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General rules for a model third-party certification system for products

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Foreword

This document was drawn up by the ISO Committee on certification, ISO/CERTICO. It was approved by the IEC Council in June 1982 and by the ISO Council in November 1982.



General rules for a model third-party certification system for products

0 Introduction

These model general rules are valid for the following type of certification system :

A third party certification system of determining conformity with product standards through initial testing and assessment of a factory quality management system and its acceptance followed by surveillance that takes into account the factory quality management system and the testing of samples from the factory and the open market.

NOTE — This model system corresponds to system No. 5 as described in ISO/ITC Publication, *Certification — Principles and practice*. This system was chosen because it was the most comprehensive and could thus offer the best basis for the eventual development of other systems.

The identification of conformity may be in the form of a certificate of conformity or a mark of conformity. (See ISO/IEC Guide 23.)

A certification body operating the system at national level shall as a minimum have a suitable organizational structure¹⁾ and utilize personnel, equipment, and operating procedures that comply with the criteria given in ISO Guide 24 and ISO/IEC Guide 25 (latest edition).

Any certification scheme under the system requires as a prerequisite a standard that is suitable for certification purposes. (See ISO/IEC Guide 7.)

1 References

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

ISO/IEC Guide 7, *Requirements for standards suitable for product certification*.

ISO/IEC Guide 23, *Methods of indicating conformity with standards for third-party certification systems*.

ISO Guide 24, *Guidelines for the acceptance of testing and inspection agencies by certification bodies*.

ISO/IEC Guide 25, *General requirements for the technical competence of testing laboratories*.

2 Definitions

The relevant definitions of ISO Guide 2-1980 and its Addendum 1-1981 are applicable.

3 Basic conditions

The basic conditions for obtaining and retaining the licence²⁾ to issue a certificate of conformity or to use a mark of conformity are that the applicant/licensee follows these General Rules and the Specific Rules³⁾ of the relevant scheme and that he applies the identification of conformity only to products that are within the scope of his licence and are in conformity with the relevant standard(s).

4 Application for licence

The application shall be made on a special form obtainable from the certification body. An example of such a form is given in annex B.

The application relates to the specific product or group of products determined by the certification scheme and specified in the Specific Rules. It should normally cover products coming from one factory only.

1) Guidelines on this subject are in preparation within ISO/CERTICO.

2) For the purpose of this document the words "licence" and "licensee" are used although the granting of a licence is only one of several means of indicating that the applicant concerned has been accepted by the certification body.

3) For Specific Rules, see annex A.