

# Accreditation Insider

A Newsletter Published by Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA)

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## *PJLA's Progress With The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition*

*M*ichael Kramer, PJLA Program Manager, has provided a report on our progress with the transition. As we approach the midpoint of 2019, the frequency of assessing laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is increasing. The transition protocol for transitioning from ISO/IEC 17025:2005 to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was announced on the PJLA website under update notification #41.

All laboratories must be accredited to the new standard by November 29, 2020 and will be asked if they would like to transition during their normal routine visits. Laboratories must transition by no later than August 31, 2020, regardless of their assessment due date. The August 31, 2019 transition deadline will allow for a buffer period to close any nonconformances that may have been identified during transition assessments.

As PJLA has been conducting transitional assessments to the 2017 version with more regularity, we have started compiling data on the common areas PJLA assessors have been detecting nonconformities:



Section 6.6 "Externally Provided Products and Services" - This section includes the previous concept of subcontracting and purchasing, which is now compiled together within Section 6.6. This section offers organizations more flexibility in identifying suppliers which have been approved. However, emphasis has been placed on procedures and records are required to capture any actions arising from evaluations, monitoring of performance, and re-evaluations of the external providers.

(TRANSITION CONTINUED ON PG 7)

## *Reminder To All RMP Applicant And Accredited Laboratories*

*E*ffective July 1, 2017, ISO Guide 34:2009 was upgraded to ISO/IEC 17034:2016. As of July 1, 2018, all RMP assessments conducted are to ISO/IEC 17034:2016. Laboratories must be accredited to the new standard by November 1, 2019.



Please review the PJLA website at [www.pjllabs.com/resources/pjlladocuments](http://www.pjllabs.com/resources/pjlladocuments) to obtain the current ISO/IEC 17034 checklist. Also, if you have not already done so, we encourage you to obtain an official copy of ISO 17034:2016 from the ISO store. ◆

## *DOD/DOE QSM Version 5.3 Update*

*A*s you may already be aware, the DoD/DOE QSM Version 5.2 was modified with very minimal edits. In this case, all laboratories ready to transition to the QSM 5.2 will be assessed to version 5.3. Those laboratories already assessed to 5.2 will be contacted by PJLA headquarters to complete a gap assessment to the new version for all certificates to be reflective of the 5.3 version. This QSM is available on the DOE SharePoint site and DoD Denix site. Please note all DoD/DOE laboratories must be accredited to the new version by November 29, 2020. ◆

## IN THIS ISSUE:

PJLA's Progress With The ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition.....	1
Reminder To All RMP Applicant And Accredited Laboratories.....	1
DOD/DOE QSM Version 5.3 Update.....	1
Free ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition Training.....	2
PJLA Welcomes Two New Members To The Team!.....	2
Hemp: Old Roots, New Opportunities.....	3
PJLA Visited The Following: .....	4
Client Spotlight: Laboratorio de Alimentos y Aguas de Sonora.....	5
PJLA Anniversaries.....	5
Download Past Webinar Slides From Our Website.....	5
PJLA Would Love To See You At The Following Trade Shows.....	6
Halima Alli & Qualtrax Webinar.....	7
Look Out For PJLA's FREE Online Webinars!.....	8

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## Free ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition Training

**D**on an effort to educate current and future customers, Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. has begun offering free ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition Training courses throughout the United Kingdom and United States. On Tuesday, February 19th, 2019, Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation welcomed ambitious laboratory professionals from near and far to host the first of these courses in Troy, Michigan. Since February, PJLA has also been able to visit Milton Keynes, Manchester, and Glasgow, as well as Houston, Philadelphia, Orlando, and Chicago.

With more than 20 years in the testing and calibration field, PJLA's Testing Program Manager, Doug Berg, guided the courses. While attending each class, attendees discovered the key differences between ISO/IEC 17025:2005 & ISO/IEC 17025:2017, as well as several implementation tactics and tools to successfully transition their laboratory management systems.

Several case studies and interactive group activities were provided to all attendees, allowing for new ideas and experiences to be shared among the participants.

By the end of each course, they were able to leave with a certificate of training, increased knowledge, and additional networking opportunities with colleagues in their field.



PJLA'S DOUG BERG  
TESTING PROGRAM MGR.

Nearly 300 participants were able to attend our first round of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Transition Training courses. Due to the major success, PJLA has plans to host more of these interactive training courses in the future. To save your spot, make sure you are subscribed to our weekly newsletter and watch for updates on our website! ♦

## PJLA Welcomes Two New Members To The Team!

**P**erry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. would like to welcome Carrie Breneman & Michelle Polus to the team! Carrie Breneman joins us as an Accreditation Program Assistant after working with Perry Johnson Registrars for many years. Michelle Polus makes her return to PJLA as our new Sales & Office Coordinator. We are very happy to have both their skills and experiences to round out the team and are looking forward to having both as part of our PJLA crew! ♦



**Carrie Breneman**  
Accreditation  
Program Assistant



**Michelle Polus**  
Sales & Office  
Coordinator

## Hemp: Old Roots, New Opportunities

Marked one of the fastest growing plants, Hemp was one of the first plants to be spun into usable fiber nearly 10,000 years ago. It can be turned into a variety of objects including paper, textiles, clothing, biodegradable plastics, paint, insulation, biofuel, food, and animal feed. Until recently, hemp was grown almost exclusively for industrial-type uses. As a result, hemp plants today have small amounts of THC, the psychoactive chemical responsible for marijuana's high.

