#### A look at Section 8.5 of ISO/IEC 17025:2017



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This webinar is being recorded and will be available in it's entirely on the Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation Website. <u>www.pjlabs.com</u>

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Duration of webinar is set for one hour. There will be time allocated at the end for questions.





ISO/IEC 17025:2017 strongly emphases "risk based" thinking: 'The word "risk appears over thirty times in the document compared to only four appearanc.es in the 2005 Standard



As a result of this shift to risk-based thinking, there is no longer any reference to "preventive actions"; this is essentially replaced by the new clause on addressing risks and opportunities"



Even though a note within the 2017 Standard states that there is no requirement for formal risk assessment methodologies the fact that the new emphasis on the consideration of risk is in place, laboratories will need to produce evidence of compliance with the new clause.



Those laboratories who already undertake regular management reviews or staff meeting which stresses improvement opportunities may likely find that they already meet most of the requirements in the 2017 Standard in regards to Section 8.5.



We Address Risk in Everyday Life:

- Driving. Most of the time, we take this for granted. But staying off the cell phone, keeping basic systems in good order and even replacing your wipers once in a while can make a big difference.
- Food preparation. Keep surfaces clean, avoid transfer of bacteria from uncooked food to your hands, countertops, and utensils..



- Stairways. Simple, I know, but using the handrail can significantly reduce the likelihood of a fall.
- Non-routine tasks. Changing a light bulb in a ceiling fan? Get a good ladder or stepstool, not a chair. Using harsh chemicals to clean? Protect your hands.
- Yardwork. Substantial shoes are important in operating any power equipment. Good leather gloves for handling brush are a big plus





### Actions to Address Risk and Opportunities (Definitions)

- **Risk:** what makes achieving an objective uncertain.
- **Level of Risk:** an expression of the importance of the risk taking into account the consequences and the likelihood of situations.
- **Risk evaluation:** comparison of the level of risk with an acceptance criterion
- **Risk treatment:** Many options are possible and can be combined: avoiding the risk, taking the risk to seize an opportunity, eliminating the source of risk, changing the likelihood of occurrence or consequences, sharing risk or accept risk as it is and inform on it.
- **Residual risk:** Risk remaining after risk treatment
- **Opportunity:** an event with potential positive outcome for the organization



According to the Standard's Foreword Section, risk based thinking does enable reduction in prescriptive requirements and their replacement by performance requirements. Hopefully laboratories will be able to use this extra flexibility in practice <u>From ISO/IEC 17025:2005</u>

Lab shall have policies and procedures to ensure protection of confidential information including :including electronic storage and transmission of results;

#### From ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Lab shall ensure the protection and confidential information including electronic storage and transmission of results.



Addressing both risks and opportunities establishes a basis for increasing the effectiveness of the management system, achieving improved results and preventing negative effects. The laboratory is responsible for deciding which risks and opportunities need to be addressed.





**8.5.1** The laboratory shall consider the risks and opportunities associated with the laboratory activities in order to:

a) give assurance that the management system achieves its intended results;

b) enhance opportunities to achieve the purpose and objectives of the laboratory;

c) prevent, or reduce, undesired impacts and potential failures in the laboratory activities;

d) achieve improvement



- **8.5.2** The laboratory shall plan:
- a) actions to address these risks and opportunities;

b) how to:

- integrate and implement these actions into its management system;
- evaluate the effectiveness of these actions.
- NOTE Although this document specifies that the laboratory plans actions to address risks, there is no requirement for formal methods for risk management or a documented risk management process. Laboratories can decide whether or not to develop a more extensive risk management methodology than is required by this document, e.g. through the application of other guidance or standards.



### Actions to Address Risk and Opportunities How to assess risks in a laboratory?

To identify risks, it is useful to consider both the internal context of the organization and its external context (risks related to the customer, the supplier, but also to the customer of the client and other stakeholders).

Risk identification methods range from common sense and brainstorming, the use of pre-established lists for a professional sector, to the use of standards setting good practices



Actions to Address Risk and Opportunities The assessment of risks can be addressed answering the following questions:

- What can happen and why (by risk identification)?
- What are the consequences?
- What is the probability of their future occurrence?
- Are there any factors that mitigate the consequence of the risk or that reduce the probability of the risk?

Create a record that this is taking place





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**8.5.3** Actions taken to address risks and opportunities shall be proportional to the potential impact on the validity of laboratory results.

NOTE 1 Options to address risks can include identifying and avoiding threats, taking risk in order to pursue an opportunity, eliminating the risk source, changing the likelihood or consequences, sharing the risk, or retaining risk by informed decision.

