We tested popular cellphones for radiofrequency radiation. Now the FCC is investigating.

By SAM ROE
CHICAGO TRIBUNE |
AUG 21, 2019 | 12:27 PM

The Apple iPhone 7 was set to operate at full power and secured below a tub of clear liquid, specially formulated to simulate human tissue.
amount of radiofrequency radiation the liquid was absorbing from the cellphone.

This test, which was paid for by the Tribune and conducted according to federal guidelines at an accredited lab, produced a surprising result: Radiofrequency radiation exposure from the iPhone 7 — one of the most popular smartphones ever sold — measured over the legal safety limit and more than double what Apple reported to federal regulators from its own testing.

The Federal Communications Commission, which is responsible for regulating phones, states on its website that if a cellphone has been approved for sale, the device “will never exceed” the maximum allowable exposure limit. But this phone, in an independent lab inspection, had done exactly that.

Read the full article >>

SAVE THE DATE

2020 ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 12 -15, 2020
HOTEL MAYA
A DOUBLETREE HOTEL BY HILTON
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Livingstone 2019 TIC Report
TIC M&A decreased in each subsequent quarter of 2018 after the first quarter saw the (at the time) second highest transaction count (38) of any quarter since the beginning of 2013. Interestingly, 1Q2019 saw a record-high 58 closed TIC transactions driven by a record-high number of deal closings for both public strategic buyers (23) and private strategic buyers (32). Overall, 2019’s M&A activity is on pace through August to set a new transaction count record in the space.

The incredible number of transactions completed in the sector since 2013 has resulted in fewer available TIC targets, particularly those with unique testing services attributes. At the same time, high valuation multiples for less-differentiated remaining targets are, from the perspective of most industry consolidators, seemingly unsustainable, as these parties face a “build versus buy” decision with every new service or market expansion opportunity.

In this report, we discuss the overall M&A outlook, outline industry trends and their potential benefits for industry participants and discuss the various opportunities in the sector, from favorable regulatory trends to innovative technology.

Click here to access the full report.

A Simple and Sensitive Method for Rapid Determination of PFOA and PFOS in Water Samples by Direct Injection UHPLC/MS/MS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), or Per- and polyfluorinated compounds (PFCs), represent a group of anthropogenic chemicals that have been produced and widely used in industrial applications and consumer products since the 1950s. The unique physical and chemical characteristics of these compounds, along with their ubiquitous use, have led to the accumulation of PFAS in the environment, with growing concern of human exposure to these chemicals. Among PFASs, perfluorooctanesulphonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) have been the most prevalent in the environment, and have thus attracted the most attention. These contaminants present distinct analytical challenges, with concentrations often present at low ng/mL (ppb) or pg/mL (ppt) ranges. Choosing an appropriate method, and utilizing superior instrumentation and accessories, can mitigate many of the challenges associated with emerging contaminant analysis.

Recently, with the advancement and availability of highly sensitive mass spectrometers, a trend towards developing a high throughput analytical method for monitoring PFASs by direct injection has occurred. The direct
PerkinElmer’s QSight® 420 mass spectrometer, coupled with UHPLC for the determination of trace amount of PFOA and PFOS in drinking and surface water samples.

Read the full article here >>

A2LA News
A2LA Staff Appointed to Leadership Roles in APAC and IAAC

A2LA has a sincere commitment to improving and developing the accreditation industry. Our organization boasts the best-informed and most insightful team in accreditation, and A2LA staff members are recognized for their expertise, supporting several industry committees, professional organizations, and regulatory bodies. Recently, Trace McInturff, Adam Gouker, and Robert Knake were appointed to leadership roles with international accreditation cooperations, where they will be directly involved in decisions that affect accreditation bodies as well as the organizations they serve.

