



NEWS RELEASE

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ACLASS to Accredit Testing Labs for New Children's Products Requirements

Washington – The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, under the ACLASS brand, will begin accrediting testing laboratories under new Consumer Product Safety Commission requirements for the safe manufacture of children's products.

The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) requires that manufacturers and private labelers submit samples of certain children's products for testing by an independent laboratory before those products can be imported, warehoused, or sold in the United States.

The requirements apply to any product manufactured more than 90 days after the Commission has announced its conditions for conformance with a specific safety rule. The first item for action will address lead paint.

The CPSIA requires that testing be conducted by laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, the international standard that defines how laboratories demonstrate that they operate a quality system, are technically competent, and are able to generate technically valid results.

"Third-party testing is a crucial step in the process of assuring parents that the products their children use are safe," said Keith Greenaway, Vice President of ACLASS. "ACLASS accreditation demonstrates that a testing laboratory doing this important work is competent."

The CPSIA also requires that accrediting bodies be recognized by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), a global organization of laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies. ACLASS became a signatory to the ILAC mutual recognition arrangement in 2006.

"Qualification to provide accreditation services under the terms of the CPSIA is an example of our commitment to ensuring the safety of children's products," said Greenaway. "ACLASS was the only laboratory accreditation body to sit at the table with the American National Standards Institute, the Toy Industry Association, and other stakeholders when the new Toy Safety Certification Program was being developed."

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“ACLASS assessors have a high level of technical competence and effective communication skills that enhance the accreditation process and provide genuine value to our customers. We look forward to working with testing laboratories to ensure that they meet the requirements outlined in the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.”

About ACLASS

Under the ACLASS brand, the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board provides laboratory accreditation for testing and calibration laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025, reference material producers (RMPs) to ISO Guide 34, and inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020. ACLASS is internationally recognized by ILAC, APLAC, and IAAC through the signing of multilateral recognition arrangements.

The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board is also the U.S. accreditation body for management systems, providing accreditation under the ANAB brand for ISO 9001 quality management systems (QMS), ISO 14001 environmental management systems (EMS), ISO 27001 information security management systems, ISO 22000 food safety management systems, ANSI/AIHA Z10 occupational health and safety management systems, and numerous industry-specific requirements. ANAB is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and a signatory of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLAs) for QMS and EMS.

The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board is the only U.S. accreditation body with both ILAC and IAF recognition.

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