



GUIDE 38

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General requirements for the acceptance of testing laboratories

Withhold

Foreword

This document was drawn up by the ISO Committee certification, ISO/CERTICO. It was approved by the ISO Council in August 1983 and by the IEC Council in October 1983.

Withdrawn



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General requirements for the acceptance of testing laboratories

This Guide is one of a series covering the requirements for the acceptance of testing laboratories (ISO/IEC Guide 38), the acceptance of inspection bodies (ISO/IEC Guide 39) and the acceptance of certification bodies themselves (ISO/IEC Guide 40).

0 Introduction

0.1 When a testing laboratory's technical competence is acceptable to an appropriate body, that body may grant it recognition for such competence. Such recognition signifies a judgement that the testing laboratory has demonstrated an acceptable level of technical competence in providing the testing services identified in the recognition and further has agreed to comply with the requirements of this Guide.

0.2 Recognition should not be regarded as in any way diminishing the normal contractual responsibilities between testing laboratory and its clients. While recognition will normally be a sound indicator of the technical competence of the testing laboratory, it cannot be taken to constitute a guarantee by the body granting recognition that the testing laboratory always maintains a particular level of performance.

0.3 Considerations of competence, impartiality and integrity are fundamental to the acceptability of a testing activity. Users of testing services must be guided by this fact in making the choice of testing laboratories that they employ.

1 Scope and field of application

The object of this Guide is to set forth the general procedures and administrative conditions necessary for a system of assessment and acceptance of testing laboratories.

Additional requirements and information which must be disclosed for assessing technical competence or for determining compliance with other criteria may be specified by the organization or authority granting the recognition, depending upon the specific character of the task of the laboratory. As used herein, a testing laboratory refers to that facility which is operated at or from a specifically designated location.

This Guide may be used by accrediting bodies, certification bodies, and other governmental or non-governmental bodies concerned with the acceptance, recognition or approval of testing laboratories.

NOTES

- 1 This Guide should be read in conjunction with ISO/IEC Guide 25.
- 2 The testing laboratory or the function it performs could be an integral part of a certification or other body, or it could be a separate entity.
- 3 When a testing laboratory carries out its function on behalf of a certification body, it is required to work to the specific instructions of the certification body.

2 References

ISO Guide 2, *General terms and their definitions concerning standardization, certification and testing laboratory accreditation.*

ISO/IEC Guide 25, *Guidelines for assessing the technical competence of testing laboratories.*