

PJLA Update Notification

Update Notification: # 97

Update Notification Release Date: 08/01/26

Form/Procedure/Policy: PJLA Transition Policy- ISO/IEC 17024:2026 Personnel Certification Bodies

Attention All Applicant and Accredited 17024 Personnel Certification Bodies (PCBs):

ISO/IEC 17024:2026 was published in March 2026 and serves as the update to ISO/IEC 17024:2012.

PJLA has established the following policy for its accredited PCBs to transition to the implementation of ISO/IEC 17024:2026. This policy is intended to ensure a consistent, transparent, and effective transition of accredited PCBs from ISO/IEC 17024:2012 to ISO/IEC 17024:2026, while maintaining confidence in the competence, impartiality, consistency, and reliability of accredited PCBs operating certification of persons.

PCBs undergoing transition shall update their management systems, certification schemes, procedures, examination methodologies, competence criteria, records, and related documentation as necessary to demonstrate conformity with the revised requirements of the standard. PCBs shall also ensure that personnel involved in certification activities, including examination development, assessment, decision-making, and scheme management, are adequately trained and competent regarding the new and revised requirements introduced in ISO/IEC 17024:2026.

Please note that it is the PCB's responsibility to demonstrate that it is adequately addressing requirements and competence needs for the revised ISO/IEC 17024:2026 standard.

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17024:2026 shall only be granted following successful completion of the transition assessment process, closure of all identified nonconformities, and a positive accreditation decision in accordance with applicable PJLA accreditation procedures.

Upon successful completion of the transition process, PJLA will issue updated accreditation certificates and scopes of accreditation referencing ISO/IEC 17024:2026.

PCBs failing to complete transition to ISO/IEC 17024:2026 by December 31, 2028, may be at risk of suspension or withdrawal of accreditation if the March 31, 2029, transition requirement is not met.

Transition Timeline- Key Dates for Applicant PCBs and Accredited PCBs:

September 1, 2026:

PJLA will begin accepting new applications and start transitioning accredited PCBs to ISO/IEC 17024:2026. Beginning on this date, PCBs currently accredited to ISO/IEC 17024:2012 may request transition assessments to the new version of the standard during routine assessments or as an independent assessment.

December 31, 2027:

Applications for ISO/IEC 17024:2012 accreditation will no longer be accepted.

March 31, 2028:

Deadline for PCBs to provide PJLA with a self-declaration to the transition, per Annex A.

December 31, 2028:

Transition assessments to the new standard shall be completed. Any certificate reflecting the ISO/IEC 17024:2012 standard after March 31, 2029 will be suspended.

PCB Requirements

1. A PCB shall provide a self-declaration to the transition requirements to PJLA, per Annex A.
2. A PCB shall establish its transition plan for ISO/IEC 17024:2026 considering PJLA transition requirements. PCBs shall provide PJLA, upon request, the transition plan and supporting documentation.

The PCB's transition plan shall consider the following:

- Identify the changes between new and old version of the standard. Typical processes considered for changes may include, but may not be limited to, competence management and communication.
 - Analyze the impact of changes on relevant activities / processes and identify required actions to ensure conformance (e.g., management system/documents, IT tools).
 - Implement required actions.
 - Train and verify competency of the relevant personnel affected by the changes are trained and competent for the revised version and transition process.
3. PCBs may complete the transition of their certified persons as part of the normal recertification cycle. However, they cannot offer any new certifications under ISO/IEC 17024:2012 after the completion of the transition.
 4. A PCB shall complete a transition assessment.
 - Transition assessments will evaluate the implementation of the revised requirements of ISO/IEC 17024:2026 and the continued competence of the PCB to operate Personnel Certification Schemes.
 - The duration and extent of transition assessments will be determined by PJLA based on factors including the number and complexity of certification schemes, number of certified persons, geographical locations, examination methodologies, use of remote assessment technologies, previous assessment performance, and the level of implementation readiness demonstrated by the PCB. Transition activities may include document reviews, remote or onsite assessments, witnessing activities, personnel interviews, examination reviews, psychometric evaluation activities, sampling of certification records, and review of scheme validation and certification decision processes.

- To improve efficiency and minimize disruption to accredited organizations, it is preferable and strongly advisable that transition assessments be combined, where possible, with regularly scheduled annual surveillance assessments or reassessment activities.

Non-Transitioning PCBs

PCBs that do not intend to transition to ISO/IEC 17024:2016, shall inform PJLA as early as possible. The certificate of accreditation will remain active as long as routine assessments are performed. However, the certificate will be withdrawn at the end of the transition period of March 31, 2029.

Additionally, PCBs that are not transitioning shall inform affected certified persons about this decision by March 31, 2028 (24 months from standard publication) and follow their own withdrawal processes to be completed by the end of the transition period March 31, 2029. Assessments can continue to be conducted to the prior version before the transition period ends.

If an affected certified person chooses to not transition, the PCB may conduct the assessment to the previous version. In this case, the PCB shall inform its certified persons on the certification validity ending at the end of the transition period

For clarification on this policy, please contact PJLA's ISO/IEC 17024:2026 Program manager, Dr. George Anastasopoulos at ganast@pjlabs.com.

Thank you.

ANNEX A

Declaration by PJLA Accredited Personnel Certification Body (PCB) for ISO/IEC 17024:2026

I (name below) declare that from the date of this declaration, PCB (PCB name below):

- Has implemented changes required under this transition,
- Conforms with the requirements necessary for transition, and
- Can demonstrate evidence of implementation.

I further acknowledge that:

- PJLA, which PCB is accredited by, will review the implementation of transition against this declaration at the next assessment(s).
- A declaration that is false or cannot be substantiated is a breach of the Conditions of Accreditation and is grounds for required corrections and corrective actions. If not properly resolved within set timelines this will be grounds for suspension or withdrawal in accordance with PJLA procedures.
- The following activity has been completed:
 - Transition Plan
 - Documentation revised to support transition and/or revised requirements
 - Necessary competence has been determined for the revised document and PCB has sufficient number of personnel involved in assessment activities deemed competent to support the revised certification program.
 - PCB has a process to determine assessment duration that supports the revised certification program (if applicable).
 - PCB has a process to manage control of certifications to the revised standard that includes (a) issuing accredited certificates only after the PJLA transition decision and (b) managing appropriate expiration dates for previously issued certificates.

Signature:	
Name:	
Title:	
PCB Name:	
Date:	