NOTE 2 Opportunities can lead to expanding the scope of the laboratory activities, addressing new customers, using new technology and other possibilities to address customer needs.



# Examples of Risk Management Tools

- FMEA Failure Mode and Effects Analysis
- HAZOP Hazard and Operability Study
- Risk Management Checklist
- Pareto Chart
- Fishbone
- Fault Tree
- SWOT Analysis
- RIDM Risk Informed Decision Making
- **Brain Storming**
- **For further information:** ISO 31000:2009 Risk management Principles and guidelines ; IEC/ISO 31010:2009 Risk management – Risk assessment techniques





.S.W.O.T. is an acronym that stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. A SWOT analysis is an organized list of your business's greatest strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats





SWOT Analysis Example for Delightful Dog Grooming Purpose: To create a marketing action plan





#### Strengths

- Have many <u>return customers</u>
- Customer satisfaction customers do say they like the <u>service</u> and give <u>positive word of mouth</u> by recommending grooming services to others
- Do get some walk-in business
- Mobile grooming van has eye-catching <u>logo</u> and gives some exposure when performing on-site services



#### Weaknesses

- Don't pay much attention to marketing dependent on <u>word-of-mouth</u> and <u>website</u>
- Website purely informational and static
- Don't have a marketing plan
- Don't have much of a marketing budget



#### **Opportunities**

Take advantage of the increasing popularity of dogs

Increasing use of <u>social media</u>

Increase the amount of walk-in traffic

Local annual Pet Fair

Kennel clubs, rescue societies, local SPCA





#### Threats

- Other dog grooming businesses in town, <u>competition</u> is increasing
- One dog grooming business has a series of radio ads running and is also running newspaper ads once a week
- Another competitor has partnered with the local SPCA to host a dog washing and grooming day every few months (by donation to the SPCA
- Expense of running media ads



#### Do Strengths Open Any Opportunities?

- As customers say they like services and are willing to recommend them, could create some type of referral reward program to <u>actively encourage referrals</u>.
- A <u>loyalty program</u> for repeat customers could be developed.
- Could try to increase walk-ins by having an <u>eye-catching window display</u>.
- Consider <u>relocating business</u> to a location that would get more walk-in traffic.
- Look into setting up a booth at the local annual Pet Fair.
- See if kennel clubs, rescue societies, etc. are interested in partnerships.
- Increase the use of <u>social media</u> and investigate other <u>low-cost ways of promoting</u> the business





#### How Can We Convert Weaknesses to Strengths?

Looking at opportunities and listed weaknesses, looks like <u>social</u> <u>media could be a real marketing opportunity</u>. Instead of just having an informational website, our business could <u>put up a</u> <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>open a Twitter account</u> to try and reach out to old (and new) customers. (Because dogs are so popular, might be helpful to tweet as a dog, e.g. "Rover says regular grooming makes him happy and healthy"). <u>Pinterest</u> or Instagram might also be good options - pictures of cute pets are very popular.



#### What Do We Have to Do to Use Opportunities?

- Set up social media business accounts/pages. (Am already familiar with Facebook and Twitter through personal accounts.) Set aside time or assign staff person to update Facebook/
  Twitter accounts. Set up a Pinterest and/or Instagram account, purchase a camera, and train a staff person to take photos of animals and post images.
- Canvas staff for Facebook contest ideas.
- Find out details of annual Pet Fair, such as when it runs and how much a booth/table would cost there. (Remember will also have cost/logistics of manning the booth or table, too



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- Scout out some possible new business locations. Contact a realtor and ask about a more centralized business location where many people walk their pets.
- Canvas kennel clubs and dog rescue groups for possible partnership opportunities.
- Contact window artists for quotes on a window display.
- Decide on referral discount and customer loyalty schemes and notify existing customers



#### How Do We Best Neutralize Threats?

Without a bigger <u>marketing budget</u>, we can't run competing radio and newspaper <u>ad campaigns</u> (although would be a good idea to run occasional newspaper ad). Might be able to off-set the competition's newspaper and radio campaigns through developing our online presence as above and <u>running marketing campaigns</u> <u>on social media</u>.

**Results:** As you see above, this SWOT analysis has created the seeds of an <u>action marketing plan</u>, providing clear direction for how this small business can counter their competitions' marketing efforts and increase their own customer base.



#### **Creating a Risk Management Checklist**

In any type of project planning, risk management is a necessary tool. Risk management <u>identifies and prioritizes risks</u>, measures how harmful they can be, and develops a plan to deal with risks that are a threat to the project. Beyond creating a risk management plan, you should also create a risk management checklist. As you develop your risk management plan, including the risks and how they will be dealt with, a risk checklist should quickly tell you from past experience and forecasting if a risk area will evolve.



