

Accreditation Insider

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

Volume X • Spring 2025

DoD/DOE QSM Version 6.0 Transition Reminder

The Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Energy (DOE) have released an updated version of their Quality Systems Manual (QSM) for laboratories conducting environmental testing. QSM Version 6.0, which replaces Version 5.4, was published on December 13, 2023. Labs must fully transition to the new version by June 13, 2026.

What's New in QSM V6.0?

The updated manual has been completely rewritten to enhance clarity and ease of use. Redundant and unclear requirements were removed or simplified. Key changes include:

- Reorganization of content to better support audits and assessments
- Stronger, clearer language (e.g., “shall consider” changed to “shall”)
- Consolidation of requirements from appendices into core modules
- New industrial hygiene section in Module 8
- Section 9 now addresses hazardous/radioactive materials and applies only to DOECAP-accredited labs
- Clarification that labs conducting radiochemical testing must hold a radiochemical license

Next Steps for Labs:

Labs are encouraged to review the new version and begin updating internal systems and procedures accordingly. PJLA will continue to support accredited labs through the transition and is available for questions.

Stay ahead of the deadline—prepare now for compliance with QSM Version 6.0 by June 2026. ♦

Matt Sica's Technical Talk At AOAC International Southern Section



Free Workshop Schedule - PJLA

**Management Review for
Strategic Improvement
(Clause 8.9) – REGISTER NOW!**

Tuesday, September 9, 2025 –
1:00pm-3:00pm ET

**Equipment Calibration and
Maintenance for Reliable
Results (Clauses 6.4 and 6.5) –
REGISTER NOW!**

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 –
1:00pm-3:00pm ET

**Metrological Traceability and
Certified Reference Materials
(Clause 6.6) – REGISTER NOW!**

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 –
1:00pm-3:00pm ET ♦

Subscribe To Our Mailing List

Sign up to be the first to receive our current news, update notifications, free workshop opportunities, and important event information. [Click Here to Join!](#) ♦



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PJLA Hosts Free Assessor Training In Mumbai, India

Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA) held a free assessor training in Mumbai, India. The two-day session took place April 21–22, 2025, at the **Holiday Inn Mumbai International Airport**.

Participants joined from four different countries and ten regions across India. The diverse group created a collaborative and engaging learning environment. The training was specially designed to provide in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience necessary for PJLA assessors in the conformity assessment industry.

This two-day session provided more than just technical knowledge. It also offered networking opportunities with experienced professionals and PJLA leadership. Commitment to quality and competence was on full display during the event, leaving attendees with the tools and confidence required to pursue assessor qualification with PJLA. ♦



Welcome To The Team!



Anna Karcher
Accreditation Program Assistant



Danielle Szachta
*Special Projects Coordinator/
Technical Writer*

Join Our Team!

Join Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.'s team of **ISO/IEC 17025 professionals** who provide the best accreditation experience possible.

We are currently seeking experienced assessors for **ISO/IEC 17025 Calibration and Mechanical Testing Assessors** and **Product Certification Body Assessors** to join our assessment staff.

For immediate consideration, email us at pjlabs@pjlabs.com or visit our website to apply. ♦

Transition To EPA NLLAP LQSR 4.0 Required By December 2025

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released updated laboratory standards under the National Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (NLLAP). The new guidance, titled Laboratory Quality Standards for Recognition (LQSR 4.0), was finalized on October 23, 2024, and replaces the previous LQSR 3.0 (2007).

Key Transition Requirements:

- All NLLAP-recognized laboratories must transition to LQSR 4.0 by December 22, 2025.
- After this date, PJLA will assess LQSR 4.0 regardless of where a lab is in its accreditation cycle.
- The LQSR 4.0 LF-56 working checklist is available on PJLA's website as a resource tool, but labs must refer to the full LQSR 4.0 standard for compliance.

Additionally, labs must now incorporate ASTM E1583-21a into their management systems. This standard addresses testing for lead in paint, dust, airborne particulates, and soil from buildings and structures. A copy must be maintained as an externally controlled document.

