



AASHTO Accreditation Policy and Guidance on False Claims of Accreditation

Policy taken from Sections 9.8 and 9.9 of the [Procedures Manual for the Accreditation of Construction Materials Testing Laboratories](#).

- 9.8. **Consequence of Violation of the Policy** - Any laboratory that is found to violate this policy will be notified and granted one week to resolve the issue. If the laboratory does not resolve the issue, the laboratory's name and location will be listed on the Notice of False Accreditation Claims on the AASHTO re:source website (www.aashtoresource.org) along with an explanation of the violation. AAP reserves the right to directly notify any specifier, project owner, or other organization about a laboratory's violation of this policy.
- 9.9. **Examples of Unacceptable Statements** - There are many ways to accurately promote a laboratory's accreditation status provided that the laboratory adheres to the guidelines listed in this document. Many of the "approved" methods of publicizing accreditation are dependent on the exact circumstance involved so the AAP will not list acceptable statements that anyone can use. However, there are certain statements that have been erroneously used by both accredited and non-accredited laboratories in the past that can provide guidance for what not to do.

The following statements are considered to be unacceptable statements regarding a laboratory's accreditation status:

Example 1: "Laboratory ABC is recognized by AAP."

This example ambiguously states that the laboratory is "recognized." The AAP does not "recognize" a laboratory or its accreditation status – it only "accredits" the laboratory for adherence to specific published standards and compliance with requirements published in this document. Other words that shall not be used include "certified," "approved," and possibly others.

Example 2: "Our laboratory is an AASHTO re:source-accredited laboratory."

This example incorrectly states that the laboratory is accredited by AASHTO re:source. Both AASHTO re:source and CCRL provide assessments and proficiency samples that are used by the AAP as a means to evaluate compliance to AAP procedures. Neither AASHTO re:source nor CCRL accredit laboratories.

Example 3: "Our technicians are AASHTO certified."

This example erroneously states that the technicians that work at the accredited laboratory are also certified by AASHTO. AASHTO accreditation does not apply to personnel. It only applies to a laboratory that has demonstrated adherence to specific published standards listed in the scope of the laboratory's accreditation and compliance with the requirements published in this document.

Example 4: "Our asphalt is AASHTO certified."

This example erroneously states that the product produced at the plant that houses the accredited laboratory are also certified by AASHTO. AASHTO accreditation does not apply to products. It only applies to a laboratory that has demonstrated adherence to specific published standards listed in the scope of the laboratory's accreditation and compliance with the requirements published in this document.

Example 5: "Our laboratories are AASHTO-accredited."

This statement may be true if all of the laboratory locations within that organization possess valid accreditations. However, this statement would not be true if even one of the laboratory locations within that organization does not possess a valid accreditation.

The laboratory's accreditation certificates must be disposed of and advertising references to AASHTO accreditation must be discontinued (a) when accreditation has been revoked by the AAP, (b) when the laboratory voluntarily withdraws from participation in the AAP, or (c) if the laboratory becomes unable to conform to any of the criteria required for accreditation.

Guidance

False claims of AASHTO Accreditation can be identified through various means such as websites, applications to potential clients, promotional materials, advertisements, and social media sites. The AASHTO Accreditation Program will confirm that there is, in fact, a false claim of accreditation and verify the claim is not based on anecdotal evidence alone.