

Petroleum Test Laboratory Accreditation Program

API STANDARD 1512
FIRST EDITION, OCTOBER 1995

American Petroleum Institute
1220 L Street, Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20005



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Industry Services Department

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CONTENTS

	Page
0 INTRODUCTION	1
1 SCOPE	1
2 REFERENCES	1
3 DEFINITIONS	2
4 RESPONSIBILITY	3
4.1 API Responsibility	3
4.2 Laboratory Responsibility	3
5 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS	4
6 ACCREDITATION PROCESS	4
6.1 Accreditation Criteria	4
6.2 Application	4
6.3 Quality Manual Review	4
6.4 On-Site Assessment	4
6.5 Decision on Accreditation	4
6.6 Proficiency Testing	4
6.7 Period of Accreditation	5
6.8 Maintaining Accreditation	5
6.9 Renewal of Accreditation	5
6.10 Suspension, Revocation, and Denial of Accreditation	5
6.11 Warning Letters	5
6.12 Reinstatement	5
6.13 Satellite Facilities	5
7 ON-SITE ASSESSMENT	5
7.1 General	5
7.2 Assessment Elements	6
7.3 On-Site Assessors	6
7.4 Laboratory Cooperation	6
7.5 Frequency of Assessments	6
7.6 Assessment Reports	7
7.7 Code of Ethics	7
8 PROFICIENCY TESTING	7
9 ACCREDITATION FOR ADDITIONAL TESTING	7
10 PROMOTION OF PTLAP ACCREDITATION	7
11 APPEALS	8
12 QUALITY SYSTEM	8
12.1 Management Responsibility	8
12.2 Organization	8
12.3 Quality Policy	8
12.4 Quality Planning	8
12.5 Quality Manual	8
12.6 Management Review	8
12.7 Internal Quality Audits	8
12.8 Document and Data Control	9
13 PROCESS CONTROL	9
13.1 Equipment and Reference Materials	9
13.2 Measurement Traceability and Calibration	9

13.3 Test Methods	10
13.4 Accommodation and Environment	10
13.5 Handling of Test Items	10
13.6 Statistical Techniques	11
13.7 Outside Support Services and Supplies	11
14 PERSONNEL	11
15 SUBCONTRACTING OF TESTING	11
16 NONCONFORMANCE CONTROLS	11
16.1 Nonconformance Review and Evaluation	11
16.2 Corrective and Preventive Action	11
17 RECORDS	12
18 CERTIFICATES AND REPORTS	12
19 COMPLAINTS	13
APPENDIX A—PETROLEUM TEST LABORATORY ACCREDITATION	
PROGRAM TESTING LIST	15

FOREWORD

This standard is under the jurisdiction of the API Fuels Committee. It shall become effective on the date printed on the cover, but may be used voluntarily from the date of distribution. The API Fuels Committee has established a voluntary Petroleum Test Laboratory Accreditation Program (PTLAP) for independent commercial and petroleum company laboratories to ensure consistent quality of test results in view of federal and state regulations. This program includes a provision for accredited laboratories to use the API Petroleum Test Laboratory Accreditation Program logo. It is not intended in any way to inhibit the use of laboratories not licensed to use this logo.

It is essential that the refining, distribution, and marketing sectors be assured that testing is conducted properly, and results are accurate. Good quality control programs are an essential element for compliance with these regulations.

API produced this document under standardization procedures that ensure appropriate notification and participation in the developmental process and is designated as an API *standard*. Questions concerning the interpretation of the content of this standard or comments and questions concerning the procedures under which this standard was developed should be directed in writing to the API Industry Services Department.

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Suggested revisions are invited and should be submitted to the Industry Services Department, American Petroleum Institute, 1220 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

Petroleum Test Laboratory Accreditation Program

0 Introduction

The API Petroleum Test Laboratory Accreditation Program (PTLAP) is a voluntary accreditation program open to all laboratories doing tests on petroleum products. It is a result of cooperation between the petroleum industry and independent laboratories to reduce the need to continue or establish multiple audits by petroleum companies.

The PTLAP objective is to verify the quality of test results from petroleum product testing. Program participants must pass an on-site assessment before accreditation is awarded and must have an established quality system that complies with the requirements in Sections 12-19. To maintain accreditation, the laboratory must pass a periodic assessment during the accreditation period and participate in the appropriate ASTM Interlaboratory Crosscheck Program(s). Laboratories with "outlier" results must follow up with appropriate corrective action per the requirements in Paragraph 16.2.

1 Scope

This standard sets forth the program requirements for laboratories that wish to be recognized by the American Petroleum Institute as meeting specific industry requirements for testing, measuring, and inspecting petroleum products. The requirements are structured to prevent non-conformance during every stage of the testing process and are applicable in all situations when doing API accredited tests.

This standard provides criteria for the qualification and selection of assessors, the conduct of on-site assessments, the evaluation of laboratories leading to accreditation, the continuance of accreditation, and the ongoing monitoring and surveillance of accredited laboratories.

This standard outlines requirements for a quality system to control the testing of petroleum products performed by independent and petroleum company laboratories. It complements ISO 9002 and ISO Guide 25, *General Requirements for the Competence of Calibration and Testing Laboratories*. PTLAP adds the requirement to observe the tests for which the laboratory seeks accreditation, as they are performed by laboratory personnel.

2 References

2.1 Unless otherwise specified, the most recent editions or revisions of the following standards, codes, and specifications shall, to the extent specified herein, form a part of this standard.

API

- Policy 104 *Standardization*
- Spec Q1 *Specification for Quality Programs*

ANSI¹

- Q1 *Generic Guidelines for Auditing of Quality Systems*

ASQC²

- Quality Systems—Model for Quality Assurance in Design, Development, Production, Installation, and Servicing*

ASTM³

- D975 *Standard Specification for Diesel Fuel Oils*
- D1655 *Standard Specification for Aviation Turbine Fuels*
- D4814 *Standard Specification for Automotive Spark-Ignition Engine Fuel*
- E1187 *Standard Terminology Relating to Lab Accreditation*

EPA⁴

- 40 *Code of Federal Regulations Part 80.46*

ISO⁵

- 9002 *Quality Systems—Model for Quality Assurance in Production and Installation*

¹American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, New York 10018

²American Society for Quality Control, 611 East Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201-3005

³American Society for Testing and Materials, 100 Bar Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428

⁴Environmental Protection Agency. The *Code of Federal Regulation* is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

⁵International Organization for Standardization, Geneva, Switzerland.