PJLA Update Notification

Update Notification # 18
Update Notification Release Date: August 1, 2013
Form/Procedure/Policy: PL-1 Proficiency Testing Requirements for Applicant and Accredited Laboratories

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PJLA Applicant/Accredited Organizations

PJLA has recently updated our Policy (PL-1) Proficiency Testing Requirements for Applicant and Accredited Laboratories. Please download and closely review these changes as they will be assessed at your next assessment or by the effective date as specified below:

Summary of Changes:

Effective Date: Immediate

- Section 1.1-Clarification has been added in regard to PJLA's administration of regulatory body proficiency testing requirements which are embedded in the relevant standard.

- Section 2.0-3.0-Clarification and examples have been added in regard to selecting sub disciplines to undergo how to determine appropriate amounts of PT to be completed on an annual and 4 year basis.

- Section 3.3-Clarification was added for (CABs) that in order to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, PT policies and procedures must be reviewed for continuing suitability during the management review. In addition, it is stated that this review can take place at any time as deemed necessary. Records are to be kept of any conclusions reached or actions taken.

- Section 6.4.3-A reference to other means of statistical analysis has been added for clarification purposes including a reference to review ISO 13528.

- Section 7.0-Requirements for DoD ELAP laboratories have been added.

- Section 8.0-Requirements for EPA NLLAP laboratories have been added.

Effective Date for Current Contracted Laboratories: January 1, 2014

Effective date for Laboratories Contracted After August 1, 2013: Immediate Implementation

Section 6.0-A new requirement has been added in regard to the type of analysis to be completed to meet PT requirements. It has always been recommended for laboratories to choose third-party providers when available for PT analysis. This has now been changed to include a mandate that

all laboratories shall utilize a third party provider when available or to complete Inter laboratory comparisons. Intra laboratory or repeatability studies will no longer be acceptable to be utilized when a third party provider or an inter lab study is available. We recognize that this is not always possible and our policy still allows for exceptions on a case-by-case basis However, when a laboratory believes that it cannot meet this requirement they must submit their reasoning and proposed alternative procedure to PJLA in writing or by electronic transmission (e.g. email). PJLA will notify the laboratory of its decision to accept or reject the proposed alternative procedure by means of electronic transmission or in writing. If a request is denied PJLA will state the reason(s) as part of the notification.

Thank you.