

Accreditation Insider

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

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ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Has Now Been Released!

The highly anticipated transition update has finally been released this past November! The new standard is now available on www.iso.org or www.ansi.org for purchase as of November 29, 2017. PJLA has been informed that a 3-year transition period will be granted and all laboratories must be accredited to the new standard by November 29, 2020. PJLA will start accepting applications and begin assessing to the new standard by February 2018. All laboratories will be asked if they would like to transition during their normal routine visits through the period of 2018-2020. However, all laboratories must transition by no later than August 31, 2020, regardless of your assessment due date. We will be offering training to the new standard starting in February 2018 for all laboratories. This will include face-to-face training as well as frequent on-line training sessions. Please ensure that you are signed up to PJLA's website to receive notifications of our upcoming training sessions! ♦



PJLA Has Now Been Internationally Recognized For Our Inspection Program (ISO 17020)



PJLA has now been recognized by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) for the accreditation of Inspection Bodies (ISO 17020). ISO/IEC 17020 is the international standard utilized to assess inspection body competence, independence, and impartiality for inspections performed. Similar to ISO/IEC 17025, this standard includes specific quality management system requirements and technical requirements inspection bodies must follow. This standard can be utilized for various markets where inspections are required such as but not limited to: construction, boiler and pressure vessel, petroleum, medical marijuana and the forensic industry. Organizations seeking accreditation for this program ultimately assures their customers that inspections are conducted by a reliable and trustworthy source. ♦



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PJLA Has Been Recognized By The Department Of Energy To Accredit To The DOECAP Program

The Department of Energy Consolidated Audit Program-Accreditation Program (DOECAP-AP) includes the assessment of laboratories performing chemical and/or industrial hygiene analysis in support of DOE projects to the Department of Defense (DoD) and DOE Quality System Manual (QSM) Version 5.1. It was announced during the 4th quarter of 2017 that all laboratories wishing to obtain DOE approval in 2018 must seek accreditation from an accreditation body approved by the DOE, such as PJLA. Laboratories can seek the benefits of obtaining this accreditation by having the ability to:

- Achieve both DoD ELAP and DOECAP-AP accreditation with one combined assessment.
- Become accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 as an international recognized laboratory.
- Seek new markets and become a candidate for DOE projects.



Once laboratories are assessed to this program they will be provided a timeline to submit sufficient corrective action responses. PJLA assessors will review and provide a recommendation for accreditation to our final review committee and a certificate will be granted to include: the standard assessed, methods, matrix, analyte, and technology utilized. All accreditations will be placed on the DOE's electronic portal as well as on the PJLA website of accredited laboratories.

PJLA will also support the Hanford Analytical Services Quality Assurance Consensus program with the assessment of laboratories to the Hanford Analytical Services Quality Requirements Document (HASQARD) Volumes 1 and 4 in combination with your DOE assessment. This includes an assessment to the DOE/RL 96.68 Checklist Rev. 4. ♦

PJLA Recognizes Brett McMillen For An Excellent Sales Year!

PJLA wanted to take the time to recognize our Sales Manager, Brett McMillen for his contribution towards assisting PJLA obtain our record sales year! Brett has been with PJLA since 2009 establishing new accounts, building new sales teams and marketing. "Establishing relationships with customers, assessors and industry experts is so critical towards creating a positive image of our organization. Brett has certainly met our expectations and strives to ensure all customers are provided excellent service", Tracy Szerszen, President.

