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Conformity assessment — Example of a certification scheme for tangible products

Évaluation de la conformité — Exemple d'un schéma de certification pour des produits tangibles

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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 are circulated to the national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

In exceptional circumstances, when a technical committee has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard ("state of the art", for example), it may decide by a simple majority vote of its participating members to publish a Technical Report. A Technical Report is entirely informative in nature and does not have to be reviewed until the data it provides are considered to be no longer valid or useful.

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 TR 17026 was prepared by the *ISO Committee on conformity assessment* (CASCO).

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Introduction

Product certification is used ever more widely to provide confidence that products, processes and services fulfil specified requirements.

This Technical Report is intended to provide useful information to those involved in product certification on the application of ISO/IEC 17067. It provides an example of a type 5 scheme, as outlined in ISO/IEC 17067, related to the certification of tangible products.

There are many different ways in which product certification is operated in practice. This Technical Report does not prevent scheme owners, in consultation with other stakeholders, from adopting other measures or using them in different combinations to achieve a fit-for-purpose scheme.

In particular, the range of activities used, and the intensity with which they are applied, need to be proportionate to the consequences and likelihood of a product in service failing to fulfil specified requirements. Factors such as the particular characteristics of the marketplace, the product technology and the production methods related to the products also need to be taken into account.

The principal stakeholders, who are most affected by the rules, procedures and management of the scheme, are the following:

— the scheme owner;

— the certification body/bodies;

— the manufacturers of certified products;

— users of the certified product and entities that rely on certification.

NOTE Where a certification body runs its own scheme, the certification body is the scheme owner.

Other stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

— regulatory authorities;

— specifiers, purchasers and users of certified products;

— conformity assessment bodies, such as testing laboratories and inspection bodies, involved in the product certification process;

— accreditation bodies and peer assessment groups;

— international certification schemes that facilitate the recognition of certification status from one scheme owner to another;

— consumers.

This Technical Report contains neither normative requirements (expressed by “shall”) nor recommendations (expressed by “should”). It is intended solely as an example of a type 5 product certification scheme.

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Conformity assessment — Example of a certification scheme for tangible products

1 Scope

This Technical Report provides an example of a type 5 product certification scheme for tangible products as described in ISO/IEC 17067.

NOTE 1 The example provided in this Technical Report relates to a certification scheme for products. However, if applicable, it can also be used as a basis for developing certification schemes for services and processes (see type 6 as described in ISO/IEC 17067).

NOTE 2 In the context of this Technical Report, the assessment of a management system as part of product certification does not constitute the certification of the management system.

NOTE 3 This Technical Report is intended to provide useful information to those involved in product certification on the application of ISO/IEC 17067.

2 Normative references

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

ISO/IEC 17000:2004, *Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*

ISO/IEC 17065:2012, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*

ISO/IEC 17067:2013, *Conformity assessment — Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17000, ISO/IEC 17067 and ISO/IEC 17065 apply.

4 General description of the example scheme

4.1 Development and operation of a product certification scheme

General provisions for the development and operation of a product certification scheme are stipulated in ISO/IEC 17067:2013, Clause 6. This Technical Report provides an example of how those general provisions are implemented in a particular type 5 product certification scheme. The example is not intended to limit in any way the decisions of scheme owners when developing and operating their own schemes. They may develop alternative product certification schemes including those described in ISO/IEC 17067.

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