<u>Scope of Work</u> - The first part of your risk checklist should include questions and answers such as: Has the work been done before or is it something new? In essence, has an area in the work been identified in prior projects as a risk? If a task is a new task within the project, what risks may occur?

<u>**Project Resources**</u> - The second part of the checklist should deal with your resources. Do you have the right number of resources? Do your resources have the experience they need or do they have to be trained? How experienced are they and do they work well together? Again, if a resource risk is a potential problem, it should be identified on your checklist.



**<u>Project Timeline</u>** - The third part of your risk management checklist should identify items like scheduling conflicts and if they are flexible. Will you and your team have enough time to complete all the tasks within the project? If any items are identified as a risk, list them here.

<u>**Project Cost</u>** - This fourth part should identify risks that have to do with project costs and project overrun costs. If you feel a project may overrun its budget, list this as a risk on your checklist.</u>

<u>**Outside Sources**</u> - What outside sources are involved in the project that may cause a risk? They are the fifth part of your checklist. If you feel an outside source can't deliver on time or has other issues that are considered to be a risk, put them on your checklist.



**Deliverables** - Can you deliver the project? That means not just the goals of the project, but the project itself. A goal may be to analyze tools to change a process and the project may be to change a certain process. If you feel the project has risk in its deliverables, identify this as a risk





#### The requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017

The international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 states in its introduction:

This document requires the laboratory to plan and implement actions to address risks and opportunities. Addressing both risks and opportunities establishes a basis for increasing the effectiveness of the management system, achieving improved results and preventing negative effects. The laboratory is responsible for deciding which risks and opportunities need to be addressed



The laboratory is responsible for deciding which risks and opportunities need to be addressed. The accreditation body, however, assesses whether the laboratory has established appropriate actions for dealing with risks and opportunities in accredited laboratories.

This may vary among laboratories in certain instances.



The requirement for impartiality is a good example of where the risk and measures necessary may vary among laboratories

A privately owned independent lab with many customers where the owner or lab personnel has no other activities or ownership is unlikely to need extensive measures to protect impartiality

Other situations may require alternate considerations

- A lab with only one customer
- A lab where the owner owns some of the customers
- A lab within a manufacturer also taking on third party work
- A lab with minimum wage staff in a culture known for corruption
- A lab where its ownership is complex and keeps changing as does that of related bodies within the structure



#### A Technical Example

- **6.4.10** When intermediate checks are necessary to maintain confidence in the performance of the equipment, these checks shall be carried out according to a procedure
- The complexity of this will vary according to risk.. A gauge block or mass standard used as a reference may need little by way of intermediate checks. On the other hand sensitive electronic items exhibiting drift may need frequent checks, plotting and calculations from comparisons resulting in a drifting reference value being identified;









#### Other Area's of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Were Risk Shall be Addressed

- **4.1.4** The laboratory shall identify **risks** to its impartiality on an on-going basis;
- **8.9.2** The inputs to management review shall be recorded and shall include information related to the following;
- m) results of **risk** identification;

**7.8.6.1** When a statement of conformity to a specification or standard is provided, the laboratory shall document the decision rule employed, taking into account the level of **risk** (such as false accept and false reject and statistical assumptions) associated with the decision rule employed, and apply the decision rule;



Nonconforming work

**7.10.1** The procedure shall ensure that:

b) actions (including halting or repeating of work and withholding of reports, as necessary) are based upon the **risk** levels established by the laboratory;

Corrective actions

**8.7.1** When a nonconformity occurs, the laboratory shall:

e) update **risks** and opportunities determined during planning, if necessary;



What will an accreditation body be looking for in regards to compliance with Section 8.5?



- Objective Evidence which would show that the organization has adopted a risk based approach: This may include a specific document (procedure or any other name) where risks and opportunities are identified, as well as a plan to implement action to minimize risks and maximize opportunities;
- Interview "What opportunities for improvement have been identified, implemented, or rejected and what risk was identified? (8.6) Improvement;
- Inputs associated with the management review;





This time is allocated for questions. You should have a space provided for submitting questions.

Will provide 5 minute time frame at this moment to submit questions.

At the end we will attempt to answer as many as possible.

If a question is unanswered please submit directly to webinar@pjlabs.com



Next Scheduled Webinar

Thursday, July 26 – 2:00pm EST <u>A look at the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements Concerning</u> <u>Document Control and Control of Records</u>



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