A2LA Vice President, Trace McInturff, now serves on the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) Executive Committee and is chair of the APAC MRA Council. A2LA General Manager, Adam Gouker, serves as chair for one of APAC’s two Technical Committees. APAC is a new entity formed from the merger of the former Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) organizations. APAC is instrumental in managing and expanding a comprehensive mutual recognition arrangement among accreditation bodies in the Asia-Pacific region. The APAC MRA plays an important role in international trade across the Pacific, and the expertise that Mr. McInturff and Mr. Gouker bring to their new roles will be instrumental in ensuring the benefits and reliability of accreditation to all parties associated with APAC.

A2LA Accreditation Manager, Robert Knake, was appointed vice-chair of the Multilateral Recognition Arrangements Committee and Group at the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC). Much like APAC, IAAC promotes cooperation and consistency among accreditation bodies, but specifically within the Americas. IAAC works to establish a region-wide system of multilateral recognition arrangements among accreditation bodies across different countries and regions. Mr. Knake’s role will be directly related to developing and maintaining these multilateral recognition arrangements (MLAs), which will have a broad impact on accreditation bodies and...
and entrusted with decision-making roles by the wider accreditation community. The three recognized here – as well as many others at A2LA – have made a personal commitment to the industry and take every opportunity to expand their perspectives and use their expertise to benefit fellow professionals and accreditation.

A2LA Accredits First Cannabis Testing Laboratories in Oklahoma and Tennessee

A2LA is pleased to announce the initial accreditation of Demeter Laboratory in Oklahoma City, OK and the renewal accreditation of Galbraith Laboratories, Inc., in Knoxville, TN, both to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 for cannabis testing. Both laboratories are the first cannabis testing laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in their respective states.

“A2LA realizes the vital role that accreditation plays in the cannabis industry to support compliance with regulatory requirements, and we are thrilled to see that our service has been adopted in two new states,” said Adam Gouker, A2LA General Manager.

“Demeter Laboratory is proud of this achievement since it is a critical milestone for our company to have met the highest level of standards set forth by A2LA”, said Demeter Quality Manager Cassy VanTassel, M.S. “Demeter chose A2LA as its Accreditation Body due to their reputation in the industry, their diverse clientele, and the quality of their assessors. Even though the State of Oklahoma is still establishing regulations and legislation, Demeter will always strive to meet the highest quality standards so our customers know they are getting the best quality testing.”

“Adding cannabis testing to our line of services was a great opportunity for Galbraith Laboratories to serve the community by helping farmers produce safe and legal hemp” said Christy Myers, Customer Service Manager at Galbraith Laboratories. “We are proud of our commitment to stay current within our industry and achieve the high standards set by A2LA.”

Achieving ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation by A2LA is the pinnacle in third-party laboratory accreditation, as it confirms that laboratories have management, quality, and technical systems in place to ensure accurate and reliable analyses, as well as proper administrative processes to ensure that all aspects related to the sample, the analysis, and the reporting are standardized, measured, and monitored.
Industry News

ACIL Mourns the Passing of International Humanitarian, Molly Greene.

By Gregory Yee and Michael Majchrowicz, The Post and Courier
Jul 18, 2019

Molly Greene, whose international humanitarian group provided clean drinking water to millions in third-world countries, died on Wednesday during a trip to the Bahamas with her family. She was 72.
according to a statement by the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Additional circumstances surrounding Greene’s death have not been made public.

“No words can describe this heartbreaking loss for our family,” Molly’s son, George C. Greene IV, president of Water Mission, said in a statement. “We mourn the loss to our family. We know that a larger global family mourns with us and celebrates her life, as she blessed so many around the world. We ask for your prayers and request privacy at this time.”

Read the full article honoring Molly Greene here >>

ESS Offers 537 PrePreserved®

ESS, the leading supplier of PrePreserved® Containers offers HDPE and PolyPro bottles for EPA Method 537. The ESS 250mL Cap Sure HDPE wide mouth is the popular choice for PFASs testing. “Triz” reagents are lot tested to Method 537-1.1 for complete traceability. Polypropylene containers are also available. ESS is the company that introduced Prep reserved® containers to the Environmental/Analytical industry. ESS currently provides a full line of containers for UCMR 4, and will have QA bottles ready for UCMR 5.

