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Irish Standard
I.S. EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012

Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (ISO/IEC 17024:2012)

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NSAI
1 Swift Square,
Northwood, Santry
Dublin 9

T +353 1 807 3800
F +353 1 807 3838
E standards@nsai.ie

W **NSAI.ie**

Sales:
T +353 1 857 6730
F +353 1 857 6729
W standards.ie

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

EN ISO/IEC 17024

July 2012

ICS 03.120.20

Supersedes EN ISO/IEC 17024:2003

English version

Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons (ISO/IEC 17024:2012)

Évaluation de la conformité - Exigences générales pour les organismes de certification procédant à la certification de personnes (ISO/IEC 17024:2012)

Konformitätsbewertung - Allgemeine Anforderungen an Stellen, die Personen zertifizieren (ISO/IEC 17024:2012)

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CEN Management Centre:
Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

CENELEC Management Centre:
Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

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Foreword

This document (EN ISO/IEC 17024:2012) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/CASCO "Committee on conformity assessment" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN/CLC/TC 1 “Criteria for conformity assessment bodies” the secretariat of which is held by BSI.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by January 2013, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by January 2013.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO/IEC 17024

Second edition
2012-07-01

Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons

Évaluation de la conformité — Exigences générales pour les organismes de certification procédant à la certification de personnes

Reference number
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Case postale 56 • CH-1211 Geneva 20
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Fax + 41 22 749 09 47
E-mail copyright@iso.org
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of conformity assessment, the ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO) is responsible for the development of International Standards and Guides.

International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

Draft International Standards are circulated to the national bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the national bodies casting a vote.

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ISO/IEC 17024, was prepared by the *ISO Committee on conformity assessment (CASCO).*

It was circulated for voting to the national bodies of both ISO and IEC, and was approved by both organizations.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 17024:2003), which has been technically revised.

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Introduction

This International Standard has been developed with the objective of achieving and promoting a globally accepted benchmark for organizations operating certification of persons. Certification for persons is one means of providing assurance that the certified person meets the requirements of the certification scheme. Confidence in the respective certification schemes for persons is achieved by means of a globally accepted process of assessment and periodic re-assessments of the competence of certified persons.

However, it is necessary to distinguish between situations where certification schemes for persons are justified and situations where other forms of qualification are more appropriate. The development of certification schemes for persons, in response to the ever increasing velocity of technological innovation and growing specialization of personnel, can compensate for variations in education and training and thus facilitate the global job market. Alternatives to certification can still be necessary in positions where public services, official or governmental operations are concerned.

In contrast to other types of conformity assessment bodies, such as management system certification bodies, one of the characteristic functions of the certification body for persons is to conduct an examination, which uses objective criteria to measure competence and scoring. While it is recognized that such an examination, if well planned and structured by the certification body for persons, can substantially serve to ensure impartiality of operations and reduce the risk of a conflict of interest, additional requirements have been included in this International Standard.

In either case, this International Standard can serve as the basis for the recognition of the certification bodies for persons and the certification schemes under which persons are certified, in order to facilitate their acceptance at the national and international levels. Only the harmonization of the system for developing and maintaining certification schemes for persons can establish the environment for mutual recognition and the global exchange of personnel.

This International Standard specifies requirements which ensure that certification bodies for persons operating certification schemes for persons operate in a consistent, comparable and reliable manner. The requirements in this International Standard are considered to be general requirements for bodies providing certification of persons. Certification of persons can only occur when there is a certification scheme. The certification scheme is designed to supplement the requirements included in this International Standard and include those requirements that the market needs or desires, or that are required by governments.

This International Standard can be used as a criteria document for accreditation or peer evaluation or designation by governmental authorities, scheme owners and others.

In this International Standard, the following verbal forms are used:

— “shall” indicates a requirement;

— “should” indicates a recommendation;

— “may” indicates a permission;

— “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Further details can be found in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

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