



GUIDE 23

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Methods of indicating conformity with standards for third-party certification systems



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0 Introduction

With the increased development of international trade and the increased demands by government authorities, purchasers, consumers and others to establish whether a product or service conforms with standards, it is becoming more and more important that the methods of indicating such conformity should be clearly understood.

The questions which arise in considering this need would include :

- what is being certified?
- by whom is it certified?
- who requires the certification?
- why is evidence of conformity required?
- how best is information on conformity transmitted to the buyer, user (consumer) or government authorities?

1 Scope and field of application

This Guide lays down methods of indicating conformity with standards and reference thereto in standards. Whilst it is directed specifically to conformity with standards, it is recognized that it may be equally applicable to conformity with other technical specifications. It applies to indications of conformity made under the authority of a certification body. This Guide is primarily intended for International Standards but may be used for national standards or other purposes.

2 Reference

ISO Guide 2-1980, *General terms and their definitions concerning standardization and certification.*

3 Definitions

The relevant definitions which appear in ISO Guide 2 are applicable, except that, for the purpose of this document, the following definitions apply :

3.1 mark of conformity : A legally registered certification mark applied by or issued under the procedures of a third-party certification system for a product or service which is in conformity with specific standards or other technical specifications.

3.2 certificate of conformity : A document issued under the procedures of a third-party certification system and attesting that a product or a service is in conformity with specific standards or other technical specifications.¹⁾

1) It is recognized that certificates of conformity may have different meanings and applications in different countries.