

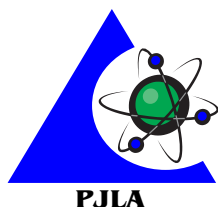
# Accreditation Insider

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

Volume I • Spring 2016

## History of PJLA

Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA) was established in 1999 as a private organization registered in the State of Michigan, offering ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation services to testing and calibration facilities.



Over the past 17 years, PJLA has made great strides in business development. One of the largest challenges was to obtain International Recognition by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation (APLAC) and by the International

Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) for the accreditation of Testing, Calibration and Reference Material Producer organizations. This recognition allowed for PJLA and our customers to be internationally recognized by 72 other accrediting organizations worldwide. We also expanded our organization by obtaining national approvals such as the DoD ELAP, Navy-METCAL, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, EPA Energy Star, CPSC-Children's Products and the EPA NLLAP (Lead Program). PJLA's client base grew in other countries such as Japan, Mexico, Italy, and throughout the Middle East. PJLA has established long-lasting relationships with our customer base, assessors, and technical industry experts.



(HISTORY CONTINUED ON PG 4)

## Medical Marijuana Testing



With medical marijuana being legalized all over the country, there is a higher demand for testing to ensure the safety of the product. ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is an international standard for accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories. It includes quality management system requirements, along with technical requirements to ensure that each laboratory is equipped to perform specific tests.

ISO/IEC 17025:2005 can be used as an assurance to consumers that their product is safe. This includes testing for product potency levels, pesticide regulators, and other contaminations. This testing is crucial to the industry, as laboratories need to be prepared to accommodate specific mandates for testing protocols.

With several states legalizing medical marijuana, specific mandates for testing protocols are bound to be enforced. Laboratories can use ISO/IEC 17025:2005 to prepare themselves for these protocols, and therefore get a head start on the competition.

PJLA accredited the first medical marijuana testing laboratory. We are prepared to accredit medical marijuana testing laboratories to help you accommodate regulatory and state specific requirements. Contact us at **1-877-369-5227** for more information. ♦

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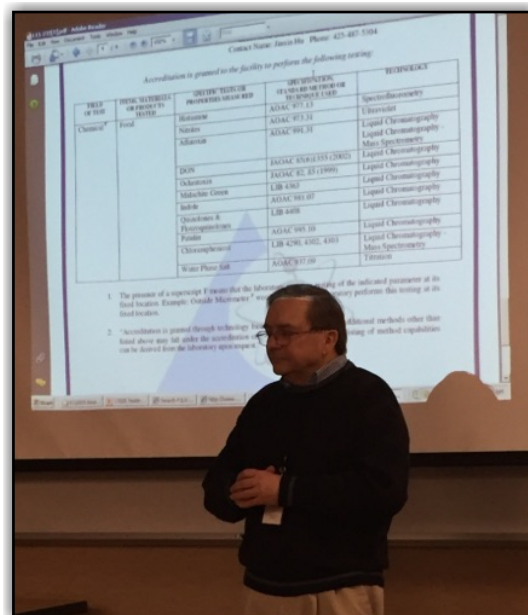
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# Annual Assessor Training 2015

The end of 2015 brought new beginnings to PJLA with the Annual Assessor Training. PJLA hosts a training session for assessors from all over the world with the goal to harmonize assessment practices and to take the opportunity to train on industry updates.

Our President and Operations Manager, Tracy Szerszen, successfully organized the training, which included presentations from Accreditation Manager Tamara Norris, Calibration Manager Michael Kramer, Testing Program Manager Doug Berg and Testing Program Manager-Food Science, Larry Lagman. The training also featured guest speakers to discuss critical areas of accreditation.



Doug Berg  
PJLA Testing Program Manager

During the conclave, the proposed ISO/IEC 17025 changes were discussed. Major changes to ISO/IEC 17025 include a restructuring of the clauses to align with the ISO 9001 standard and additions based on ILAC documents and criteria. All assessors were informed that the standard is still in draft stages, with the final draft scheduled to be released in May of 2016, and the final standard to be released in late 2016 or early 2017.



Also discussed was the updated SOP-3 procedure for the use of accreditation symbols and language. The changes went into effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and include a new requirement for labs to place the PJLA symbol or similar language on their tests and calibration reports, when performing accredited services for their customer. Other requirements were also added to include new programs PJLA offers such as TNI-NEFAP and DOD ELAP.

Testing Program Manager Doug Berg presented on several testing programs, including changes to the TNI-NEFAP standard, DoD ELAP, and the upcoming proposed changes to ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO Guide 34 to ISO 17034.

