

PJLA Update Notification

Update Notification: # 98

Update Notification Release Date: 08/01/26

Form/Procedure/Policy: PJLA Transition Policy- ISO/IEC 17020: 2026 Inspection Body

Attention All Applicant and Accredited 17020 Inspection Bodies:

ISO/IEC 17020:2026 was published in March 2026 and serves as the update to ISO/IEC 17020:2012.

PJLA has established the following transition policy for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020:2026. This policy is intended to ensure a consistent, transparent, and effective transition of accredited inspection bodies from ISO/IEC 17020:2012 to ISO/IEC 17020:2026, while maintaining confidence in the competence, impartiality, and consistent operation of accredited inspection bodies.

Inspection bodies undergoing transition shall update their management systems, procedures, records, and related documentation as necessary to demonstrate conformity with the revised requirements of the standard. Inspection bodies shall also ensure that relevant personnel are adequately trained and competent regarding the new and revised requirements introduced in ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 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 transition, PJLA will issue updated accreditation certificates and scopes of accreditation referencing ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

Inspection bodies that do not intend to transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2016, 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 However, the certificate will be withdrawn at the end of the transition period on March 31, 2029.

Inspection bodies failing to complete transition to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 by December 31, 2028 may be subject to suspension or withdrawal of accreditation in accordance with applicable PJLA accreditation rules and procedures.

Transition Timeline- Key Dates for Applicant and Accredited Inspection Bodies:

September 1, 2026:

PJLA will begin accepting new applications and start transitioning accredited inspection bodies to ISO/IEC 17020:2026. Beginning on this date, inspection bodies currently

accredited to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 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 17020:2012 accreditation will no longer be accepted.

December 31, 2028:

Transition assessments to the new standard shall be completed. Any certificate reflecting the ISO/IEC 17020:2012 standard after March 31, 2029 will be suspended.

Transition Assessments

Transition assessments will evaluate the implementation of the revised requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2026 and the continued competence of the inspection body to perform accredited inspection activities.

The duration and extent of transition assessments will be determined by PJLA based on factors including the scope of accreditation, complexity of inspection activities, number of inspection locations, technical disciplines involved, previous assessment results, and the level of implementation readiness demonstrated by the inspection body. Transition activities may include document review, remote assessments, onsite assessments, witnessing activities, personnel interviews, and review of implementation records.

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.

For clarification on this policy, please contact PJLA's ISO/IEC 17020:2026 Program manager, Dr. George Anastasopoulos at ganast@pjlabs.com.

Thank you.