

# PJLA Update Notification

## Update Notification # 29

Update Notification Release Date: August 5, 2015

Form/Procedure/Policy: Policy on Measurement Uncertainty (PL-3)

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Attention All Applicant and Accredited Organizations:

PJLA has recently updated our Policy on Measurement Uncertainty (PL-3), to include additional guidance criteria in regard to measurement uncertainty and reporting requirements. Please download and closely review these changes from our website [www.pjlab.com](http://www.pjlab.com), as they will be applied during your next assessment or by the effective date below.

Summary of Changes:

### Effective Date: September 30, 2015

- Section 3.6 If taking uncertainty into account would result in a possible failure where the measured value actually passes, the following example compliance statement can be used. *“It is not possible to state compliance using a 95 % coverage probability for the expanded uncertainty although the measurement result falls within specified limits. Optionally, if the organization wishes, it can simply state “It is not possible to state compliance”. PJLA defines this condition as Pass-Indeterminate.*
- Section 3.6 If taking uncertainty into account would produce a possible pass where the measured value actually failed, the following example compliance statement can be used. *“It is not possible to state noncompliance although the measurement result falls outside specified limits using a 95 % coverage probability for expanded uncertainty may produce values within specified limits.”* Optionally, if the organization wishes, it can simply state *“It is not possible to state noncompliance”*. PJLA defines this condition as *Fail-Indeterminate*.

### For Reference Material Producers Only

- Section 1.4 As required in ISO Guide 34:2009(E) 5.16.1 the RMP shall have procedures as outlined in ISO Guide 35:2006(E) *General and statistical principles for certification*, for the assigning the uncertainties to the property values. The RMP shall carry out the determination of the uncertainties in

accordance with the requirements of the GUM and include, where appropriate and necessary between unit variation and/or factors arising in either storage or transportation that affect stability or the RMs or CRMs. More requirements for RMPs is contained in APLAC TC 008:rev 5 (2015) *Requirements and Guidance on the Accreditation of a Reference Material Producer*, section 5.16. A statement of uncertainty is mandatory for CRMs and is recommended for RMs. ISO Guide 35:2006(E) *Reference Materials, General and statistical principles for certification*, is an extensive normative document for the statistical techniques appropriate for the characterization and assignment of property values and their uncertainties, as well as the assessment of homogeneity (within batch and batch to batch) and stability. Another reference for uncertainties in analytical measurements is the Eurachem/CITAC guide: *Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement, Third edition, (2012)*

- Section 2.7 For RMP organizations the requirements of ISO Guide 34:2009 (E) apply
- Section 2.9 Addition of or reference material certificate
- Section 3.2 This also applies for RMPs with regard to the scopes developed in accordance with APLAC TC 008 Issue 5 (March 2015), section 6.
- Section 3.8 RMP organizations are required to include uncertainties for the assigned property values for certified reference materials in their certificates in compliance with ISO Guide 31: 200(E) sections 5.11 and 6 and Guide 34:2009(E) section 5.17.
- Section 3.14 added reference to Guide 34:2009 as well as or uncertainties in general
- References Added
  - ISO Guide 35:2006(E) *Reference Materials, General and statistical principles for certification*
  - ISO Guide 31:2000(E) *Reference Materials, -Contents of certificates and labels*
  - APLAC TC 008:rev 5 (2015) *Requirements and Guidance on the Accreditation of a Reference Material Producer*

If you have any questions in regards to this notification, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Thank you.