



**Broadband Forum  
Independent Testing Laboratory (ITL) Program  
Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **1. What is a nominated ITL? What is a Recognized ITL?**

A nominated ITL is a testing lab who has been nominated by either themselves or a 3rd party as a viable testing facility for the Broadband industry. A recognized ITL is a testing lab who has agreed to comply with a minimum set of requirements developed by the Broadband Forum in order to give credibility and consistency to the work and the quality of work that the lab performs.

### **2. What does the Broadband Forum do to promote ITLs?**

The Broadband Forum works with Service providers and equipment manufacturers to develop the minimum requirements that ITL's must comply with before ITL's can be recognized by the Broadband Forum. These minimum requirements include confidentiality, test quality, and use of standardized test plans and report formats. In addition, the Broadband Forum will advertise the program names of ITL labs on a public web page for vendors to access. The Broadband Forum may also, from time to time, publish press announcements regarding the program and its recognized test labs.

### **3. How does my lab become a recognized ITL?**

Labs in the ITL program must be voting Members, in good standing, in the Broadband Forum. The lab needs to first be nominated, sign the ITL contract, and then participate in the development of the test plans, test criteria, and other elements created by the Broadband Forum. Once these documents are available, the lab must formally agree to follow them in order to be recognized.

### **4. What equipment will an ITL have available?**

Each lab will determine what equipment it needs in order to support its intended customer base.

### **5. What level of certification is provided by the Broadband Forum?**

The Broadband Forum does not currently provide certification of any kind. The ITLs will individually determine what DSL equipment is compliant or not as required by the minimum set of requirements set forth by the Broadband Forum.

### **6. Who owns the vendor test report? How can an ITL use it?**

The vendor party who paid the ITL for the testing owns the test report. The ITL may not publish or otherwise disclose the results of the test report. The ITL may provide a summary of number of tests performed and gross statistics (units passed/failed) to the Broadband Forum for tracking purposes only. However, it is assumed that vendors who pass these tests would want to share these results with prospective customers and service providers. Vendors may not use the test report for competitive advertising or to claim certification or other approved status in the market. The Broadband Forum is not a certification body and this program does not represent certification approval of devices. It is allowed to release general information with the following statement:

“On {enter date}, we are pleased to announce that [Enter product name, and model number, and software version] was tested at {enter lab name} against [Enter product name, and model number, and software version] according to Broadband Forum TR-XX (specify TR test spec) and demonstrated to pass the overall interoperability performance requirements.”

**7. Will the Broadband Forum audit the ITLs?**

No. However, based on feedback from Broadband Forum members, primarily customers/service providers, the Broadband Forum might remove the recognized status for an ITL who fails to deliver on its promise to abide by the requirements set forth by the Broadband Forum.

**8. What is the role of the Broadband Forum in the ITL program?**

Work with industry vendors and customers to create and maintain a set of requirements and consistent reporting to be used to make plug-n-play DSL Interoperability a reality.