



# Inspection vs Product Certification

By Dr. George Anastasopoulos

PJLA, Technical & Intl. Business Development Manager



# About PJLA

## **Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA)**

Established in 1999 by Mr. Perry L. Johnson

Headquartered in Troy, Michigan.

More than 2200 accreditations globally in 32 countries.

## **Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation NP, Inc. (PJLANP)**

Michigan nonprofit organization established in 2016.



Perry L. Johnson

Member and signatory of APAC, ILAC MRAs



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*Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.*

# PJLA's Global Network



*Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.*

# PJLA Accreditation Programs

## ISO/IEC 17025

### Testing/Calibration Labs

- FCC OET Equipment Authorization
- FDA ASCA
- ENERGY STAR
- Cannabis Testing
- Hemp Testing
- Horseracing Laboratories Program
- CPSC
- AS6171A Testing
- Food, Feeds, and Pharmaceutical:  
*AOAC, AAFCO, LAAF*
- Environmental Testing: *TNI-NEFAP, DoD ELAP, DOEAP-AP, EPA NLLAP*  
*TNI-EL: MNELAP, CA ELAP, LELAP*

**ISO/IEC 17020** – Inspection Bodies

**ISO/IEC 17065** – Product Certification Bodies

**ISO/IEC 17043** – Proficiency Testing Providers

**ISO 17034** – Reference Material Producers

**ISO 15189** – Medical Laboratories

**ISO/IEC 17024** – Personnel Certification Bodies

**ASTM E2659**– Training Providers



# Conformity Assessment

**Conformity assessment**, is any activity to determine, directly or indirectly, that a process, product, or service meets relevant technical standards and fulfills relevant requirements.