ESS 800-233-8424
www.essvial.com

MA242 Cannabinoids and MA244 Mycotoxins in Hemp

Legalization of the hemp industry under the 2018 Farm Bill creates new challenges and opportunities, raising questions both of how to distinguish hemp from marijuana and what contaminants testing should be required. Pickering Laboratories is excited to announce two new hemp-specific applications, Cannabinoids and Mycotoxins, as our chemists continue to support this blossoming industry.
method for the analysis of Cannabinoids, including all forms of THC and CBD, in hemp and hemp-containing products. The method allows for the confirmation of products in compliance with the 2018 Farm Bill, as well as the determination of active compounds important for products’ market value.

For MA 244, Mycotoxins in Hemp, we are expanding the available methods for Mycotoxins analysis. Highly sensitive analysis of Aflatoxins B1, B2, G1, G2 and Ochratoxin A in hemp plants and hemp-containing products is accomplished with a use of photochemical derivatization and fluorescence detection. Immunoaffinity columns, used for sample clean-up, remove interferences from even the most complex matrices while still providing high recoveries for the analytes of interest.

Read More About MA242 Cannabinoids in Hemp >>

Read More About MA244 Mycotoxins in Hemp >>

ILAC Guidance Documents

As a result of the recent ballot ILAC G8:09/2019, Guidelines on Decision Rules and Statements of Conformity has been published and is available from https://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-guidance-series/.

This publication was revised by the Accreditation Committee with extensive input from the Laboratory Committee to reflect the requirements of the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17025, in particular the introduction of decision rules. This document aims to provide an overview for laboratory staff, assessors, regulators and customers when considering decision rules and statements of conformity with specifications and standards.

ILAC is the international organisation for accreditation bodies operating in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 and involved in the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies including calibration laboratories (using ISO/IEC 17025), testing laboratories (using ISO/IEC 17025), medical testing
Proud Member and Supporter

Thermo Fisher Scientific is a proud member and supporter of ACIL

At Thermo Fisher Scientific, we embrace innovative technologies that support our mission to help our customers make the world healthier, cleaner and safer.

- As a benefit of ACIL (American Council of Independent Laboratories) membership, we are pleased to offer membership discounts on laboratory equipment, chemicals and consumables.
- Once we receive membership confirmation, we can apply the ACIL Master Purchase Agreement to your Account Number to ensure you receive the negotiated discounts.
- Our technically trained sales organization can assist you with all purchases, or visit thermo Fisher.com to research product purchases, check pricing and delivery, or place orders.
Section Updates

Cannabis Working Group (CWG) of ILI

With more than sixty members representing forty laboratories and other member organizations, the Cannabis Working Group (CWG) has completed the first phase of its projects. The CanNaLap accreditation scheme has been finalized and copyrighted. The next steps will be discussed at the ACIL Annual Meeting set for Tuesday morning, October 8 from 8 am until 12 noon. An agenda for that meeting has been completed.

Conformity Assessment Section (CAS)

CAS continues to monitor for the release of the anticipated OSHA NRTL rules. However, release of the OSHA NRTL rules has not yet taken place. No time frame is set for the release.

NIST continues to provide EMC updates. The titles of the most recent reports provided to ACIL members include: 1) TEL MRA News for CABs - (1) Korea - Annex I Updated; (2) Canada - Must Renew Recognition; 2) NBs: New Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 - Market Surveillance and Product Compliance; 3) EU REDCA Meeting - Internal Report - Other Stakeholders; 4) TEL MRAs - Other Stakeholders; 5) TEL MRA News - Other Stakeholders - Implementation Guidance for the US-UK TEL MRA; 6) TEL MRA News for US Stakeholders: Canada, Vietnam, Hong Kong, EU; and more.

