

Accreditation Insider

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

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COVID-19 Update

Since March, our organization has made every effort to protect the health and well-being of our employees and customers. In the United States, it appears that most states will gradually begin re-opening under the CDC's guidance. PJLA is fully committed to following these guidelines and will continue to assist our customers in any way we can. Our team is ready to help during these difficult times and will make every effort to ensure your assessment can take place avoiding delays or lapses in accreditation.

One of the new tools we have started offering is Virtual Remote Assessments. This type of assessment is being offered if a client can utilize screensharing software, has portable devices with camera capabilities, and has staff available to perform live demonstrations of their tests and/or calibration activities. PJLA has successfully conducted over 100 virtual remote assessments throughout March, April and May.



Assessor Quotes:

"The process works very well. The quality of the virtual assessment depends upon what hardware the client has in their possession to use for the walking tours and what they have for computers in order to show their documents as a presenter. An iPad or newer Galaxy/iPhone works very well for the client to show us their calibrations as they proceed with the calibrations we witness. With those devices, they can take us literally up close to the work areas. The holder of the device uses our direction to zoom in on the work performed. The technicians also verbally walk us through the calibration, detailing the steps of the methods they are following."

Mark Rudek, Assessor

"Based on the success rate of our virtual remote assessments, we plan on continuing this alternative assessment tool in the future. We thank all of our assessors and clients for their participation!"

Tracy Szerszen, PJLA President

ABS Labs Completes ISO 17025 Hemp Testing Accreditation Through Virtual Assessment From PJLA

ABS Labs of Dallas Texas has paved the way for a new method of 17025 accreditation: Virtual.

"We have been through other assessments in the past with other locations and needed to keep moving forward for our Hemp Testing Program. The remote scenario was thorough, and we felt like the process was robust and really looked at our overall quality system. We would highly recommend this way of assessment for the foreseeable future to any lab achieving ISO 17025 accreditation. PJLA's technology was straightforward and we had opportunities to implement things on our end to make sure we were all on the same page for the services."

Amy Graves, ABS Labs Science Manager



PJLA's Cannabis and Hemp Division Manager Brett McMillen was also excited about the success of the program and ABS Labs' embrace of new technology. "Since Covid-19 came about our team here has adapted to change and implemented systems for doing assessments in a virtual or remote fashion.

(ABS CONT. ON PG 2)

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CA State Water Board Adopts Regulations To Require Laboratories To Obtain TNI NELAC

On May 5th, the state of California finalized their requirements for the use of third-party assessors to assess to the CA ELAP protocols. As of October 1, 2020, a third-party assessment firm must be selected to conduct assessments for all laboratories with sophisticated techniques as outlined on the California Water Boards Site. Laboratories may choose to be assessed to one of the three options: CA regulations, TNI EL (2016) minus two requirements (technical manager, PT) or TNI EL (2016) fully. By October 1, 2023 all laboratories regardless of techniques used must be accredited to: CA ELAP Regs and TNI EL (2016) minus two requirements (technical manager, PT).

In addition to the use of the TNI EL standard, California has also required laboratories to obtain DoD ELAP accreditation to the DoD/DOE Quality System Manual for PFAS analysis. PJLA is an authorized accreditation body by the DoD for this program.

We encourage all laboratories to contact us now for a cost estimate and to receive an overview of the accreditation process. ♦

PJLA Hosted Our First Hemp And Cannabis Industry Expert Webcast

On Wednesday, April 29th, PJLA hosted our first ever Cannabis and Hemp Industry Expert Webcast. Due to the recent cancellations of several 2020 tradeshows and conferences, we felt it was important to get out there and let people know about the important updates going on in the hemp and cannabis industry.

Couldn't join us this time around? Keep an eye on our website and make sure to subscribe to our mail list for any future events. ♦

(ABS CONT. FROM PG 1)

I am so proud of their can-do attitude and not sticking their head in the sand through this scenario. Hemp and CBD products are not going anywhere. In fact, they are increasing every day. Labs like ABS Labs that can help the channel of products prove their compliance through Accredited testing will only facilitate these products getting to folks who need them faster." ♦



State of MI LARA

The MRA's Role in Providing Education and Oversight to Safety Compliance Facilities in Michigan

Presenter: **Claire Patterson**

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM EDT



ASTM International

ASTM Committee D37 on Cannabis-Creating Partnership and Solutions for Legitimacy

Presenters: **Kathleen May & Bob Morgan**

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM EDT



Absolute Standards, Inc. & Emerald Scientific

Historical Perspective - Market Cooperation & The Evolution of Proficiency Testing in the Cannabis Analytical Industry

Presenters: **Stephen J. Arpie & Kirsten Blake**

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM EDT



Qualtrax

Using Technology to ease your ISO/IEC 17025 Compliance Pressure

Presenter: **Karen Arrivillaga**

11:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT



Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - The Benefits of Becoming and Utilizing an Accredited Laboratory

Presenters: **Tracy Szerszen & Brett McMillen**

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM EDT



Client Spotlight: AG Metrology S.r.l.

PJLA Accredits AG Metrology S.r.l. - for 17025 Calibration & 17043 Proficiency Testing

AG Metrology S.r.l. is a newly established electrical and thermodynamic metrology laboratory and proficiency testing provider located in Modena, Italy. AG Metrology S.r.l. has technical expertise with over 20 years of experience in metrology. Obtaining ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation was a priority for them as it demonstrates their commitment to quality and customer service. Their goal is to perform high quality service with fast turnaround times for their measurement services. Due to the lack of proficiency testing providers in the Italy market, AG Metrology took the opportunity to also become an ISO 17043 accredited proficiency testing provider for the electrical and thermodynamic schemes. This will be a great assistance to commercial laboratories to confirm their calibration capabilities with other laboratories.