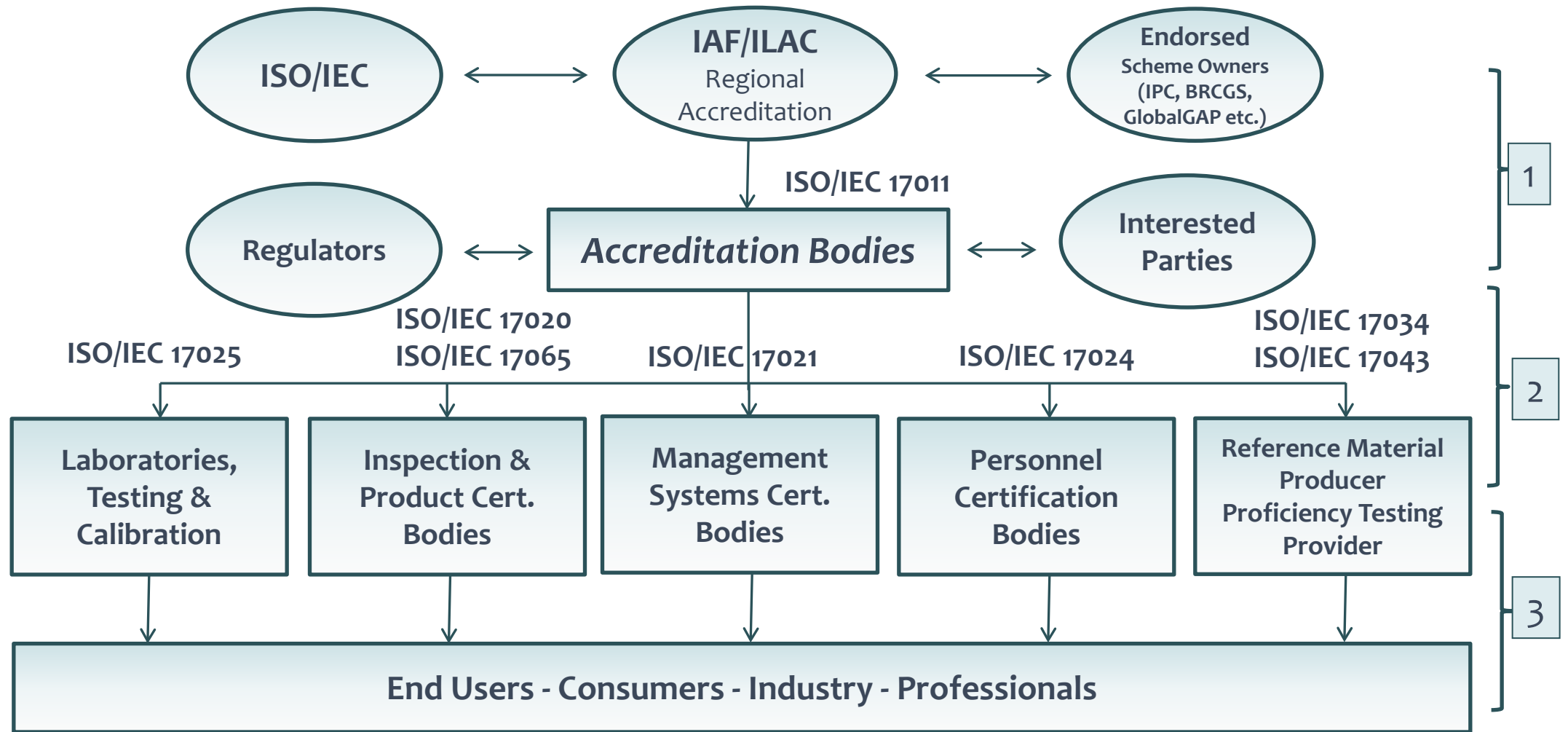


**Conformity assessment** activities may include:

- **Testing**
- **Certification**
- **Inspection**



# International Conformity Assessment Structure



# ISO/CASCO

**CASCO** is the ISO committee that works on issues relating to conformity assessment. CASCO develops policy and publishes standards related to conformity assessment; it does not perform conformity assessment activities.

Membership to CASCO is open to full and correspondent members.



# What is Inspection?

*“a careful and critical examination  
a checking or testing of an individual against established standards”*

**Merriam-Webster Dictionary**

*“the examination of an item to determine if it meets the specified  
requirements”*

**ISO/IEC 17020 standard**

**Inspections** may be a visual inspection or involve sensing technologies, accomplished with a direct physical presence or remotely such as a remote visual inspection, and manually or automatically



# What is an Inspection Body?

“An **inspection body** is an organization that examines products, materials, services, and more to determine if they meet regulations and standards.”

ISO/IEC 17020



Inspection bodies carry out assessments on behalf of private clients, their parent organizations, or authorities, with the objective of providing information about the conformity of inspected items with regulations, standards, specifications, inspection schemes or contracts.

# Types of Inspection

## ***Type A – Third-Party Inspection Bodies***

Fully independent and impartial bodies that perform inspections for external clients.

## ***Type B – Second-Party Inspection Bodies***

Inspection bodies that form a separate but related part of an organization involved in design, production, or maintenance.

## ***Type C – First-Party Inspection Bodies***

Inspection bodies that are part of an organization and not operationally separate from activities such as design, production, or maintenance.

# What is a Product Certification Body?

“A **Product Certification Body** is a third-party body that operates certification schemes for products, processes, or services”

ISO/IEC 17065



Product Certification Bodies must ensure that they operate in a competent, consistent, and impartial manner. This includes maintaining independence, managing conflicts of interest, and ensuring transparency in their certification processes.

