

PJLA Update Notification

Update Notification # 8

Update Notification Release Date: April 28, 2010

Form/Procedure/Policy: Updates to PJLA Policies (PL-1, PL-2, PL-3, PL-4)

PJLA Applicant/Accredited Laboratories

CC: PJLA Assessors and Staff

PJLA has updated the following policies: **PL-1, PL-2, PL-3 and PL-4**. These updates were based on a review by our Technical Committee, which resulted in a positive vote for implementation on April 16, 2010. As you are aware PJLA requires all applicant and accredited laboratories to adhere to these policies above the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025: 2005. All laboratories will be assessed against any new requirements outlined in these policies effective May 1, 2010. A summary of the updates have been provided below:

PL-1-Proficiency Testing Requirements for Applicant and Accredited Laboratories

- The PJLA protocol for the handling of unsatisfactory PT results has been updated to include the right for PJLA to remove items off a laboratory's scope in the case a laboratory fails to take the appropriate corrective action or investigation in regards to the failure.
- Amended PJLA's selection criteria for selecting laboratories to participate in international proficiency testing programs. This entails the investigation of the appropriateness of the laboratory's scope versus the program including (BMC and Detection Limits).
- Third Party Program requirements have been modified to reduce the mandate of laboratories to utilize third party providers. PJLA still strongly encourages the use of third party providers when programs are made available.
- The policy was updated to define competent PT providers (i.e. Guide 43 or ISO 17043 Accredited, National, International or Organization mandated by regulatory authority).
- The formula for inter laboratory comparisons has been corrected and additional information has been added for clarity purposes.

PL-2- Measurement Traceability Policy

- Added clarification in the policy for both testing and calibration laboratories, including references from ISO/IEC 17025: 2005
- Defined the traceability chain in more detail (i.e. the use of higher calibration laboratories)
- Removed natural constant and replaced with Intrinsic Measurement Standard.
- Defined special deviations for traceability
- Included a disclaimer that this policy is for both applicant and accredited laboratories

PL-3- Policy on Measurement Uncertainty for Calibration and Testing Laboratories

- Added language in regards to ensuring that the estimated measurement uncertainty is within reason and attainable.
- Added language in regards to the rights of PJLA to not accept unreasonable uncertainties and the right for laboratories to dispute or appeal such decisions.

PL-4 -Calibration Scopes of Accreditation

- Addition of examples of scopes of accreditation in the fields of: Electrical, Dimensional and Mechanical
- Appendix B-Updated to include the allowance of US Customary Units as well as SI Units

Please note that the above is a summary of the changes to these policies. PJLA strongly encourages all laboratories to download the updated policies to ensure your laboratory system complies with the new requirements. If you have any questions or need clarification on these policies, please feel free to contact PJLA at anytime.

Thank you.