The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 deemed all forms of cannabis — including hemp — a Schedule I drug, making it illegal to grow in the United States. Because of this long-term ban, most people have forgotten the many industrial uses of the plant and continue to classify hemp with its cannabis cousin, marijuana.



With the recent passing of the Farm Bill in 2018, American farmers will now be able to plant and harvest hemp, a strain of the same plant species from which marijuana originates. The farm bill itself won't directly affect product safety, but professionals believe that as more states move toward legalization, the companies that are proving to abide by firm manufacturing conditions will come out on top.

While cannabis companies grow at a fast pace, demand for laboratories that test these products grows, as well. PJLA can now accredit these laboratories for hemp testing, even preceding cannabis being legalized in their state. PJLA's accreditation assessments focus strictly on

the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard, using trained and knowledgeable assessors that are attentive to cannabis and hemp laboratory structure. The testing of hemp-derived products is crucial to demonstrate they do not contain hazardous levels of pollutants or additives, proving them safe for public consumption.

ISO/IEC 17025 specifies general requirements for the capability to conduct tests and calibrations, including sampling. It covers testing and calibration quality systems using standard methods and laboratory-developed or modified methods.

Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. is a leading international accrediting body and we are proud to offer ISO/IEC 17025 to fit the needs of various testing and calibration laboratories. We strive to add value to our clients throughout the course of their accreditation experience and our goal is to see everyone successfully achieve accreditation.

If you have any questions regarding hemp testing requirements in your state, contact us at (877) 369-5227 to talk with one of our industry experts or request a free quote from our website at [www.pjlab.com/accreditation-programs/apply-for-accreditation](http://www.pjlab.com/accreditation-programs/apply-for-accreditation). ♦



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## PJLA Visited The Following:



### Michigan Cannabis Expo

On February 26-27, 2019 PJLA's national Project Managers Bill Jaquays and Gary Steed met with thousands of other industry professionals at the Frankenmuth Credit Union Event Center in Birch Run, Michigan to learn more about the expanding opportunities in this exciting new market.



### Pittcon

PJLA's National Program Managers, Gary Steed and Bill Jaquays visited the 2019 Pittcon Conference & Expo in Philadelphia March 17-21, 2019. While there, attendees were able to get a hands-on look at the latest laboratory instrumentation, see live demos and product seminars, talk with technical experts, and find solutions to various laboratory challenges.



### Cannabis Science Conference

On April 9-10, 2019 PJLA's National Project Managers Brett McMillen and Gary Steed visited the Cannabis Science Conference in Baltimore, Maryland. They had a great time sharing the many benefits of PJLA and our ISO/IEC 17025 standard specific to the requirements regarding cannabis testing laboratories.

### 8th Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting & 5th Governmental Food and Feed Laboratory Accreditation Meeting



PJLA's Technical Program Manager, Halima Alli, spoke at the *8th Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance (MFRPA) Meeting & 5th Governmental Food and Feed Laboratory Accreditation Meeting* April 8-11, 2019 in Houston, Texas. This program provided training on topics of interest to laboratories performing food and feed testing who have achieved or are working towards achieving ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

### PJLA Visits the Annual AOAC Meeting in Atlanta, GA

PJLA attended the 33rd Annual Southern Section of AOAC International meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, April 15-18, 2019. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet with customers, regulators, and industry experts within the food, pharmaceutical, and dietary supplement sectors.

PJLA's Food Testing Program Manager, Lawrence Lagman, offered a presentation focused on ISO/IEC 17025:2017, specifically nonconformities observed in ISO/IEC 17025:2017 assessments.

In addition, Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation sponsored The Southern Section Professional Development Training: *Understanding the Use of Decision Rules and Statements of Conformity with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements and Emerging ILAC Guidance.* ♦





## Client Spotlight: Laboratorio de Alimentos y Aguas de Sonora

Laboratorio de Alimentos y Aguas de Sonora is one of the first testing laboratories accredited by PJLA in Sonora. Setting them apart from their competitors, their two locations are proudly female led facilities. Their laboratory provides various services including microbiological & physicochemical analysis, nutritional labeling, and sanitary filters for food handlers.

Working with PJLA has been a pleasant experience for Laboratorio de Alimentos y Aguas de Sonora. Since becoming accredited with Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc., they have been able to formalize the services they offer, making

their laboratory more competitive in the current marketplace. Accreditation with PJLA has given their laboratory prestige and has helped them become better known in the food processing sector.

