



GUIDE 68

Arrangements for the recognition and acceptance of conformity assessment results

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Foreword

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Introduction

The primary objective of conformity assessment is to provide confidence for users that requirements applicable to products, services and systems have been met. Such confidence, in turn, directly contributes to the market acceptance (which may include regulatory compliance) of those products, services and systems.

One of the reasons why internationally traded goods and services are subject to repetitive conformity assessments is a lack of confidence by users of conformity assessment in one country regarding the competence of bodies carrying out conformity assessment activities in other countries. Confidence in the work of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies is therefore essential to private and public purchasers, regulators and other users.

Such user confidence can be achieved through cooperation among conformity assessment bodies and/or accreditation bodies, resulting in mutual recognition and promotion across borders of each participant's work.

The elements and procedures used so far and found practical for establishing and maintaining such cooperations are described in this Guide.