



GUIDE 68

Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results

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Published in Switzerland

Foreword

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ISO/IEC Guide 68 was prepared by the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO).

Introduction

The primary objective of conformity assessment is to provide confidence for users that requirements applicable to products, services and systems have been met. Such confidence, in turn, directly contributes to the market acceptance (which may include regulatory compliance) of those products, services and systems.

One of the reasons why internationally traded goods and services are subject to repetitive conformity assessments is a lack of confidence by users of conformity assessment in one country regarding the competence of bodies carrying out conformity assessment activities in other countries. Confidence in the work of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies is therefore essential to private and public purchasers, regulators and other users.

Such user confidence can be achieved through cooperation among conformity assessment bodies and/or accreditation bodies, resulting in mutual recognition and promotion across borders of each participant's work.

The elements and procedures used so far and found practical for establishing and maintaining such cooperations are described in this Guide.

Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results

1 Scope

This Guide provides an introduction to the development, issuance and operation of arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of results produced by bodies undertaking similar conformity assessment and related activities. The activities to which this guidance is intended to apply are those related to the conduct of unregulated marketplace transactions extending across borders from one country to another. While agreements among governments pertaining to transactions of regulated goods and services can take into account the agreements addressed by this Guide, the guidance provided here is introductory and general in nature and does not specifically address any special requirements that governmental agreements might generate.

Some countries may be concerned about having the necessary human and institutional resources with respect to conformity assessment infrastructures which would permit them to participate in such arrangements. Guidance on the acquisition and development of the resources required is beyond the scope of this Guide.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC Guide 2:1996, *Standardization and related activities — General vocabulary*