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Reference materials — Good practice in using reference materials

*Matériaux de référence — Bonne pratique d'utilisation des
matériaux de référence*



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Foreword

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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 meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/REMCO, *Committee on reference materials*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO Guide 33:2000), and ISO Guide 32:1997 which have been technically revised.

Introduction

The aim of this Guide is to provide general recommendations on the use of RMs. These recommendations are exemplified by real-world examples, which to some degree also reflect the level of complexity associated with RMs. This level of detail is deemed to be useful for anyone who has a responsibility in the quality management in laboratories, such as drafters, reviewers, managers, and assessors of procedures, working instructions, standard operating procedures and the like.

The main applications of reference materials are calibration, establishing traceability, method validation, assigning values to other materials, and quality control.