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Requirements for standards suitable for product certification

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1 Introduction

A product is said to conform to a standard if it fulfils all the requirements defined therein.

All parties which make use of a standard for the purposes of conformity certification or declaration of conformity e.g. certification organizations, testing and inspection bodies that are used by certification bodies, manufacturers and users of the products in question, must be able to derive from the contents of the standard a common understanding of their meaning and intent. The standards must be written so as to be clear and precise and result in accurate and uniform interpretation.

The aim of this Guide is to assist technical committees in drafting standards in such a way that they are suitable for certification purposes. It must be borne in mind that such standards could also be used for purposes other than certification such as in contractual documents between buyer and seller and the like.

If a standard is intended to be used for certification or if it is apparent that it could be used for certification, the technical committee should, in addition to including representatives of all interests concerned, include persons with certification experience.