# Types of Product Certification Schemes per ISO/IEC 17067

Scheme Type	Features
<b>Type 1a</b>	One-time evaluation, no surveillance
<b>Type 1b</b>	Like 1a, but includes market surveillance
<b>Type 2</b>	Repeated evaluations and market surveillance
<b>Type 3</b>	Initial testing, inspection, and ongoing surveillance (e.g., audits, retesting)
<b>Type 4</b>	Same as Type 3 but includes periodic full product retesting
<b>Type 5</b>	Full conformity assessment with factory audits, testing, and market surveillance
<b>Type 6</b>	Certification based on process or service rather than a physical product

# Common Elements in ISO/IEC Accreditation Standards

Common Element	ISO/IEC 17020 Clause & Title	ISO/IEC 17065 Clause & Title	ISO/IEC 17025 Clause & Title
<b>Impartiality &amp; Independence</b>	4.1 – Impartiality and independence	4.2 – Impartiality	4.1 – Impartiality
<b>Competence of Personnel</b>	6.1 – Personnel	6.1 – General requirements	6.2 – Personnel
<b>Confidentiality</b>	4.2 – Confidentiality	4.5 – Confidentiality	4.2 – Confidentiality
<b>Management System</b>	8 – Management system requirements	8 – Management system requirements	8 – Management system requirements
<b>Documented Procedures</b>	7.1–7.4 – Inspection process and procedures	7 – Certification process requirements	7.2, 7.4 – Selection, verification, & handling;
<b>Complaints &amp; Appeals Handling</b>	7.5 – Complaints and appeals	7.13 – Complaints and appeals	7.9 – Complaints and appeals
<b>Control of Records</b>	8.4 – Control of records	8.4 – Control of records	8.4 – Control of records
<b>Internal Audits &amp; Management Review</b>	8.6, 8.7 – Internal audits & management review	8.6, 8.7 – Internal audits & management review	8.8, 8.9 – Internal audits & management review
<b>Resources &amp; Facilities</b>	6.2 – Facilities and equipment	6.2 – Resources	6.3 – Facilities and env. conditions
<b>Use of Subcontractors</b>	6.3 – Subcontracting	6.3 – Outsourcing	6.6 – External services and supplies



# ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065 main differences

Inspection is a one-time or periodic evaluation of whether a product, process, or service meets specific requirements, focusing on individual batches or instances.

It provides a snapshot of compliance at a particular time and results in an inspection report but does not ensure ongoing compliance.

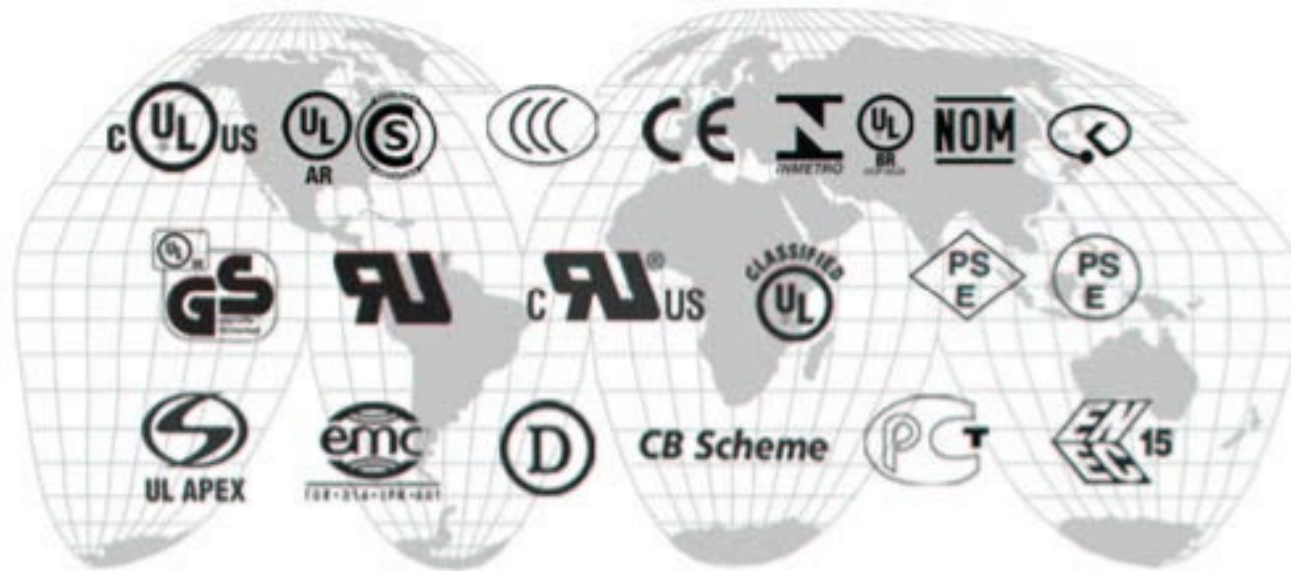
# ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065 main differences