The CAS and FSS will hold a joint meeting during Nashville to discuss the “FDA Pilot Conformity Assessment Program.” Personnel from NIST will participate via conference call to discuss the proposed pilot program.

Unfair competition by government funded labs at the state and university levels remains an active and important issue to the Conformity Assessment Section (CAS) and its working groups (EMC and Third Party Certifier).

Don Heirman, DON HEIRMAN Associates continues his EMC webinar series in 2019. This year, the webinars are being actively promoted to non-ACIL members who will be charged to take part. ACIL members can register free of charge with Beth Horan – bhoran@acil.org – to receive login information.

The remaining webinar for 2019 is: November 6 – “IEC International Special Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR).” The last meeting webinar was held September 16 – “IEC Advisory Committee on EMC- 2nd Meeting (ACEC).”

Construction Materials Engineering and Testing Section (CMET)
The Construction Materials Engineering and Testing Section (CMET) should finalize the changes to the ACIL I-Mark designation by the Annual Meeting in Nashville, TN. The newly designed I-Mark will be more broadly available to CMET members.

The ongoing discussion about the acquisition of the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) by ILI should be finalized by the Annual Meeting as well. The lawyers working with Richard Bright, ACIL COO, expect to have their work completed before October.

CMET is also continuing its discussion of the CMET Training Working Group to discuss program that can be provided to help member and other firms with a variety of training needs. This will be one of the major topics covered during the Annual Meeting.

**Environmental Sciences Section (ESS)**

EPA is beginning to look into issues relating to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Those are a diverse group of compounds resistant to heat, water, and oil. Both EPA and DOD are actively involved in the issues surround PFAS contamination.

On July 24, 2019, a number of ACIL members, led by ESS Chair Judy Morgan of Pace Analytics, flew to Washington, DC to lobby members of Congress on PFAS concerns. Michael Oscar, ACIL Government Relations Director, arranged for over a dozen Hill visits during that day. The ACIL contingent of eight members, presented ACIL’s concerns to members and followed up with official responses to questions from Hill members and staff members. This discussion is active and ongoing.

In August 2019, ESS members discussed industry concerns that have been raised with the preservation and holding time of aqueous samples that are to be analyzed for acrolein and acrylonitrile using EPA GC/MS CWA Method 624.1 or SW-846 Method 8261. The topic was raised to EPA through the former ELAB and EPA’s response to the request for a change in the method and the supporting data was that while they believe such a change may be warranted, additional data would be needed for a change to be approved. Since the ELAB charter is not yet renewed for 2019, ESS voted to proceed in cooperation with EPA on the outlined study. This effort is just beginning and will be a focus of the upcoming ESS meeting in Nashville.

ESS continues to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of a Method 3050C Validation Study. It is hoped that the study could be completed by early 2020.

ESS continues to work to develop training programs for staff members in cooperation with ILI. One current project is a “Purge and Trap” seminar being
Food Sciences Section (FSS)

After extended discussion with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), FSS leadership was able to schedule a meeting with Deputy FDA Commissioner Yiannis on August 8, 2019 regarding ACIL concerns regarding independent testing issues and the lack of regulations for the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). While the meeting appeared to go well, there is no indication of the direction that FDA will take. However, directly related to FSMA, the Center for Food Safety and Center for Environmental Health have filed suit against FDA for not having promulgated regulations dealing with FSMA as required by Congress. This is a major development and ACIL FSS members will discuss the issue going forward to determine the best next steps for FSS and ACIL.

With the passage of the Farm Bill, help is now a legal commodity. ACIL member laboratories are actively looking into the potential business opportunities with the change in status for hemp and hemp products. As hemp is related to cannabis, FSS members are expected to participate in the CWG meeting on Tuesday morning, October 8 in Nashville.

A major discussion point during the FSS meeting in Nashville will be the expansion of FSS involvement with USDA.

ACIL exists to provide advocacy, education, service and mutual support for our members, and thereby enhance the independent testing community.