

Deemed Accreditation Organizations

January 3, 2013

Per COMAR 10.51.02.02

Accredited Forensic Laboratory and Accrediting Organization.

A. Accredited Forensic Laboratory—Determination. The Secretary shall accept as meeting the audit requirements of this subtitle a forensic laboratory accredited by an organization approved by the Secretary, as set forth in §C of this regulation, if the Department determines that the standards of the forensic laboratory's accreditation organization are equivalent to those under this subtitle.

From Maryland Health General Article §19-2301:

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
 - (b) "Accreditation organization" means a private entity that conducts inspections and surveys of health care facilities based on nationally recognized and developed standards.
 - (c) "Deemed status" means a status under which a health care facility may be exempt from routine surveys conducted by the Department.
 - (d) "Health care facility" means:
 - (1) A hospital as defined in § 19–301 of this title;
 - (2) A health maintenance organization as defined in § 19–701(g) of this title;
 - (3) A freestanding ambulatory care facility as defined in § 19–3B–01 of this title;
 - (4) An assisted living facility as defined in § 19–1801 of this title;
 - (5) A laboratory as defined in § 17–201 of this article;
 - (6) A home health agency as defined in § 19–401 of this title;
 - (7) A residential treatment center as defined in § 19–301 of this title;
 - (8) A comprehensive rehabilitation facility as defined in § 19–1201 of this title;
- and
- (9) A forensic laboratory as defined in § 17–2A–01 of this article.

Crosswalk agreements involving the sharing of information by forensic laboratory accrediting organizations with OHCQ have been established with four (4) organizations. By regulation these organizations are deemed approved by the Department and their accreditation programs are accepted for MD State forensic lab licensing. The approved organizations are:

1. American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)

(Program cycle is 2 years)

2. American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT)

(Program cycle is 2 years)

3. American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)

(Program cycle is 5 years)

4. Forensic Quality Services (FQS)

(Program cycle is 4 years)