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Paper, board and pulps — General requirements for the competence of laboratories authorized for the issue of optical reference transfer standards of level 3

Papiers, cartons et pâtes — Exigences générales concernant la compétence des laboratoires autorisés pour la délivrance des étalons de référence de transfert optique de niveau 3



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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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 6, *Paper, board and pulps*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 4094:2005). This version underwent major changes and now follows the requirements and adopts the format of ISO/IEC 17025.

Introduction

The main objectives of standardization of testing methods are to create the means by which comparable results can be obtained on different occasions, with different instruments and in different laboratories, and to control the processes that determine the acceptability of a product. Most testing methods for paper, board and pulps are linked by some type of reference standards to which the numerical results are to be related. In many cases, the comparison is made by means of readily available instruments of appropriate accuracy: for example, a balance with certified weights, a chronometer, a calibrated length-measuring device such as a micrometer, etc. However, in certain instances, the relation to the reference standard may not be obvious, or there may be practical problems in measuring particular properties; the test method should therefore include additional instructions for ensuring reasonable accuracy of the results. This may be accomplished with the aid of transfer standards, when the results are related either to certain properties of a unique reference standard, or to results obtained at specified laboratories entrusted with the performance of certain delicate measurements. Standardizing Laboratories and Authorized Laboratories act as links in supplying the transfer standards required.

The acceptance of testing and calibration results between countries will be facilitated if specified laboratories authorized to issue optical reference transfer standards comply with this document or if they obtain accreditation from bodies which have entered into mutual recognition agreements with equivalent bodies in other countries using this document.

The use of this document will facilitate cooperation between specified laboratories authorized to issue optical reference transfer standards and other bodies, and assist in the exchange of information and experience, and in the harmonization of calibration standards and procedures.

A laboratory's fulfilment of the requirements of this document means the laboratory meets both the general and specific technical competence requirements, and the management system requirements that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid results.