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## **GUIDE 28**

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# **Conformity assessment — Guidance on a third-party certification system for products**

Second edition 2004

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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 Guides adopted by the responsible Committee or Group are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as a Guide requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

ISO/IEC Guide 28 was prepared by the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO).

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC Guide 28:1982), which has been technically revised.

## Introduction

This Guide serves to provide a model for a third-party certification system for products, but does not exclude the existence of other useful models for third-party conformity assessment systems. There are many types of possible systems depending on the type of product requiring certification.

The usefulness of ISO/IEC Guide 28:1982 as a model third-party certification system for products has been well recognized. This revision confirms the status of this Guide as an authoritative and reliable, though not exclusive, model of a product certification system.

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# Conformity assessment — Guidance on a third-party certification system for products

## 1 Scope

This Guide gives general guidelines for a specific product certification system.

It is applicable to a third-party product certification system for determining the conformity of a product with specified requirements through initial testing of samples of the product, assessment and surveillance of the involved quality system, and surveillance by testing of product samples taken from the factory or the open market, or both. This Guide addresses conditions for use of a mark of conformity and conditions for granting a certificate of conformity.

This system corresponds to system 5 product certification system as described in ISO/IEC Guide 67.

A model checklist of requirements for a third-party certification system is given in Annex A.

## 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*

ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996, *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*

## 3 Terms and definitions

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

## 4 Application for certification

The application is 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 for which certification is requested by the applicant and as determined by the product certification scheme.

On acceptance of a completed application form and receipt of the deposit, if required, the certification body provides the applicant with an estimate of the time required for conduct of the initial evaluation, and any further information necessary for the processing of the application.