


Preparing Authority: Haley Benjamin	 Transition Memo to DoD-DoE QSM	Publication Date: 02/01/24
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Transition Memorandum

February 1, 2024

To: A2LA Accredited & Applicant ISO/IEC 17025 DoD/DOE Environmental Laboratories

From: Trace McInturff, A2LA Vice President, Accreditation Services

Re: Transition to *Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0*

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Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual (QSM) for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0 became publicly available on December 13, 2023, and the Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DOE) has implemented a thirty-month transition period from the date of publication. As such, all recognized accrediting bodies (which includes A2LA) must have all their DoD/DOE Environmental Laboratories accredited to *Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0* no later than June 13, 2026.

For A2LA to successfully assess and provide accreditation to each of its accredited and enrolled DoD/DOE environmental laboratories within our two-year assessment cycle, the following represents A2LA’s transition plan from *Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 5.4* to *Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0*:

- **Scheduling Assessments** – A2LA will have the ability to assess to the new standard beginning on April 30, 2024. *Note: All requests from currently accredited laboratories to update their accreditation to Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0 will require an on-site assessment to verify implementation.*
- **New Applicants** – New applications received prior to May 31, 2024, will be accepted and assessed to either version of the standard. All applications received after May 31, 2024, will be assessed to Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0. Any new applicant assessed and accredited to the previous version (QSM 5.4) of the standard will be required to undergo an on-site verification audit during their first-year surveillance assessment to the new version of the standard (QSM 6.0);

- **Currently Accredited Laboratories** – All laboratories with an expiration date after December 31, 2024, will be assessed to the Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0 during their next full on-site assessment. Laboratories with an expiration date prior to this date may choose to be assessed to either version of the standard. *Note: Any laboratory not assessed to Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0 by December 31, 2025, will be required to undergo an on-site assessment no later than February 28, 2026, to verify implementation.*
- **Relevant Documents** – Two versions of relevant documents related to laboratory accreditation will be maintained until June 13, 2026. The titles of these documents will clearly indicate which version they are applicable to (*It is our intent to have these publicly available no later than April 30, 2024, and available on our website at [www.A2LA.org](http://www.A2LA.org).)*)

**End of Transition** – As mandated by the Department of Defense and Department of Energy, thirty months after publication of the new standard, all A2LA environmental accredited Laboratories *must* be in full conformance with version 6.0. Laboratories not accredited to the Department of Defense and Department of Energy Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories Version 6.0 after the end of the transition period will be suspended until they achieve accreditation to the new standard.

For further information, please feel free to contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or [info@A2LA.org](mailto:info@A2LA.org).