MAURITIAN
STANDARD

**MS ISO/IEC
17024:2012**

First edition
2012-11-24

**Conformity assessment – General
requirements for bodies operating
certification of persons**

ICS 03.120.20

**Mauritius Standards Bureau
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National foreword

This Mauritian Standard is identical with the International Standard **ISO/IEC 17024:2012(E)**, *Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons*. It was adopted by the Mauritius Standards Bureau in 2012 on the recommendation of the **Conformity Assessment Standards Committee** and approved by the **Standards Council** on 29 October 2012. It was notified in the Government Gazette on **24 November 2012***.

For the purposes of this standard the following change should be made:

the words 'International Standard' should be replaced by 'Mauritian Standard'

The following Mauritian Standard is identical to the International Standard, which is referenced in the adopted standard:

International Standard   **Corresponding Mauritian Standard**

ISO/IEC 17000   **MS ISO/IEC 17000**, *Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles*

* General Notice No. 2458 of 2012

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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.

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

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.

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.

Conformity assessment — General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons

1 Scope

This International Standard contains principles and requirements for a body certifying persons against specific requirements, and includes the development and maintenance of a certification scheme for persons.

NOTE For the purposes of this International Standard, the term "certification body" is used in place of the full term "certification body for persons", and the term "certification scheme" is used in place of the full term "certification scheme for persons".

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 17000, *Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17000 and the following apply.

3.1
certification process
activities by which a certification body determines that a person fulfils **certification requirements** (3.3), including application, assessment, decision on certification, recertification and use of **certificates** (3.5) and logos/marks

3.2
certification scheme
competence (3.6) and other requirements related to specific occupational or skilled categories of persons

NOTE For other requirements, see 8.3 and 8.4.

3.3
certification requirements
set of specified requirements, including requirements of the scheme to be fulfilled in order to establish or maintain certification

3.4
scheme owner
organization responsible for developing and maintaining a **certification scheme** (3.2)

NOTE The organization can be the certification body itself, a governmental authority, or other.