INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

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Medical laboratories — Particular requirements for quality and competence

Laboratoires d'analyses de biologie médicale — Exigences particulières concernant la qualité et la compétence

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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.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees 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.

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 15189 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 212, *Clinical laboratory testing and* in vitro *diagnostic test systems*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15189:2003) which has been technically revised in order to align it more closely with the second edition of ISO/IEC 17025.

Introduction

This International Standard, based upon ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 9001, provides requirements for competence and quality that are particular to medical laboratories[1)]. It is acknowledged that a country could have its own specific regulations or requirements applicable to some or all its professional personnel and their activities and responsibilities in this domain.

Medical laboratory services are essential to patient care and therefore have to be available to meet the needs of all patients and the clinical personnel responsible for the care of those patients. Such services include arrangements for requisition, patient preparation, patient identification, collection of samples, transportation, storage, processing and examination of clinical samples, together with subsequent validation, interpretation, reporting and advice, in addition to the considerations of safety and ethics in medical laboratory work.

Whenever allowed by national regulations, it is desirable that medical laboratory services include the examination of patients in consultation cases, and that those services actively participate in the prevention of disease in addition to diagnosis and patient management. Each laboratory ought also to provide suitable educational and scientific opportunities for professional staff working with it.

While this International Standard is intended for use throughout the currently recognised disciplines of medical laboratory services, those working in other services and disciplines could also find it useful and appropriate. In addition, bodies engaged in the recognition of the competence of medical laboratories will be able to use this International Standard as the basis for their activities. If a laboratory seeks accreditation, it should select an accrediting body which operates to appropriate international standards and which takes into account the particular requirements of medical laboratories.

Demonstrated conformity to this International Standard does not imply conformity of the quality management system within which the laboratory operates to all the requirements of ISO 9001. This International Standard is not intended to be used for the purposes of certification.

The correlation between the clauses and subclauses of this second edition of ISO 15189 and those of ISO 9001:2000 and of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is detailed in Annex A of this International Standard.

1) In other languages, these laboratories can be designated by the equivalent of the English term “clinical laboratories.”

Medical laboratories — Particular requirements for quality and competence

1 Scope

1.1 This International Standard specifies requirements for quality and competence particular to medical laboratories.

1.2 This International Standard is for use by medical laboratories in developing their quality management systems and assessing their own competence, and for use by accreditation bodies in confirming or recognising the competence of medical laboratories.

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 31 (all parts), *Quantities and units*

ISO 9000:2005, *Quality management systems — Fundamentals and vocabulary*

ISO 9001:2000, *Quality management systems — Requirements*

ISO/IEC Guide 43-1, *Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons — Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes*

ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
accreditation
procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks

3.2
accuracy of measurement
closeness of the agreement between the result of a measurement and a true value of the measurand

[VIM:1993, definition 3.5]