Calibration Manager Michael Kramer held calibration training for assessors. His presentation covered measurement uncertainty requirements for specific fields of accreditation, and practices to ensure consistency among scopes of accreditation. His session was supported by Dilip Shah, who presented the services provided by Sapphire Proficiency Testing, including their process for conducting a proficiency test and services offered.

Guest speaker and PJLA Lead Assessor Jerry Bambach provided assessors with training and insight on the purchasing and supplier evaluation requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

Food Science Program Manager, Larry Lagman provided an overview on the changes to AOAC guidelines for food testing labs, including a proposed transition date of 2017 upon laboratories' reassessment. Additionally, he provided an overview on AAFCO requirements. AAFCO is a standard designed for food and feed testing labs. PJLA announced a plan to offer feed testing labs this additional standard to their ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. The start date for the AAFCO requirements will be the first quarter of 2016.



Tamara Norris provided assessors with a review of all changed documents and updates to SharePoint. She was also recognized at the start of the training session for her overall efforts managing the operations of PJLA with an award presented by President Tracy Szerszen.

The 2016 Annual Assessor Training brought PJLA's greatest minds together for two days of thorough presentations that fostered collaboration and new knowledge. PJLA's goal for the 2016 Assessor Training is to conduct a workshop for all assessors following free transition training for all PJLA clients. ♦

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## Accreditation of Inspection Bodies

ISO/IEC 17020:2012 is used for the accreditation of Inspection Agencies by implementing general requirements for various types of operations. Accreditation of Inspection Bodies demonstrates an operation's competence in the Inspection Process. This includes having the proper qualifications, training, and experience to complete inspection.

Inspections should be rigorous and thorough in order to meet the needs of customers, and to ensure their safety. ISO/IEC 17020 incorporates an Inspection Body's ability to uphold a quality management system and ability to completely carry out inspections, including those for industry-specific programs. Assessor Mark Rudek, an expert in inspections, says accreditation is incredibly important in many different ways, "ISO 17020:2012 accreditation ensures the companies that are performing Inspections for different products are meeting applicable standards. It helps ensure credibility and accountability to those applicable specifications and standards. Inspections under this standard also solidify the integrity of the clients business and jurisdictional regulations".



Accreditation has several benefits for Inspection Bodies. It promotes compliance with international standards, reduces potential costs to your organization, increases your ability to produce reliable inspections, and gives your organization a competitive edge.

PJLA is a recognized accreditation body with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and with the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation. We can help you achieve ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation. Call PJLA at **1-877-369-5227** or email us at [pjlabsp@pjlabsp.com](mailto:pjlabsp@pjlabsp.com) for more information. ♦

(HISTORY CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

"Since I started at PJLA in 2007, I can't express how grateful I am to watch the growth of this organization. PJLA had about 150 organizations accredited and now we have about 900 customers. The overall structure of our organization continues to improve and grow to support the growth of our business. We have a great team here that is committed to our customer base. All team members are cross trained and can handle multiple functions of our operation. We value the needs of our customers by continually offering free training sessions and accreditation support in relation to accreditation implementation. Our goal here is to see customers succeed and seek the benefits of accreditation".

— Tracy Szerszen  
President/Operations Manager, PJLA



PJLA will continue to grow based on the accreditation needs of regulators and government entities. Throughout the next year, PJLA will expand our accreditation services to include ISO/IEC 17020 - Accreditation of Inspection Bodies, ISO/IEC 15189 - Accreditation of Medical Laboratories and ISO/IEC 17043 - Accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers. We look forward to adding these programs in the near future. ♦

## Client Spotlight: Steel Testing Laboratory

Steel Testing Laboratory has been performing mechanical and chemical testing for 20 years. STL provides quick, efficient, and accurate results to customers across North America. STL is accredited by PJLA to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, which helps ensure they have the proper qualifications, training, and experience to complete inspections.

We had the opportunity to speak with Skip Armstrong, the Vice President of Sales at STL, to learn more about the company and the importance of accreditation.

**PJLA:** What sets STL apart from the competition?

**Skip:** We know what kind of service our customers want because prior to testing, we were a steel business. Because of our background, we understand what our customers need and are able to work with them as partners.