In contrast, product certification offers formal assurance that a product consistently meets specified standards over time.

Product Certification involves a broader scope, including product design, production processes, and management systems, often requiring continuous monitoring and periodic audits.

# ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065 main differences

The outcome of Product Certification is a certificate or mark (e.g., UL mark, CE Mark) that signifies long-term compliance and builds trust among stakeholders.



# ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065 main differences



# Specific Context in ISO/IEC 17065

## Certification Scheme

- A certification scheme defines the rules, procedures, and management for carrying out certification.
- The certification body must develop, maintain, or apply a clearly defined scheme.

Includes:

- Scope of certification (product/process/service)
- Conformity assessment methods (e.g., testing, inspection, audits)
- Decision rules
- Surveillance requirements



# Specific Context in ISO/IEC 17065

## **Certification Decision-Making**

- The CB must have a structured and impartial decision-making process that is separate from evaluation activities.
- No individual involved in evaluation (e.g., audits or tests) can make the final certification decision alone.

## **Surveillance and Re-certification**

- Ongoing surveillance is required to ensure certified products/processes/services continue to comply.
- Methods include sampling, testing, site inspections, or follow-up audits.

## **Use of Marks and Certificates**

- Strict controls on the use of conformity marks, logos, and certificates issued by the certification body.
- Must ensure clients don't mislead or misrepresent their certification status.

# Specific Context in ISO/IEC 17065

## **Impartiality in Commercial Relationships**

- Certification bodies must avoid relationships that could compromise impartiality, especially if they offer consulting, design, or development services related to the certification.
- Risk analysis for impartiality is mandatory and must be documented.

