

Accreditation Insider

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

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PJLA Evaluated by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)

During the week of June 5th, PJLA was evaluated by APLAC for the continuation of our MRA Signatory Status for Testing, Calibration, and Reference Material Producers. During this evaluation, PJLA also took the opportunity to expand our MRA Signatory Status to include Inspection. This evaluation included our compliance to ISO 17011:2004 and specific ILAC and APLAC criteria documents. PJLA had 4 evaluators from New Zealand, Vietnam, and Japan who spent time assessing our quality management system and our technical criteria including staff competency and client files. Additionally, this included off-site evaluations of 4 of our accredited and/or applicant facilities to ensure that PJLA's assessment practices are in line with standard requirements.

(APLAC CONTINUED ON PG 5)

Tradeshows & Events

PJLA will be attending the AOAC Expo:



**September 24-27, 2017
Atlanta, Georgia**

Visit us at booth #107

**Enter for a chance
to win a \$100 gift card!**

**Drawing will be held at our booth
at 1:00pm on Sept. 27th.**

Conducting an Internal Audit to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, Section 5.2 Personnel Identifying Critical Personnel, Records, Competency Requirements

Michael Kramer - PJLA Calibration Program Manager



When performing an internal audit of a laboratory to the technical elements specified in ISO/IEC 17025:2005, **Section 5.2 - Personnel**, the laboratory should consider various aspects to ensure all pieces of information utilized to meet this requirement are in compliance.



The 17025 standard outlines the competence requirements of persons performing accredited testing and/or calibration activities including the competence of all who operate specific equipment, evaluate results, and sign test reports or calibration certificates. It is laboratory management that determines the competency level. The individual who determines this should be versed in the testing or calibrations being performed and perhaps a function of the Technical Manager. Ideally during the course of the audit, the personnel performing the test or calibration should be witnessed to assure that they are in fact following the

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PJLA Attended the Cannabis Compliance Summit 2017 in Los Angeles

During the week of July 19th, PJLA attended the 2nd Annual Cannabis Compliance Summit. A three-day conference in Los Angeles, California, the Summit hosted a variety of experts and active participants in the cannabis testing industry for a range of keynote addresses. This included presenters from various states including Oregon, Washington, California and Utah, among others. The speaker from each state gave an update to their state's requirements, as well as

success stories and lessons learned thus far in the legalization process. Also in attendance were groups from states that will be preparing their own medical marijuana requirements following legislative changes. A particularly common topic of discussion among the many laboratories in attendance were the issues and risks involved in sub-par cannabis product testing, especially with regard to pesticides and microbiological contaminants.



PJLA's President, Tracy Szerszen, presented at the conference on ISO/IEC 17025: The Accreditation Process and Common Findings, a topic well-received by audience members from states requiring laboratories to become ISO/IEC 17025 accredited.

For a full listing of conferences and events PJLA will be attending, visit our website at www.pjlab.com or call (248) 519-2603. ♦



Client Spotlight: Camin Cargo Control

For over 30 years, Camin Cargo Control (CCC) has been providing the petroleum industry with inspection, laboratory testing, and additive treatment services. With more than 25 locations across the United States and Canada, CCC strives to fulfill their company's mission of superior service, quality, and customer satisfaction.

With their already-stellar reputation well-known throughout the realm of petrochemicals, petroleum products, and crude oil, it was logical for Camin Cargo to work towards ISO accreditation. Currently accredited to ISO 17025:2015, Quality Assurance Director Brad Taylor wholeheartedly feels that "ISO accreditation has given us access to exclusive markets and has enhanced improvement of all our processes. It allows our organization to standardize processes, communication, and quality expectations across all locations."



PJLA is proud to have helped Camin Cargo in their work to set the benchmark for quality leadership and innovation in the industry. "PJLA has provided remarkable customer service and has bent over backwards to help meet client and project deadlines," said Taylor. With goals of increasing the scope of their services and expanding internationally, Camin Cargo is confident that ISO accreditation through PJLA will help every step of the way. ♦



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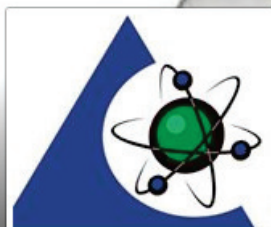
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laboratory adopted procedures and that they are employing the use of good laboratory practices. This can be used to determine if in fact this individual is competent. The auditor should interview personnel performing the test or calibration, in order to solidify any decision regarding the competency and ability of the individual. Again audit criteria can be considered things which the auditor actually sees or hears.

