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**Conformity assessment — Impartiality —  
Principles and requirements**

*Évaluation de la conformité — Impartialité — Principes et exigences*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization. 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 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 normative document:

- an ISO Publicly Available Specification (ISO/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;
- an ISO Technical Specification (ISO/TS) represents an agreement between the members of a technical committee and is accepted for publication if it is approved by 2/3 of the members of the committee casting a vote.

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order to decide whether it will be confirmed for a further three years, revised to become an International Standard, or withdrawn.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again after a further three years, at which time it must either be transformed into an International Standard or be withdrawn.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/PAS 17001 was prepared by the ISO *Committee on conformity assessment* (CASCO).

## Introduction

In 2001, the ISO Council asked its policy committee on conformity assessment (CASCO) to study and prepare a group of common elements for application in future ISO documents on conformity assessment. Subsequent to this request, ISO/CASCO approved the formation of Working Group 23, *Common elements in ISO/IEC Standards for conformity assessment activities*, to undertake this task.

The working group has identified several common elements, including among others

- impartiality (ISO/PAS 17001),
- confidentiality (ISO/PAS 17002),
- complaints and appeals (ISO/PAS 17003),
- disclosure of information (ISO/PAS 17004),
- management systems (ISO/PAS 17005).

This Publicly Available Specification (PAS) addresses the “impartiality” element that occurs in many of the ISO/IEC Guides and International Standards on conformity assessment.

This Publicly Available Specification covers the agreed principles that give substance to the element of impartiality, and also provides requirements clauses intended to be included in future ISO/IEC International Standards on conformity assessment.

This Publicly Available Specification is intended to apply to the drafting of documents on conformity assessment by ISO/CASCO.

Clause 4 (Background) contains some comments on the importance of impartiality to conformity assessment.

Clause 5 (Principles of impartiality) contains statements that are intended to orientate ISO/CASCO working groups in their task of creating requirements to address impartiality in their documents.

The requirements to be inserted into future ISO/CASCO documents that cover the common element of “impartiality” are detailed in Clause 6. ISO/CASCO has adopted a common structure for presentation of requirements. Requirements are grouped under one or more of the following headings:

- a) General requirements;
- b) Structural requirements;
- c) Resource requirements;
- d) Process requirements;
- e) Management system requirements.

As such, each of the common elements will have requirements related to it grouped under one or more of the headings given in a) to e).

This PAS is not intended to become a future International Standard. At the end of three years after the date of publication, it is expected this PAS will be withdrawn and its contents incorporated as appropriate in relevant ISO/CASCO normative and guidance documents.

# Conformity assessment — Impartiality — Principles and requirements

## 1 Scope

This Publicly Available Specification (PAS) contains principles and requirements for the element of impartiality as it relates to standards for conformity assessment.

It is an internal tool for use in the ISO/IEC standards development process by ISO/CASCO working groups when considering the element of impartiality in preparation of their documents.

This Publicly Available Specification is not a stand alone normative document to be used directly in conformity assessment activities.

## 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 17000:2004, *Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

NOTE The use of the term “body” in this Publicly Available Specification means either an accreditation body or a conformity assessment body as defined in ISO/IEC 17000.

## 4 Background

**4.1** Impartiality is an element made up of several components. These components are attributes that are considered fundamental in a body or person that performs conformity assessment activities. The components include:

- a) undertaking conformity assessment activities in an objective manner without bias;
- b) identification of existing and potential conflicts of interests and their active management so as to ensure objectivity;
- c) independence of the conformity assessment body, as well as the individuals performing the conformity assessment activities, from any other organization or person having an interest in the result of the conformity assessment activities;
- d) awareness of the responsibility and liability that come with undertaking conformity assessment activities and making conformity assessment decisions or/and attestations.