Accreditation and Qualified Individual Certification Programs

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## A Status Report

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# Some terminology for this presentation

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- Accreditation (of organizations)
    - Evaluation and recognition that an organization meets management and technical requirements and operates in accordance with standard practices (e.g., for environmental laboratories)
  - Certification (of individuals)
    - Evaluation and recognition that an individual has demonstrated knowledge and experience qualities indicative of expert in a particular area (e.g., for air emissions testers and test observers)
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# What drives laboratory accreditation?

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## Legislation

- Some States require that data submitted by a commercial laboratory be approved or accredited

## Regulation

- States implement regulations that establish or delegate accreditation procedures
  - Federal rules require data be collected by accredited organizations
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# What is a Standard Practice?

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- A published set of:
    - Technical performance criteria
    - Operating and maintenance procedures
    - Administrative requirements
  - Usually a consensus agreement by industry, government, academic members
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# Who has standard practices for environmental laboratories?

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- NIST – National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)
    - General standard codified in 1976 in 15 CFR 285
    - Rely on ISO/IEC 17011 (for accrediting body)
    - 17 standards, 8 calibration programs
  - TNI - NELAC
    - Standards adopted January 2007
    - For laboratory and field sampling
    - Rely on ISO/IEC 17011 and 17025 (qualification criteria and requirements)
  - ASTM – D 7036-04
    - For air emissions testing bodies
    - Relies on ISO/IEC 17025
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# Who implements an air emissions laboratory accreditation program?

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- Accrediting bodies
    - Manage applications
    - Conduct evaluations
    - Conduct audits
    - Issue accreditations
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# Who are accrediting bodies?

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- NIST
    - For water among other programs
  - States
    - Generally implement NELAC standards
  - American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
    - Accrediting body for hire - broad range of practices
  - Stack Testing Accreditation Council (STAC)
    - Specifically to implement ASTM standard practice for Air emissions testing bodies
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# Which States are accrediting bodies?

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California

Florida

Illinois

Kansas

Louisiana

New Hampshire

New Jersey

New York

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Texas

Utah

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# How do individuals fit into accreditations?

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- Some standards require certified individuals in accredited organization
    - ASTM 7036-04
  - Part 75 requires qualified individuals on-site
    - For Hg RATAs
  - State programs?
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# Who provides qualifies or certifies source testing individuals?

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- Source Evaluation Society - QSTI program
    - Initial focus on field testers
    - Expanding to testing observers (QSTO)
  - Texas TCEQ qualifies source testing observers
  - Others?
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# What are elements of SES QSTI program?

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- Exams – first conducted in 2004
    - Based on EPA work from 1990s
    - Exams for four methods groups
      - Representative and isokinetic sampling
      - Gases - wet chemistry methods
      - Gases – instrumental methods and CEMS
      - Metals (including Hg) methods
    - Conducted by SES contractor for fee
  - Applications
    - Summarize experience (at least one year)
    - References
  - Certificates valid for five years
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# How would SES program implement program for QSTOs?

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- ❑ Same exams would apply
  - ❑ Application would cover observation and mentoring experience
  - ❑ QSTO certificate specifically for source test observations, not for conducting tests
  - ❑ QSTI could observe tests without QSTO certificate
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What else about source testing accreditation and certification should we discuss?

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