PJLA encourages all affected labs to begin reviewing LQSR 4.0 now and conduct internal assessments to plan for necessary updates. Be sure all relevant personnel are informed and involved in the transition process.

Download the Update Notification here:

https://www.pjlab.com/downloads/Update_86.pdf ◆

PJLA Proficiency Testing Plan Documentation

PJLA has announced critical updates to its proficiency testing (PT) planning process.

Effective immediately:

- LF-81 – Proficiency Test Plan Rev 1.3 has replaced Rev 1.2. This form must now be used for all PT plan submissions. It no longer includes functionality for alternative PT approvals.
- LF-81a – PT Alternative Approval Form has been introduced and is now required for any PT alternative requests. Approval from a PJLA Technical Program Manager is mandatory prior to implementation.

Please Note: Submit this form to PJLA at ptalternativeapproval@pjlab.com along with the SOP for the approach used (including defined acceptance criteria) for the study type and the LF-81 or equivalent internal form.

Both forms are now available on [PJLA's Document Portal](#) and must be used immediately by all CABs and assessors. For questions or support, please contact PJLA headquarters. ◆

PJLA Updates

Update #86

EPA NLLAP LQSR 4.0 Transition Requirements

Update #85

PJLA Proficiency Testing Plan

Update #84

Product Certification Accreditation (17065) Program Documents

Update #83

Update to PJLA Policy PL-4

Update #82

SOP-10 Dispute and Appeal Procedure Rev 1.6

Update #81

LF-116 Assessment Readiness Review Checklist for Environmental, State and General Programs (ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC 17020, ISO 17034, ISO/IEC 17043, ISO 15819, ISO/IEC 17065)

Check out the complete list of updates and information here:

<https://www.pjlab.com/resources/pjla-updates> ◆

PJLA Completes APAC Evaluation And Expands Scope For Product Certification Accreditation (17065)

PJLA is proud to announce the successful completion of our Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) evaluation, which took place from May 12–23, 2025. This multi-week evaluation involved a comprehensive review of PJLA's accreditation operations and included an important scope expansion to offer ISO/IEC 17065 Product Certification Accreditation.

The evaluation process is an essential part of maintaining international recognition under the APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). It ensures that PJLA continues to uphold the highest standards in conformity assessment and accreditation services, now further strengthened by our expanded capability in product certification.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the clients who generously hosted APAC evaluators for on-site witnessing during this evaluation. Their support played a vital role in demonstrating the effectiveness and global reach of PJLA's services:

- QUALCAL Scale & Metrology – <http://www.qualcal-scale.com>
- Silver/CIMS LLC – <https://www.tankcontainer.com>
- Viswa Lab International FZE – <http://www.theviswagroup.com>
- A.C. & E. S.r.l. – <http://www.aceconsulting.it>
- Tecnolab del Lago Maggiore S.r.l. – <http://www.tecnolab.name>
- Foundation Medicine Inc. – <http://www.foundationmedicine.com>
- HYTORC INTL, Division, UNEX Corp. – <http://www.HYTORC.com>

PJLA appreciates the collaboration and professionalism of these organizations during the evaluation process. Their participation was instrumental in showcasing PJLA's competence across various industries and international locations.

We look forward to continuing to serve our global client base with an expanded scope of services and a commitment to excellence in accreditation. ♦



Now Offering Accreditation For Training Providers And Curriculum Developers (TPCD)

PJLA now offers accreditation for Training Providers and Curriculum Developers (TPCD)! This program is conducted in accordance with ASTM E2659-18: *Standard Practice for Certificate Programs* and IPC-SC-11-002: *Specification on Recognition of Training Courses and Training Providers*. TPCD accreditation supports organizations delivering high-quality training and credentialing programs that meet industry-recognized benchmarks. ♦

Now Offering Accreditation To ISO/IEC 17024 - Personnel Certification Bodies

PJLA is pleased to announce the addition of ISO/IEC 17024 accreditation services! This program is designed for organizations that certify individuals based on knowledge, skills, and competence. Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17024 ensures the integrity and consistency of personnel certification processes, supporting industry trust and international recognition of certified professionals. ♦

ISO/IEC 17043:2023 Transition Deadline Approaching For Proficiency Testing Providers

The transition from ISO/IEC 17043:2010 to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 is officially underway, with a mandatory deadline of May 31, 2026 for all proficiency testing providers (PTPs) to complete their transition.

