

Accreditation Insider

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

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PJLA Is Promoting On-Site Assessments Starting In The 3rd Quarter 2021

Due to COVID-19 restriction lifts within the United States, PJLA is now requesting on-site assessments to be performed physically at client facilities. Clients will be requested to have an on-site assessment unless there are major health concerns or visitor restrictions in place. All PJLA assessors will still abide to PJLA's COVID screening as well as our customer policies. "According to Tracy Szerszen, President, we have to get back to normal at some point. Staff is encouraged to respect the safety and well-being of all customers and assessors while scheduling assessments and if necessary, continue with remote assessments for those that cannot entertain an on-site assessment."

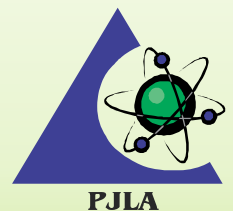
PJLA plans to continue to utilize our remote assessment tool to perform low risk assessments whenever possible. PJLA's Accreditation Procedure SOP-1 has now been amended to include this alternative method. We expect that this tool will be utilized for preliminary, scope expansions, surveillances, and location change assessments. This is a great opportunity for organizations to save on travel expenses and allows for expedited assessment turnaround. ♦



SOP-3 The Use Of The Accreditation Claims And Symbol Procedure

This is a reminder for all clients to ensure your adherence to SOP-3 The Use of Accreditation and Symbol Procedure. During a recent sampling of client websites many errors were found such as: improper use of the PJLA accreditation symbol, lack of accreditation number, inappropriate references to the ISO standard, and inappropriate accreditation claims for scopes not listed on the scope of accreditation. PJLA management will continue to sample websites throughout the course of 2021. Please review your website against this policy to avoid a notice from our office and a possible nonconformity. All clients are provided with the appropriate copy of the PJLA accreditation symbol and this procedure upon certificate release. It is also available under the document section of our website here: <https://www.pjlabs.com/resources/pjla-documents>. Please ensure your marketing department receives updates to avoid misusing the symbol or accreditation language.

Also, the ILAC MRA mark is offered to eligible clients. This process does require an approval process prior to use. Please contact Tracy Szerszen at tszerszen@pjlabs.com to request the ILAC MRA logo or if you have any questions about artwork set up in accordance with SOP-3. ♦



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The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Completed PJLA's 4-Year Evaluation

Every 4 years, PJLA is required to have a full evaluation on our current accreditation program. This year, due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, our evaluation was performed fully remote. It consisted of 4 evaluators from Australia, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, and Canada, as well as regulators such as the: FDA, FCC, DOE, and NRC. Starting May 11th, our evaluation spanned three weeks, concluding on May 28th. This evaluation consisted of a review of our compliance to ISO/IEC 17011:2017 for all programs such as ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - Testing and Calibration, ISO 15189 - Medical Testing, ISO/IEC 17020 - Inspection, ISO/IEC 17034 - Reference Material Producer, and an expansion to ISO 17043 - Proficiency Testing Provider accreditation.

PJLA would like to thank the following assessors and clients that participated in our evaluation: Assessors - Doug Berg, Mike Kramer, Eddie Clemons, Byron Marbley, Rae Cote, and Nick Pannagio.

Clients - Personal Genome Diagnostics (15189), Camin Cargo Control (17020), AG. Metrology S.R.L. (17043), Armstrong Forensic Laboratory, Inc (17025 testing), and ILMO Products (17025 testing and 17034 RMP).

