

**Vastavushindamine. Üldnõuded  
vastavushindamisasutusi akrediteerivatele  
akrediteerimisasutustele**

Conformity assessment - General requirements for  
accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment  
bodies

## EESTI STANDARDI EESSÕNA

## NATIONAL FOREWORD

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**EUROPÄISCHE NORM  
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**Konformitätsbewertung —  
Allgemeine Anforderungen an Akkreditierungsstellen,  
die Konformitätsbewertungsstellen akkreditieren  
(ISO/IEC 17011:2004)**

Conformity assessment — General requirements  
for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity  
assessment bodies  
(ISO/IEC 17011:2004)

Diese Europäische Norm wurde von CENELEC am 1. Juli 2004  
angenommen.

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Zypern.

Évaluation de la conformité — Exigences générales pour  
les organes d'accréditation procédant à l'accréditation des  
organes d'évaluation de la conformité  
(ISO/IEC 17011:2004)

This European Standard was approved by CENELEC on  
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CEN and CENELEC members are bound to comply with the  
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## Foreword

This document EN ISO/IEC 17011:2004 has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/CASCO "Committee on Conformity Assessment" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/CENELEC/TC 1 "Criteria for conformity assessment bodies", the secretariat of which is held by SN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by March 2005, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by March 2005.

This document supersedes EN 45003:1995 and EN 45010:1998.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

### Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/IEC 17011:2004 has been approved by CEN and CENELEC as EN ISO/IEC 17011:2004 without any modifications.

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## Introduction

In the regulatory sector, government authorities implement laws covering the approval of products (including services) for reasons of safety, health, environmental protection, fraud prevention or market fairness. In the voluntary sector, many lines of industry have, both within an economy as well as globally, set up systems for conformity assessment and approval, aiming at achieving a minimum technical level, enabling comparability, and also ensuring competition on equal terms.

A prerequisite for trade on equal terms is that any product (including services), accepted formally in one economy, must also be free to circulate in other economies without having to undergo extensive re-testing, re-inspection, re-certification, etc. This should be the case regardless of whether the product (including services) falls wholly or partly under the regulatory sector.

In today's society it is often required to state objectively conformity of products (including services) to specified requirements. Conformity assessment bodies (CABs) can objectively state such conformity. These CABs perform conformity assessment activities that include certification, inspection, testing, and in the context of this International Standard, calibration.

It is important for the purchaser, regulator and the public to know that these CABs are competent to perform their tasks. For that reason there is an increasing demand for impartial verification of their competence. Such verification is done by authoritative accreditation bodies that are impartial in relation to both the CABs and their clients, and which normally operate in a non-profit distributing manner (see Figure 1).

A system to accredit CAB conformity assessment services should provide confidence to the purchaser and regulator. Such a system should facilitate cross-border trade, as pursued by trade authorities and organizations. The ultimate goal is to achieve one-stop accreditation and one-stop conformity assessment.

A "cross border" trade facilitating system can work well if accreditation bodies and CABs all operate to globally accepted requirements in an equivalent manner and take into account the interests of all parties concerned.

This International Standard specifies the general requirements for accreditation bodies. Peer evaluation mechanisms have been created at regional and international levels, through which assurance is provided that accreditation bodies are operating in accordance with this International Standard. Those who have passed such an evaluation can become members of mutual recognition arrangements. Through regular re-evaluations, the continued adherence to this International Standard is assured.

These mutual recognition arrangement members facilitate the one-stop process, through recognition, promotion and acceptance of each other's accredited conformity assessments. This means that a CAB in an economy should not need to be accredited more than once for the same scope by different accreditation bodies.

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies general requirements for accreditation bodies assessing and accrediting conformity assessment bodies (CABs). It is also appropriate as a requirements document for the peer evaluation process for mutual recognition arrangements between accreditation bodies.

Accreditation bodies operating in accordance with this International Standard do not have to offer accreditation to all types of CABs.

For the purposes of this International Standard, CABs are organizations providing the following conformity assessment services: testing, inspection, management system certification, personnel certification, product certification and in the context of this International Standard, calibration.

NOTE General requirements for these bodies have been established, for example in International Standards and Guides (examples of which are given in the Bibliography).

## 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 9000:2000, *Quality management systems — Fundamentals and vocabulary*

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

VIM:1993, *International vocabulary of basic and general terms in metrology*, issued by BIPM, IEC, IFCC, ISO, IUPAC, IUPAP and OIML