## **Public Information Requirements**

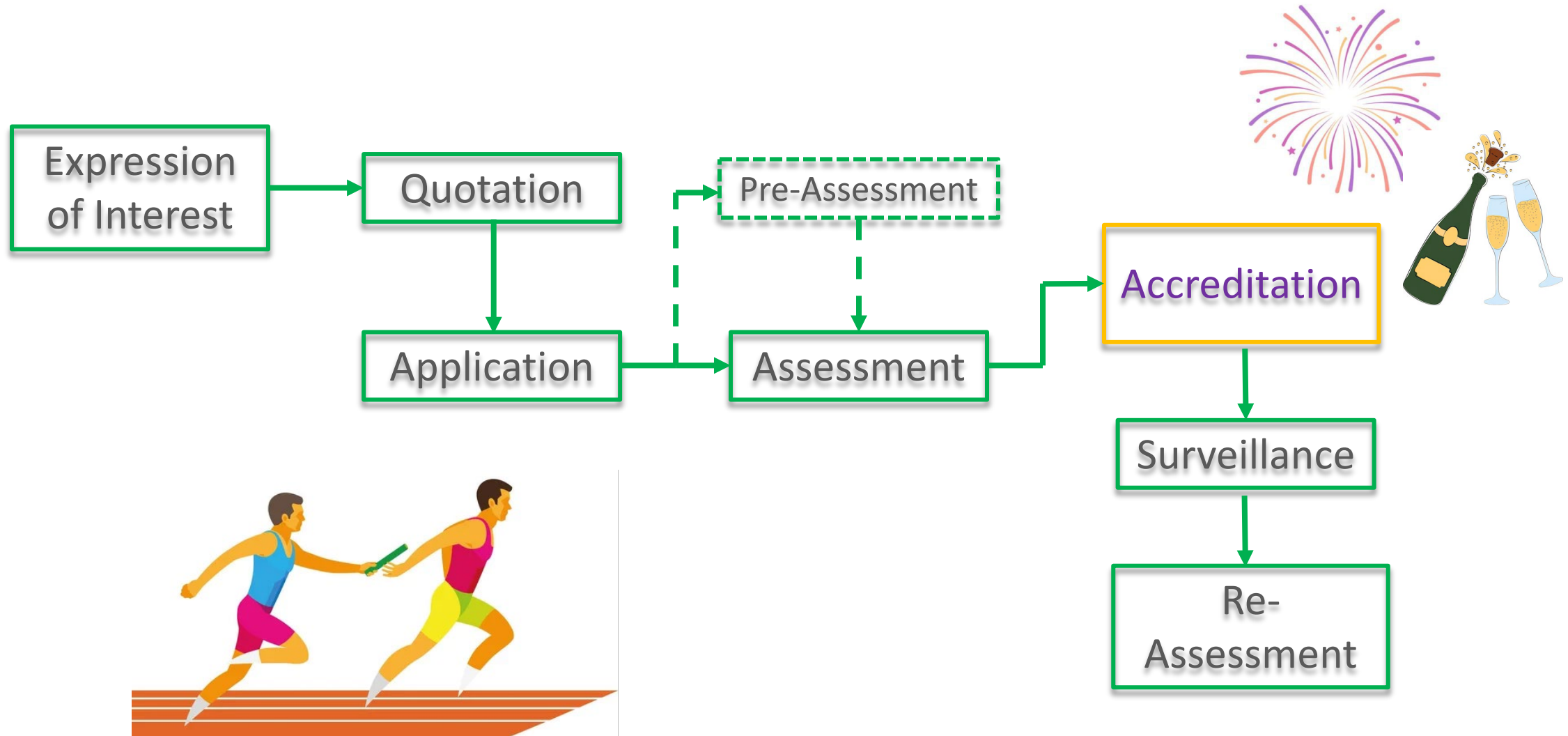
The certification body must make key information publicly available, including:

- Certification scheme
- Procedures for application, evaluation, surveillance, and appeals
- Directory of certified clients or products (unless confidentiality applies)

# ISO/IEC 17020 and 17065 main differences

Aspect	ISO/IEC 17020	ISO/IEC 17065
Type of Body	Inspection Body	Certification Body
Main Output	Inspection Report	Certificate of Conformity
Focus	Inspection (observation/evaluation)	Certification (formal attestation)
Impartiality	Relaxed (Type B and C allowed)	Strict (maintain independence)
Evaluation Basis	Specified requirements or judgment	Standards, regulations, or schemes
Client/End-User Purpose	Evidence of compliance	Marketable certification or label

# Roadmap to Accreditation



# Roadmap to Accreditation



PERRY JOHNSON LABORATORY  
ACCREDITATION, INC.

*Certificate of Accreditation*

*Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. has assessed the Laboratory of:*

**General Inspectors Inc.**  
1600 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98144

*(Hereinafter called the Organization) and hereby declares that Organization is accredited in accordance with the recognized International Standard:*

**ISO/IEC 17020:2012**

This accreditation demonstrates technical competence for a defined scope and the operation of a laboratory quality management system (as outlined by the joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué dated January 2009):

**Food Testing**  
*(As detailed in the supplement)*

Accreditation claims for such testing and/or calibration services shall only be made from addresses referenced within this certificate. This Accreditation is granted subject to the system rules governing the Accreditation referred to above, and the Organization hereby covenants with the Accreditation body's duty to observe and comply with the said rules.

For PJLA:




Initial Accreditation Date: March 30, 2012  
Issue Date: March 30, 2012  
Accreditation No.: 99999  
Certificate No.: L12-00

Tracy Sierksen  
President/Operations Manager

Perry Johnson Laboratory  
Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA)  
755 W. Big Beaver, Suite 1325  
Troy, Michigan 48064

*The validity of this certificate is maintained through ongoing assessments based on a continuous surveillance cycle. The validity of this certificate should be confirmed through the PJLA website: [www.pjlabi.com](http://www.pjlabi.com)*

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*Certificate of Accreditation: Supplement*

**Food Metrics Laboratory**  
1600 South Jackson Street, Seattle, WA 98144  
Dr. Claver Boudas Phone: 206-274-4646

*Accreditation is granted to the facility to perform the following testing:*

ITEMS, MATERIALS OR PRODUCTS TESTED	SPECIFIC TESTS OR PROPERTIES MEASURED	SPECIFICATION, STANDARD METHOD OR TECHNIQUE USED	RANGE (WHERE APPROPRIATE) AND DETECTION LIMIT
Food Products	Yeast & Mold	AOAC 991.21-Neo Grid & FDA/BAM ch 18-PDA	10 CFU/g
Environmental - Swabs			
Packaging Material			
Water			1 CFU/ml
Food Products	E. coli	Peridigm AOAC 991.14 & FDA/BAM-MPN	10 CFU/g 3 CFU/g
Environmental - Swabs			
Packaging Material			
Water		SMY211F	1 CFU/ml
Food Products	Enterobacteriaceae	Compendium 5.83	10 CFU/g
Environmental - Swabs			10 CFU/g
Packaging Material			10 CFU/g
Food Products	Mesophilic Spores	Compendium 22.51	1 CFU/g
	Thermophilic Spores	AAOCC 42-40	5 CFU/10 g
Grain Flour Food Feed	Aflatoxin	HPLC-FLD	<= 1.5 ppb
	Ochratoxin		<= 0.2 ppb
	Zearalenone		<= 1.1 ppb
	Vomoxan		<= 0.01 ppb
Food/Grain & Oil	FAT	AOAC 994.06 GC	0.003 g/100 g
	Cholesterol	AOAC 994.10 GC	0.3 mg/100 g
Grain Flour Food Feed	Moisture	AAOCC 44.15A	DL<0.1 %
	Protein	AAOCC 45.30	
	Ash	AAOCC 03.01	DL<0.02 %
	Falling Number	AAOCC 56.81B	DL< 62 sec
	Vitamin A as Retinol Palmitate	HPLC-UV	DL=1 800 IU/lb
	Iron, Calcium, Zinc, Sodium, Potassium by Atomic Absorption	AAOCC 40-70	Calcium = 3 ppm Iron = 1 ppm Potassium = 2 ppm Zinc = 2 ppm Na = 5 ppm

Issued: 9/11

This supplement is in conjunction with certificate # L11-127

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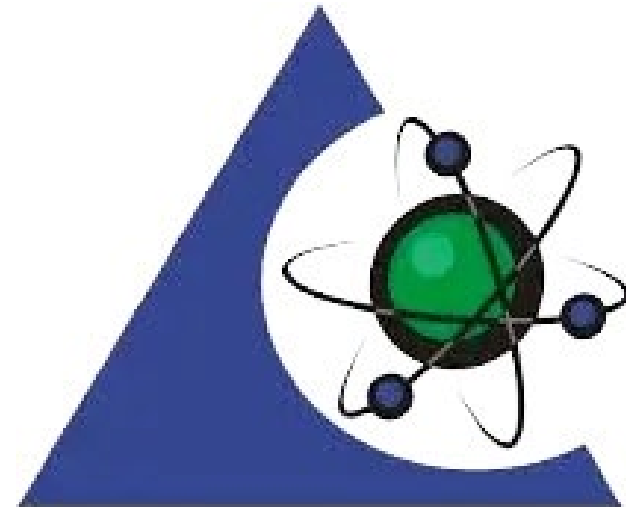
**PJLA**  
**Inspection**  
**Accreditation #12345**



# Thank You!

- Questions
- Discussion

ganast@pjlabs.com



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