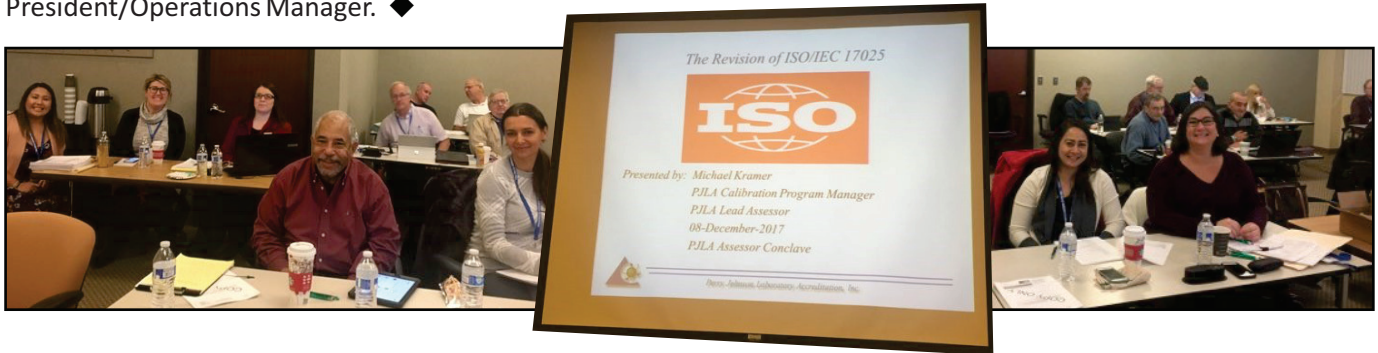


BRETT McMILLEN

We look forward to a great 2018! ♦

Reflect Back On The PJLA 2017 Assessor Conclave:

The 2017 PJLA Annual Assessor Conclave was another great success! It was held on December 7th and 8th with one day dedicated to specific testing, reference material, medical testing, cannabis, field sampling, calibration, and inspection programs. PJLA Program Managers, Douglas Berg (Testing, RMP), Michael Kramer (Calibration, Inspection), Larry Lagman (Food Science) and Alissa Kulhanek (Medical) educated our core group of assessors on common findings and any updates to the relevant standard or program changes. On December 8th, PJLA had our general training session which focused primarily this year on the new ISO 17025:2017 standard. Assessors were provided an overview of the changes and an extensive exam in order to prepare to assess to the standard by February 2018. "This was a well-attended conclave this year and I certainly appreciate all of the support from our management and administrative team for making this so successful. It is so critical for assessors to meet on an annual basis to network and share ideas to continue to strengthen our knowledge in the field." stated Tracy Szerszen, PJLA President/Operations Manager. ♦



PJLA At The Canna East Compliance Summit:

PJLA visited the Canna East Compliance Summit from January 17th-19th! Down in Orlando Florida, PJLA connected with various regulators, policymakers, cannabis operators, and technology providers to give insight on the expanding Cannabis Industry! ♦



GARY STEED OUR NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER AT PJLA WITH JAMES HORVATH FROM EVID LABS AND VANESSA SOTO, THE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR OF BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABS.

OUR NATIONAL PROJECT MANAGER GARY STEED WITH CHRIS MARTINEZ, THE CO-FOUNDER AND CEO OF EVID LABS

PRESENTER REGGIE GUADINO FROM STEEP HILL LABS IS SPEAKING ABOUT CANNABIS REGULATION AND THE NEED FOR THE ABILITY TO INTERSTATE ACCESS.

Client Spotlight: Proverde Labs

PESKY PESTICIDES: PJLA INTERVIEWS PROVERDE LABS



Federally approved pesticides for cannabis are still a bit hazy, but many states have been enforcing their own rules to find the proper balance cannabis cultivators are allowed to use. Many labs applying for accreditation have asked for pesticides to be on their scope of accreditation, which is a carefully considered aspect. PJLA had the opportunity to talk to Chris Hudalla, the founder and chief scientific officer of Proverde Labs, a Massachusetts based laboratory that offers analytical testing and consulting services for medical cannabis. We asked him his opinions on cannabis testing, pesticides, and the benefits of being an accredited laboratory.