Various records should be reviewed in order to determine if compliance to the standard is actually being met. Section 5.2 specifies that the laboratory shall maintain records of the relevant authorization(s), competence, educational and professional qualifications, training, skills and experience of all technical personnel, including contracted personnel. Therefore, applicable records should be reviewed. Primarily training records will need to be reviewed and a date of authorization or competence should be captured. This date signifies when laboratory management has determined that the employee has completed the training necessary and has demonstrated competence to perform the specified test or calibration independently (without supervision) on behalf of the laboratory. Any test or calibration report that this individual produces shall not be dated prior to the date that authorization or competence was captured. The standard does not state how this date is to be captured, however, the objective evidence of the date in which the personnel performing the test or calibration has been determined competent in the eyes of laboratory management should be available.

Another record which labs are required to maintain under ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is a record of job descriptions. It is also recommended as a note within this section of the standard what minimum criteria should be captured in job descriptions. Therefore audit criteria that should be reviewed as objective evidence that the laboratory is in compliance would be job descriptions for managerial, technical and key support personnel involved in tests or calibrations which are being performed.

The auditor should witness first hand personnel performing accredited tests or calibrations and should be able to determine if in fact the employee should be considered competent. Questions should be asked concerning the task being witnessed with responses noted as objective evidence as to the knowledge possessed by laboratory personnel in regards to the testing or calibration activities in which they are involved. This may include questions concerning adverse environmental conditions, or equipment checks that exceed predefined limits. ♦

17025:2005 2-Day Internal Auditor & Measurement Uncertainty Training - (Troy, MI)

DAY 1&2 - 17025:2005 Internal Auditor Training
Tuesday & Wednesday, September 19-20, 2017 – (8:30am - 5:00pm)

DAY 3 - Measurement Uncertainty Training
Thursday, September 21, 2017 – (8:30am - 5:00pm)

Who Should Attend?

- Testing or Calibration Laboratories preparing for accreditation or seeking additional training in this subject
- Assessors performing third party assessments or internal audits
- Consultants assisting laboratories with implementing ISO/IEC 17025:2005

Register Today!

1-877-369-5227

WWW.PJLABS.COM



Price

DAY 1&2 (only): \$1,000.00
DAY 3 (only): \$500.00
DAY 1-3: \$1,300.00

\$200 discount for attending all 3 days.

\$100 discount per registration for 2 or more company registrations.

PJLA – New Assessors

PJLA welcomes the following new assessors to our team:

Steven Ambrose – Dimensional, Electrical, Mechanical and Thermodynamic Calibration

Luis Anker – Biological, Chemical, Mechanical Testing Dimensional, Chemical, Electrical, Mechanical, and Thermodynamic Calibration

Edward Askew – Biological Testing

Manny Cabanas – Calibration

Jorge Vargas – Biological, Chemical, and Environmental Testing

Rae Cote – Biological, Chemical, and Mechanical Testing and Medical (ISO 15189)

Javed Khan – Medical (ISO 15189)

Alisa Kulhanek – Biological and Chemical Testing and Medical (ISO 15189)

Cynthia Ludwig – Biological and Chemical Testing

Ralph Martin – Biological, Chemical, Dimensional, Electrical and Mechanical Testing



(APLAC CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

We would like to personally thank the following facilities for allowing the APLAC team to observe their assessment: Pharm Labs LLC, Mid-South Calibration, Camin Cargo, and ILMO Products. We would also like to extend a thank you to the following assessors for their assistance with making these witness assessments go seamlessly: Maurice Downer, Ed Askew, Felipe Narcio, Douglas Berg, Eddie Clemons, and Michael Kramer.

Overall, the assessment went well and PJLA had minimal findings. We are now in the corrective action stage to close the evaluation report. PJLA expects the final decision will be made by the APLAC MRA Council by no later than early December 2017. ♦



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Call: **1-877-369-5227** or Visit our website: www.pjlabs.com

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. ♦

Wednesday, August 23: 17025 – 4.6 Purchasing Services and Supplies

Tuesday, August 29: 17025 – 5.5 Equipment Requirements

Wednesday, September 27: 17025 – 5.8 Handling of Test and Calibration Items

Tuesday, October 10: 17025 – 4.5 and PJLA SOP-3 – Subcontracting of Tests and Calibrations

Tuesday, November 14: 17025 – 5.4.6 – Measurement Uncertainty – General Overview

