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**Conformity assessment — Vocabulary  
related to competence of persons used  
for certification of persons**

*Évaluation de la conformité — Vocabulaire lié à la compétence des  
personnes utilisée pour la certification de personnes*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of conformity assessment, the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO) is responsible for the development of International Standards and Guides.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

In other circumstances, particularly when there is an urgent market requirement for such documents, a technical committee may decide to publish other types of document:

- an ISO/IEC Publicly Available Specification (ISO/IEC PAS) represents an agreement between technical experts in an ISO working group and is accepted for publication if it is approved by more than 50 % of the members of the parent committee casting a vote;
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An ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is reviewed after three years in order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn. If the ISO/PAS or ISO/TS is confirmed, it is reviewed again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO/IEC/TS 17027 was prepared by the *ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO)*.

It was circulated for voting to the national bodies of both ISO and IEC, and was approved by both organizations.

## Introduction

This Technical Specification specifies the terms and definitions related to competence and certification of persons, including relevant training terminology. ISO has published a number of standards and other related documents referring to competence of persons (e.g. ISO 9001, ISO/IEC 17021, ISO/IEC 17024), and this has highlighted a need to develop consistent terminology.

The objective of this Technical Specification is to facilitate a common understanding among interested parties of the vocabulary associated with certification and competence of persons. It is also intended to be beneficial in increasing alignment across standards that relate to credentials.

In this Technical Specification, the verbal form “can” indicates a possibility or a capability. Further details can be found in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

# Conformity assessment — Vocabulary related to competence of persons used for certification of persons

## 1 Scope

This Technical Specification specifies terms and definitions related to the competence of persons used in the field of certification of persons, in order to establish a common vocabulary. These terms and definitions can also be used as applicable in other documents specifying competence of persons, such as regulations, standards, certification schemes, research, training, licensing and registration.