Steel Test Laboratory Uses The Best Machinery  
To Provide You Fast, Accurate Results

STEEL TESTING  
LABORATORY



Steel Testing Laboratory  
Chemistry and Mechanical Testing

**PJLA:** Do you have any tips for others embarking on the journey to become accredited?

**Skip:** Working with PJLA is not only cost effective, but easy. The service is incredibly accommodating. Getting in touch with people at PJLA is quick and easy, and the auditors are very thorough. They pay attention to what we do versus what we say we do.

**PJLA:** What's STL's company philosophy?

**Skip:** Provide accurate results and customer satisfaction. We like customers we can become partners with.

**PJLA:** What are your plans for the future?

**Skip:** Growth. We have 530 customers all over North America and we're always looking for more.

With decades in the industry and a commitment to excellence, STL sets themselves apart from the competition with ISO/IEC 17025. To find out more about STL, visit their website at: [www.steeltestinglab.com](http://www.steeltestinglab.com) and to learn more about ISO/IEC 17025, visit [www.pjlab.com/accreditation-programs/isoiec-170252005](http://www.pjlab.com/accreditation-programs/isoiec-170252005). ♦



## Meet Your PJLA Team Members!

Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. keeps growing! With the addition of new standards, our world headquarters team continues to grow! Our goal is to continue to provide value-added assessments and outstanding customer service to all our clients! ♦



**TRACY SZERSZEN**  
President/Operations Manager



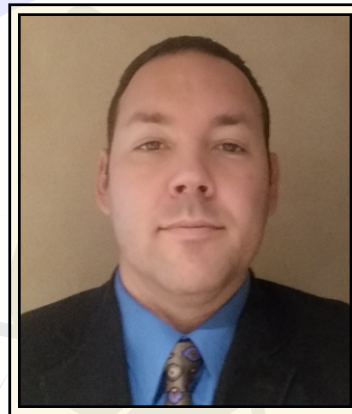
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International Coordinator - Mexico



**BRETT MCMILLEN**  
National Project Manager



**GARY STEED**  
National Project Manager



**DOUG BERG**  
Testing Program Manager



**LARRY LAGMAN**  
Food Testing Program Manager



**MICHAEL KRAMER**  
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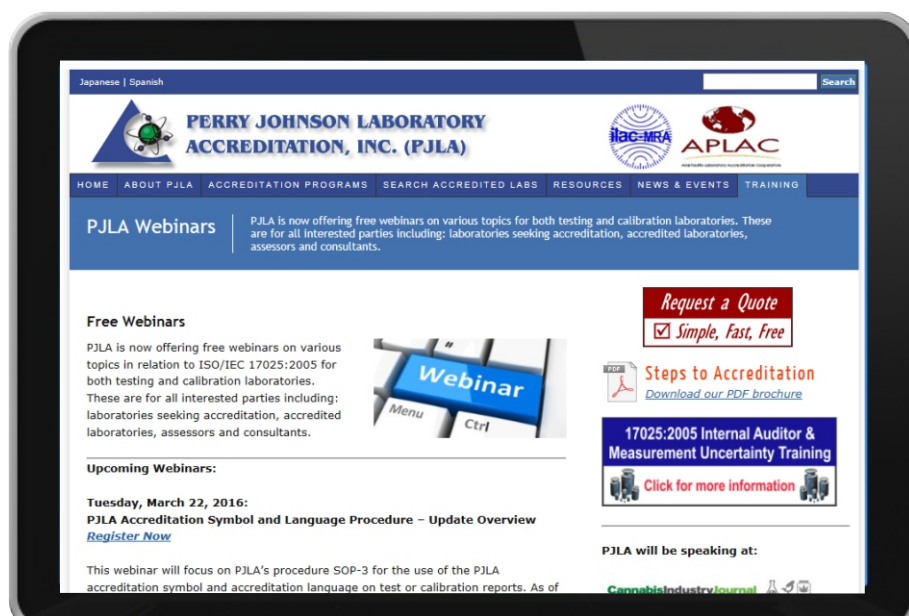


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## *PJLA Offers FREE Training!*

PJLA offers free webinars on various topics in relation to ISO/IEC 17025 for both testing and calibration laboratories. These are beneficial to laboratories seeking accreditation, accredited laboratories, assessors, and consultants. Register for upcoming webinars on our website at [www.pjlabs.com/training/pjla-webinars](http://www.pjlabs.com/training/pjla-webinars). ♦



### Upcoming Webinars:

#### Tuesday, May 10th

17025 and PJLA Policy PL-1  
Proficiency Testing – Inter-Lab  
and Intra-Lab Comparisons –  
What are we looking for?

#### Tuesday, June 7th

17025, Section 4.15 –  
Management Review  
Requirements

