

September 1st, 2020

To our Valued Clients:

Q Labs continues to be a proud holder of ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation. As you may imagine, the scheduling of ISO/IEC 17025 assessments has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As you may be aware, ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation must be routinely evaluated by an Accrediting Body in order for the qualifying facility to maintain this accreditation. Q Labs contracts with the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) for our accreditation. A2LA conducts an on-site assessment every two years, with a remote/virtual assessment being completed on the year in between the on-site assessment. This ensures that all labs wishing to maintain their accreditation are thoroughly evaluated by A2LA at least once each calendar year.

There are two parts to the assessment performed by our Auditors at A2LA; a thorough review of our laboratory's Quality Management System (QMS) for compliance with the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard (Q Labs also chooses to be evaluated against the additional requirements outlined in: *AOAC INTERNATIONAL Guidelines for Laboratories Performing Microbiological and Chemical Analyses of Food, Dietary Supplements, and Pharmaceuticals, An Aid to Interpretation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017*), and a "technical assessment". Under normal circumstances, these two portions of the assessment would be conducted at the same time, by a single assessor, over the course of several days. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, these portions of the assessment have had to be split into two separate assessments.

Currently, Q Labs has completed the QMS portion of the assessment. We are pleased to report that no observations were found (see attached letter from our Accreditation Officer). We have now been assigned a new assessor for the final piece of our assessment which is being scheduled for mid-November. An official accreditation renewal cannot be issued until final portion of the assessment has been completed. However, because the delay is due to the COVID pandemic, Q Labs will maintain our status as a "lab in good standing". We have successfully maintained ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for many years, we will continue to be issued monthly extensions to our accreditations until the completion of the assessment.

We typically provide copies of our certs here for your convenience. However, since these extensions are issued for only one month at a time, and to ensure you always have the most current version of our accreditation cert (extension) we would ask that you please contact Q Labs for a copy of the most up-to-date certification document. You should also feel free to contact me, directly, with any questions. Upon completion of the final portion of our assessment, we will again link our updated accreditation certs here.

Thank you for your understanding, and again, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. All of us here at Q Labs wish you, your businesses, families, and friends all the best as we all continue to navigate these unusual times.

Sincerely,

Michael Loewenstein

VP, Quality & Scientific Consulting

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To whom it may concern:

A2LA is in the process of completing a renewal assessment of Q Labs LLC. Due to the pandemic of COVID-19 we needed to adjust our assessment process. Normally an assessor would be onsite at the laboratory between 2 to 3 days conducting an assessment to ISO/IEC 17025, but since travel had been restricted, we adopted a remote assessment option with the intention for an onsite visit at a later date.

Presently, Q Labs LLC has completed an assessment of their Quality Management System in which 0 deficiencies were found. As we wait for the technical portion to be completed, Q Labs LLC will continue to have their certificate extended.

Sincerely,

David Fricker
Accreditation Officer II
email: dfricker@A2LA.org