Massachusetts was the first state to mandate analytical testing for cannabis, and Chris took part in the process of changing the state's recommendations to the requirements. At first, when Massachusetts' medical cannabis program began, there was no requirement for analytical testing, only a recommendation. Proverde Labs approached their Department of Public Health (DPH) to discuss testing and bring to light that everything people consume or put on their bodies is required to be tested, so cannabis should not be treated any different. Despite their efforts, the DPH remained firm in their agreement that recommendation would be enough. Chris decided to take things into his own hands, by spending days researching cannabis and contaminants. A few weeks later, he discovered his hard work paid off- Massachusetts was set to be the first state to mandate analytical testing, including all of the contaminants he had provided documentation of. This was great progress for Massachusetts, but Chris recalls that there was no historical regulatory guidance on what levels of contaminants would be deemed appropriate. At first the state's attempts at setting limits were very stringent, but over time Proverde has been able to work with their DPH to create more achievable limits.

Even though there has been many positive changes to the cannabis industry, Chris expresses there are still plenty of challenges when it comes to pesticide testing. Massachusetts currently requires testing for only 9 pesticide residues from prohibited pesticides, each requiring reporting down to 10 ppb, which can be challenging for some of the pesticides used in cannabis. Despite this, all pesticide use is prohibited for the cultivation of medical cannabis in Massachusetts. Proverde has continually been working toward increasing the number of pesticides found during screening beyond the required nine residues, to provide better testing and safer products. They have been working with regulators in multiple states along with their DPH. Chris states that it is Proverde's hope that without any Federal oversight or guidance, the industry establishes some kind of self-regulation and eventually establishes industry standards that can be harmonized in the various states.



We are starting to see more states requiring ISO 17025 accreditation, and Chris adamantly believes in the importance of testing for the cannabis industry and the importance of accreditation for laboratories. He says it has somewhat of a normalizing effect for the industry, with labs using a similar set of rules. Although labs may use different approaches for their analyses, under the ISO accreditation they would all be required to validate these methods to ensure qualified and safe product. Having accreditation also gives regulators and consumers confidence in the products being consumed, contributing to the successful growth of the cannabis industry. Chris states the accreditation process was one of the most difficult, yet beneficial processes for Proverde Labs. He believes it is a cornerstone of their success in the industry, and has given them visibility internationally for their efforts in maintaining and demonstrating a quality system focused on continual improvement. With each assessment, they have found ways to improve processes, methods, or documentation. When Proverde reveals the depth of their quality system to their clients, they are often surprised at the level of detail that they provide, which routinely earns them a new level of respect from their clients.

PJLA encourages all labs to look at state regulations when they apply for accreditation so at the ending of each assessment they have the ability to meet the needs of their customers and their state guidelines. ◆

PJLA's New Assessors

NAME	HOMETOWN	FIELD
Aldwin Anterola	Carbondale, Illinois	Testing
E. Bryron Marbley	Houston, Texas	Environmental Testing
Anjali Singh	London, England	Testing
Milinka Watson-Garrett	Las Vegas, Nevada	Environmental Testing

PJLA Would Love To See You At The Following Trade Shows:



Emerald Conference – San Diego, California
February 15-16, 2018

Our PJLA President Tracy Szerszen will be presenting a Panel Discussion: Regulatory and Consensus Method Developments February 16th from 8:30-12:00! Make sure to stop by!



Pittconn Conference
Orlando, Florida
February 26 - March 1, 2018

Come visit us at Booth #3525



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

Look Out For PJLA's FREE Online Webinars!

PJLA is now offering free webinars on various topics in relation to ISO/IEC 17025 for both testing and calibration laboratories. These are for all interested parties including: laboratories seeking accreditation, accredited laboratories, assessors, and consultants. To see our full schedule and register for upcoming webinars visit our website at www.pjlabs.com/training/pjla-webinars. ♦

Tuesday, February 20, 2018:

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 A look at the Expanded Requirements for 4.1 Impartiality & 4.2 Confidentiality

Thursday, March 29, 2018:

A Glimpse at the Differences Between ISO/IEC 17025:2005 & ISO/IEC 17025:2017