Looking towards the future, they aim to achieve further accreditation to expand into performing clinical tests. Laboratorio de Alimentos y Aguas de Sonora S.A de C.V. is a company that strengthens the health system of their region while maintaining compliance with set regulations aimed at raising the quality of their food products. They accomplish their goals because of their high-quality standards and their sense of social responsibility.

For more information, visit their Facebook page at: [Laboratorio de Alimentos y Aguas de Sonora](#). ♦



Laboratorio de Alimentos  
y Aguas de Sonora



## PJLA Anniversaries

10 Years



**Brett McMillen**  
National Project Manager

5 Years



**Jennifer Lipinski**  
Accreditation Program Assistant

## Download Past Webinar Slides From Our Website



### PJLA FREE WEBINARS

- [Upcoming Webinars](#)
- [Previously Recorded Webinars](#)
- [Past Webinar Slides](#)

# PJLA Would Love To See You At The Following Trade Shows:

## Europe CBD Expo London 2019

July 12 & 13, 2019

at ExCel London

Visit us at Booth #G40

**Speaker:**

Tracy Szerszen - PJLA President  
will be speaking on accreditation

## Environmental Measurement Symposium

August 5– 9, 2019

Jacksonville, Florida

**Speaker:**

Andy Valkenburg - PJLA Assessor  
will be speaking on the 6th at 2:30pm

## Hemp and CBD Expo (September Edition)

September 14 & 15, 2019

at the Birmingham NEC

Visit us at Booth #J72



(TRANSITION CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

Section 7.7 “Ensuring the Validity of Results” - This section now has additional vehicles specified for the monitoring of results where appropriate. This includes the review of reported results, intra lab comparisons, and blind sample testing. This section now requires that the laboratory compares its results with those obtained from values outside of the organization where available and appropriate.

Section 7.8 “Recording the Results” - The 2017 Standard puts more emphasis on reports that are making statements of compliance. The concept of taking measurement uncertainty into account is nothing new in this area, but organizations are now required to record the decision rule which was used in taking uncertainty into account. Also, the date of issue now must be captured on reports.

Section 7.2 “Selection, Verification and Validation of Methods” - As always, the lab is required to use appropriate methods. Following 7.2.1.7, the customer must accept deviations from the methods. Deviations in this context should be understood as a planned change or modifications of the method. The content of 5.4.3 and 5.4.4 of the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Standard regarding own developed methods and non-standardized methods has been erased. A “new” way to validate methods has been included in 7.2.2.1. requiring that method robustness is tested through a variation of controlled parameters, such as incubator temperature, volume dispensed, etc. The previous Note 3 in ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is now a requirement concerning the validation of methods when changes are made to the original validated method. Additional records are now required to be maintained when methods need to be validated.

The section in which PJLA assessors are recording the most nonconformities while performing assessments to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is Section 6.4 “Equipment” - At the forefront of this section, the requirement that laboratories have the required equipment to correctly perform laboratory activities is mentioned. This section now provides specifics as to when equipment is required to be calibrated. Reference to ISO 17034 have been included to emphasize the competence of reference material producers.

PJLA encourages all laboratories to partake in our free monthly webinars to seek the necessary training to prepare for the changes in the new standard. Visit our website at [www.pjlab.com/training/pjla-webinars](http://www.pjlab.com/training/pjla-webinars) to sign up for upcoming events or view past presentations. ◆

## Halima Alli & Qualtrax Webinar

Technical Program Manager, Halima Alli, presented *Assessing Validation Data in Cannabis Testing Labs* with Qualtrax Compliance Software on June 25, 2019 at 2:00 PM EDT.



Although the performance and technology for commonly used testing methods are well documented for a variety of applications, the data may not include the sample matrices encountered in laboratories performing cannabis testing. An existing method may require modifications to achieve the level of performance required for a particular regulation. Laboratories may also develop their own methods. All of which means the lab needs to validate a testing method. When that lab is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025, that validation must meet the requirements of the standard.

### Takeaways:

1. Highlights of the ISO/IEC 17025 requirements for the validation of methods.
2. Setting acceptance criteria based on the intended use of the results.
3. Recording and analyzing results for test method validations.
4. Documenting validation activities to demonstrate conformance to the standard. ◆





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## Look Out For PJLA's FREE Online Webinars!

PJLA is now offering free webinars on various topics in relation to ISO/IEC 17025 for both testing and calibration laboratories. These are for all interested parties including: laboratories seeking accreditation, accredited laboratories, assessors, and consultants. To see our full schedule and register for upcoming webinars visit our website at [www.pjlabs.com/training/pjla-webinars](http://www.pjlabs.com/training/pjla-webinars). ♦

**Thursday, July 25:** Section 5.0 "Structural Requirements" of ISO/IEC 17025:2017

**Thursday, August 29:** Common findings in assessments to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard