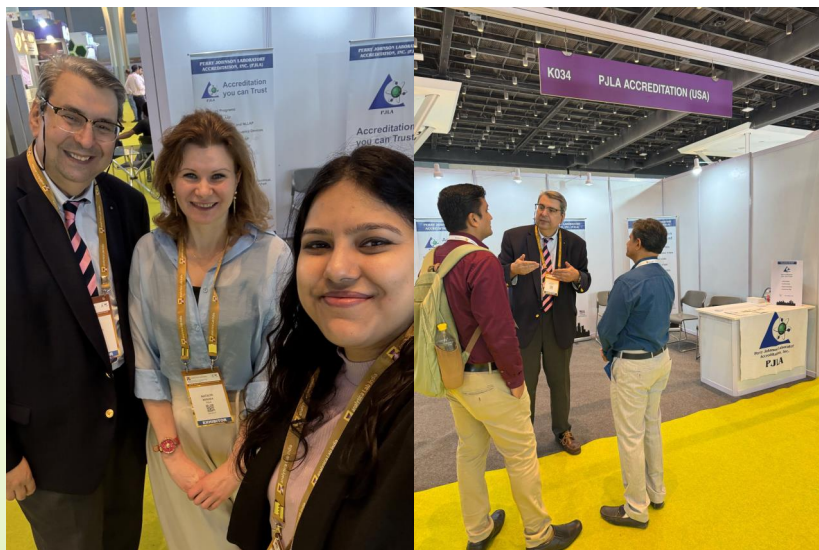
Key Dates to Remember:

- May 31, 2023: New version of the standard published; transition period begins.
- January 1, 2025: All new applications must be to ISO/IEC 17043:2023.
- January 31, 2026: Recommended date to complete transition assessments.
- May 31, 2026: Final deadline—accreditation to the 2010 version will no longer be valid.

PTPs must demonstrate compliance through transition assessments, which may be conducted during routine visits or separately. Failure to transition by the deadline will result in suspension of accreditation.

We encourage all accredited and applicant PTPs to begin preparations early. For questions or support, please contact PJLA. ♦

PJLA Attended Analytica Lab India 2025 In Mumbai



Stay Current With PJLA: Explore Our Resources Page

Did you know PJLA offers a centralized online hub to help you stay informed and fully supported throughout your accreditation journey? Our Resources section is regularly updated with essential tools, documents, and notifications designed for both clients and assessment staff.

Here's what you'll find:

PJLA Documents

Access downloadable checklists, policies, procedures, and work instructions to support your accreditation process.

PJLA Update Notifications

Stay informed with real-time updates on PJLA documents, policy changes, and accreditation criteria. This section is essential for keeping your operations aligned with PJLA's latest requirements.

Technical Resources

Browse technical documents published by PJLA, along with trusted materials from organizations like ILAC and NIST.

Helpful Calculators

Download and utilize our technical calculators, including:

- Relative Uncertainty Equation Calculators (Weight/Force & Dimensional)
- Scale Best Measurement Capability Calculator
- Normalized Error Analysis of PT Results

We encourage all accredited and applicant organizations to regularly visit the PJLA Resources page to ensure you're always up to date.

Explore now: www.pjlab.com/resources ♦

FREE Quote for Accreditation

Limited Spots Left! ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Overview Course – 2025 Dates

Don't miss your chance to attend PJLA's LIVE virtual ISO/IEC 17025 Overview Course, led by Technical Program Manager Matthew Sica. Only two sessions remain for 2025:

August 19–20, 2025 • October 21–22, 2025

This course offers:

- A full breakdown of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 requirements
- Practical implementation tips
- Case studies & exercises on common lab findings

All attendees receive a certificate of completion!

New to PJLA? Ask your project manager about available free training vouchers!

Register Now to secure your seat! ♦

Upcoming Trade Shows

NCSL INTERNATIONAL – July 19-23, 2025



TNI NEMC – August 4-7, 2025



ARABLAB LIVE – September 23-25, 2025



New! Lodging A Complaint Easily Through Our Website

PJLA has streamlined our complaint submission process. If you have a concern or complaint, you can now simply visit our website and complete the online form at www.pjlab.com/contact/lodge-a-complaint.

Prefer to speak with someone directly? You're always welcome to call us at **(248) 519-2603** — our team is here to help. ♦

World Accreditation Day 2025

During celebration of **World Accreditation Day**, PJLA's own George Anastasopoulos was invited to speak during the 3rd Session of the Knowledge Sessions organized by the Consultants Consortium of Chennai (CCC) on June 9, 2025.

This free session brought together stakeholders from across the conformity assessment landscape—industry professionals, accreditation and certification bodies, inspectors, consultants, academia, and more—for an engaging conversation on the value and impact of accreditation. ♦

PJLA President To Attend APAC 2025 Annual Meetings In India

PJLA President, Tracy Szerszen, will be representing our organization at the APAC 2025 Annual Meetings in Bengaluru, India, hosted by NABCB and NABL—constituent Boards of the Quality Council of India (QCI). Established by India's Ministry of Commerce & Industry, QCI serves as the nation's apex body for accreditation and quality promotion.

The annual APAC meetings bring together accreditation leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region to collaborate and advance quality infrastructure. Bengaluru, known as the “Silicon Valley of India,” will provide a dynamic backdrop, offering a rich blend of innovation and cultural heritage for attendees to experience.

We look forward to the insights and global connections that will come from this important international event.

Find out more information on the APAC 2025 website here: <https://apac2025.in>. ♦

PJLA Attends World Conference On Quality & Improvement

Thank you to everyone who stopped by PJLA's booth at the World Conference on Quality & Improvement back in May 2025! We truly enjoyed connecting with professionals across the quality industry.

“It was great to meet our colleagues in the quality industry and attend several invaluable training sessions.”

— [Tracy Szerszen](#), PJLA President ♦



Dr. George Anastasopoulos Featured In Quality Magazine

We are proud to share that Dr. George Anastasopoulos is in the June 2025 edition of Quality Magazine. He is the Technical and International Business Development Manager at Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA). He titled his article “The Modified FINK Risk Analyzing Method for Conformity Assessment Bodies.”

We invite professionals in quality and conformity assessment to read the full article on Quality Magazine's website [HERE](#). ♦



Check Out Our Blog

Dr. George Anastasopoulos Featured in Quality Magazine

JUNE 19, 2025 BY PJLA (EDIT)

LEAVE A COMMENT



Celebrating World Accreditation Day 2025

MAY 30, 2025 BY PJLA (EDIT)

LEAVE A COMMENT



PJLA Podcasts – Now On Spotify



- AOAC Hemp & Cannabis Proficiency Testing – A Solution to a Critical Need
- FDA Laboratory Accreditation for Analyses of Food (LAAF) Program - Lessons Learned
- A Look at ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – Requirements Concerning Impartiality and Confidentiality

Look Out For PJLA's FREE Online Webinars!

For our full schedule and to register for upcoming webinars visit our website at www.pjlab.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*

- **Tuesday, July 29, 2025 – 10:00am EDT**
Understanding the Conformity Assessment Ecosystem – ILAC, IAF, APAC/EA, ABs & CABs Explained

Join PJLA for an insightful and practical free webinar that unpacks the global accreditation infrastructure—essential knowledge for laboratories, inspection and certification bodies, regulators, and quality professionals.

Presented by: Dr. George Anastasopoulos Technical & International Business Development Manager PJLA

Did you see our NEW QuickStart Guide to ISO/IEC 17025:2017? Head over to our website to download your FREE copy!