Overall, the evaluation was very successful and resulted in minimal findings. All corrective action responses have been responded to and we anticipate that our report will be reviewed by the APACMRA council within the next 30-60 days. ♦



Welcome Leeza Akimenko – PJLA's New Food Testing Advisor

PJLA is happy to announce Leeza Akimenko as our new Food Testing Program Advisor. Leeza has been with PJLA as a Lead Assessor since 2014 primarily assessing Food, Environmental, and Pharmaceutical Testing Laboratories. Leeza will assist with technical support and related assignments as they pertain to the Food Testing Program. Leeza has been a Quality Assurance Manager for over 14 years overseeing quality in both Microbiology and Chemistry departments. She graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Biochemistry and minor in Biology and is passionate about Food Safety and Quality. Leeza lives on a homestead in the scenic Columbia River Gorge with her husband and two small children. Leeza is passionate about gardening and maintains her land certified by National Wildlife Federation as a Wildlife Habitat. ♦



Client Spotlight: Kelab Analitica



Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. is happy to introduce Kelab Analitica, the first ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory in Colombia specializing in cannabis testing and pharmaceutical QC testing. The lab initiated its operations in March of 2020 and obtained ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation the following December. The laboratory was also recently certified in Good Laboratory Practices by the Colombian health authorities for the analysis of pharmaceutical products.

Being the first ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accredited laboratory in Colombia has allowed Kelab Analitica to differentiate themselves from other laboratories. In addition to being accredited, their leadership and technical team boasts 60+ years of experience working in the highly regulated pharmaceutical industry. Their lab is the only one in Colombia combining expertise in pharmaceutical analytical development and cannabis testing.

“Using the accreditation as a marketing strategy has proven effective,” says a team member. “As the industry grows, more producers are beginning to understand the importance of working with an accredited laboratory for quality and consistency of results and to comply with international requirements.”

Kelab Analitica believes accreditation is useful not only for the marketing advantages but because it has also streamlined their processes and encouraged implementing systems such as LIMS and Electronic Document Management Systems.



“Our processes are now more efficient while allowing us to better serve our customers. The accreditation also guarantees a level of quality and accuracy of results to our clients that cannot be obtained from non-certified labs.”

Looking towards the future, they plan to continue growing locally in Colombia and evaluate opportunities for expansion in Latin America. In addition, Kelab Analitica is actively engaging in research projects with industry leaders in chromatography and instrumentation to develop new methods for cannabis testing.

“We understand the impact of our results in the decisions of our customers and the safety of patients. Because of this, we put quality and compliance at the center of our operations.” ♦

Career Opportunities

Join Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.'s team of ISO/IEC 17025 professionals who are dedicated to providing the best accreditation experience possible.

We are currently seeking experienced ISO/IEC 17025 and DoD ELAP Assessors to join our assessment staff:
<https://www.pjlab.com/contact-us/join-our-team>. ♦

PJLA Podcasts – Now On Spotify



On The Road Again

PJLA attended CannaCon South and the Michigan Cannabis Expo.



PJLA Would Love To See You At The Following Tradeshows

- The 2021 AOAC Annual Meeting & Exposition, August 27 - September 2, 2021
- Cannabis Science Conference, September 13 - 15, 2021
- Simposio Latinoamericano de Laboratorios, November 3 - 5, 2021
PJLA Speaker, Miguel Rodriguez, will be presenting *ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Internal Audit* on November 3rd. More information soon!



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Look Out For PJLA's FREE Online Webinars!

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

Testimonial:

"I have been attending these webinars offered for various sections of new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards. I enjoy the presentations and the contents have been very useful and applicable for me who work in the Quality Assurance Section of our laboratory. I have a direct involvement with our laboratory Quality System (QS) including creating and updating of our Quality Manual, performing internal audits, and providing QS trainings as examples of some of the related tasks.

I also would like to take this opportunity and thank Mr. Kramer for the great job he does in creating and presenting these webinars. The availability of the webinars for future access are a very useful resource to use for future reference, refresher to learn more about each topic, etc."

- Fathieh Shafiee

Program and Policy Analyst Advanced Quality Assurance
Section Bureau of Laboratory Services/Division of
Management Services Wisconsin Department of
Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

- Monday, August 30 – 1:00pm EST
ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Requirements for Corrective Action
- Wednesday, September 29 – 1:00pm EST
A Look at ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – Section 6.6: Externally Provided Products and Services

The Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. Podcast

PJLA is hosting a series of FREE, educational podcasts.
Click Here to listen to any of our previously recorded podcasts