"Before coming to PJLA for accreditation, we worked with another accreditation body for over twenty years. Seeing the difference between them and PJLA was a pleasant surprise! Their assessor's competence, punctuality, and thoroughness was a refreshing change, and the entire assessment was pleasant and relaxing – which is not always the case!"

AG Metrology S.r.l.'s philosophy to "Keep Moving On!" is strongly supported by their management structure, operational planning and decades of technical expertise. The company plans to enter new industries and measurements services in order to continue their high-quality customer service.

To learn more about accreditation options from PJLA and how they might be able to help your business, contact PJLA today – call: 1-877-369-5227 or visit: www.pjllabs.com. ♦



PJLA Would Like To Welcome Our New Team Member

PJLA would like to welcome back Tamara Norris to our team. Tammy is a lead assessor for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for quality systems, has 10 years of work experience with PJLA, and holds a bachelor's degree in Continuing Studies with a concentration in math and science from Indiana University. Formerly, she was our Accreditation Program Assistant (2008-2013) and became the Accreditation Manager in 2013. After her departure from PJLA in 2018, Tamara spent time as the Quality Manager for an ISO 9001:2005 automotive supplier in Michigan. Tammy makes her return to PJLA as our new Operations Manager. ♦



Tamara Norris
Operation Manager

Upcoming Events

Virtual Vape & CBD EXPO – July 2020

PJLA will be participating as a virtual exhibitor and speaking at the upcoming Virtual Vape and CBD Expo. Please register to listen to our presentation on the Benefits of Using an Accredited Laboratory presented by Brett McMillen, Cannabis/Hemp Division Manager on July 31st.

Environmental Measurement Symposium Virtual Conference – August 3 & August 21, 2020

Please listen to PJLA's lead assessor Andy Valkenburg speak on managing proficiency testing results.

CannaConn South 2020 - Oklahoma September 28-29, 2020

ACIL Annual Meeting - Long Beach, CA October 12-15, 2020



PJLA Visits the Following...

Emerald Conference

Back in February 2020, PJLA's Brett McMillen and Tracy Szerszen had the opportunity to exhibit at the Emerald Conference in California.

Pittcon

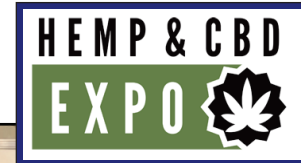
PJLA's National Project Managers William Jaquays and Gary Steed had the opportunity to attend and exhibited at the 2020 Pittcon Conference and Expo.

WI Hemp Conference

PJLA project manager, Sean Donnellan, attended the 2020 WI Hemp Conference.

Hemp & CBD Expo UK

PJLA's Testing Program Manager Doug Berg joined Ben Watt and Stephen Whatford in the United Kingdom to present at this year's Hemp & CBD Expo at the NEC Birmingham. ♦



PJLA's Ben Watt and Stephen Whatford presenting at the Hemp & CBD Expo in the UK



PJLA Clients Edgard Lopez & Stacy Sweeney from Canalysis Laboratory with PJLA's Tracy Szerszen



PJLA's Brett McMillen presenting at the Emerald Conference



PJLA's Tracy Szerszen gives the prize to our raffle winner Nichole Tayler from Perennia



PJLA's Gary Steed presenting at the Pittcon Conference & Expo



PJLA's Gary Steed gives the prize to our raffle winner Tom Tague from Bruker Corporation



View of part of the exhibit floor during the Pittcon Conference & Expo 2020

Free 2 Hour Measurement Uncertainty Short Course



Measurement uncertainty is one of the most challenging requirements outlined in ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Particularly, labs question:

- How do we begin the process of estimating measurement uncertainty?
- Have we identified all significant sources?
- Did we over or under estimate the magnitude of each contributor?

On April 15th, PJLA UK hosted a free educational webinar regarding the concepts of Measurement Uncertainty. During the course, Henry Alexander educated participants on the fundamentals of measurement uncertainty analysis, how to organize uncertainty data into an “Uncertainty Budget”, and how to apply measurement uncertainty data to a calibration or test result when making a statement of compliance with a specification.

An interactive quiz was provided throughout the session and each attendee received a certificate of completion!

Were you unable to join us for this round of free virtual training? Keep an eye on our website and make sure to subscribe to our mail list for any future events. ♦



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

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



Look Out For PJLA's FREE Online Webinars!

For our full schedule and to register for upcoming webinars visit our website at www.pjllabs.com/training/pjlla-webinars.

- **Friday, July 24: A look at Section 6.3 on Facilities and Environmental Conditions with Section 6.4 on Equipment**
- **Wednesday, August 26: ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Section 8.7 Corrective Action**
- **Tuesday September 29: Common Findings in Assessments to the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Standard**

Testimonial:

"I just wanted to send a Thank You note about how valuable the online webinars & the in-person training sessions were. The transition has been very smooth with the help of these webinars and training sessions. Thank you for putting these together and keeping us abreast of the changes. We especially liked how they were made focusing on one or two topics and not the entire standard. We could not have completed the training process without the help of these. I have been recommending to our UK & Singapore team members to go over the recorded ones available on your website."

Mr. Simha Vedala
Lab Manager
Viswa Lab Houston - UK

