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***In vitro* diagnostic medical devices —  
Information supplied by the manufacturer  
(labelling) —**

**Part 1:  
Terms, definitions and general  
requirements**

*Dispositifs médicaux de diagnostic in vitro — Informations fournies par  
le fabricant (étiquetage) —*

*Partie 1: Termes, définitions et exigences générales*



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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 18113-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 212, *Clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems*.

ISO 18113 consists of the following parts, under the general title *In vitro diagnostic medical devices — Information supplied by the manufacturer (labelling)*:

- *Part 1: Terms, definitions and general requirements*
- *Part 2: In vitro diagnostic reagents for professional use*
- *Part 3: In vitro diagnostic instruments for professional use*
- *Part 4: In vitro diagnostic reagents for self-testing*
- *Part 5: In vitro diagnostic instruments for self-testing*

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## Introduction

Manufacturers of *in vitro* diagnostic (IVD) medical devices supply users with information to enable the safe use and expected performance of their devices. Traditionally, this information has been provided in the form of labels, package inserts and user manuals, where the type and level of detail would depend on the intended uses and country-specific regulations.

The Global Harmonization Task Force (GHTF) encourages convergence of the evolution of regulatory systems for medical devices at the global level. The goal is to facilitate trade while preserving the right of participating members to address the protection of public health by regulatory means. Consistent worldwide labelling requirements offer significant benefits to manufacturers, users, patients and regulatory authorities. Eliminating differences among regulatory jurisdictions could allow patients earlier access to new technologies and treatments by decreasing the time necessary to gain regulatory compliance. See Reference [36]. This part of ISO 18113 provides a basis for harmonization of labelling requirements for IVD medical devices.

The GHTF has established guiding principles that apply to the labelling of medical devices. See Reference [36]. These principles have been incorporated into the ISO 18113 series. Of particular note, GHTF states that country-specific requirements for the content, wording and format of labels and instructions for use should be kept to a minimum, and eliminated over time as the opportunities arise.

This part of ISO 18113 contains a comprehensive list of terms and definitions necessary to develop the labelling for IVD medical devices. Internationally agreed-upon definitions of important concepts promote greater consistency in IVD medical device labelling. While the goal is to standardize the terminology used in IVD medical device labelling to the extent possible, it is also recognised that current national and regional usage by medical laboratories, healthcare providers, patients and regulatory authorities must be respected.

An obstacle to the timely and affordable availability of IVD medical devices in some countries is the requirement for information to appear in multiple languages. Wherever practical, GHTF encourages the use of standardized, internationally recognised symbols as long as safe use of the device is not compromised by diminished understanding on the part of the user. This part of ISO 18113 provides support for the use of symbols consistent with the GHTF objectives.

GHTF also encourages manufacturers to employ the most appropriate methods of delivering information. Until recently, most information had been supplied as printed materials accompanying the IVD medical device. Modern technologies enable instructions for use and technical information to be provided using a more efficient means of delivery. Information can be digitally encoded on magnetic or optical media, displayed on a screen, incorporated in the device, or even transmitted over the internet at the time of use. These advances offer users the possibility of more timely availability of critical information, such as performance changes, and offer manufacturers more effective means of disseminating the information.

The ISO 18113 series specifies requirements for information supplied by the manufacturer of IVD medical devices. It consists of five parts, allowing it to address the specific needs of professional users and self-testing users in the most appropriate manner. Furthermore, since manufacturers provide different types of information for IVD reagents and instruments, their requirements are addressed in separate parts of the ISO 18113 series.

This part of ISO 18113 is not intended to be used alone. It contains terms, definitions and general principles that apply to all parts of ISO 18113. In addition, guidelines for the terms and definitions that describe the performance characteristics of IVD medical devices are given in Annex A. This information is not repeated in the subsequent parts, so this document is indispensable to the application of ISO 18113-2, ISO 18113-3, ISO 18113-4 and ISO 18113-5.

ISO 18113-2 specifies the requirements for labels and instructions for use supplied with IVD reagents, calibrators and control materials for professional use. ISO 18113-3 specifies the requirements for labels and instructions for use supplied with IVD instruments for professional use. ISO 18113-4 specifies the

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requirements for labels and instructions for use supplied with IVD reagents, calibrators and control materials for self-testing. ISO 18113-5 specifies the requirements for labels and instructions for use supplied with IVD instruments for self-testing.

Parts 1, 2 and 3 of ISO 18113 are the International Standards necessary for IVD medical devices intended for medical laboratories and other professional uses; Parts 1, 4 and 5 of ISO 18113 are the International Standards necessary for IVD medical devices intended for self-testing. However, recognising that manufacturers often provide systems comprising an instrument with dedicated reagents, these International Standards allow the flexibility to provide the necessary information in the most appropriate format for the intended users, for example, a single operator's manual for an integrated IVD medical device system.