

Australian/New Zealand Standard™

**Conformity assessment—Fundamentals
of product certification and guidelines
for product certification schemes**



AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17067:2015

This Joint Australian/New Zealand Standard was prepared by Joint Technical Committee QR-010, Conformity Assessment. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 14 April 2015 and on behalf of the Council of Standards New Zealand on 10 April 2015.

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The following are represented on Committee QR-010:

Association of Accredited Certification Bodies
Australasian Procurement and Construction Council
Australian Information Industry Association
Certification Interests (Australia)
Consumers Federation of Australia
International Accreditation New Zealand
Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee QR-010, Conformity Assessment.

The objective of this Standard is to describe the fundamentals of product certification and provide guidelines for understanding, developing, operating or maintaining certification schemes for products, processes and services.

It is intended for use by all with an interest in product certification, and especially by certification scheme owners.

In this Standard the term ‘product’ can also be read as ‘process’ or ‘service’, except in those instances where separate provisions are stated for ‘processes’ or ‘services’. Definitions of product, process and service are given in ISO/IEC 17065.

The certification of products, processes and services is a third-party conformity assessment activity (see ISO/IEC 17000) carried out by product certification bodies. The requirements for product certification bodies are specified in ISO/IEC 17065.

This Standard is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO/IEC 17067:2013, *Conformity assessment—Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes*.

As this Standard is reproduced from an International Standard, the following applies:

- (a) In the source text ‘this International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian/New Zealand Standard’.
- (b) A full point substitutes for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

References to International Standards should be replaced by references to Australian or Australian/New Zealand Standards, as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>		<i>Australian/New Zealand Standard</i>	
ISO/IEC		AS/NZS	
17000	Conformity assessment—Vocabulary and general principles	17000	Conformity assessment—Vocabulary and general principles
17065	Conformity assessment—Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services	17065	Conformity assessment—Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services

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INTRODUCTION

This International Standard describes the fundamentals of product certification and provides guidelines for product certification schemes. In this International Standard references to the term “product” can also be read to mean “services” or “processes”.

As products are designed, produced, distributed, used and ultimately disposed of, they can give rise to concerns with purchasers, users and society in general. Such concerns could relate to safety, health or environmental impacts, durability, compatibility, suitability for intended purposes or for stated conditions.

Generally, these concerns are addressed by specifying the required product attributes in a normative document such as a standard.

The supplier of the product then has the task of demonstrating that the product conforms to the requirements of the normative document.

It might be sufficient for the supplier to assess and declare its product’s conformity, but in other cases the user or a regulatory authority might require that conformity be assessed by a competent and impartial third party.

Assessment and impartial third party attestation that fulfilment of specified requirements has been demonstrated for the product is referred to as product certification.

This International Standard outlines how schemes for product certification can be structured and managed. It identifies common assessment techniques that are used as a basis for product certification, such as product testing, inspection and auditing.

This International Standard is intended for use by those involved with product certification, particularly those who are, or who are considering becoming, product certification scheme owners. Product certification scheme owners can include:

- a) product certification bodies;
- b) government and regulators;
- c) purchasing agencies;
- d) non-government organizations;
- e) industry and retail associations; and
- f) consumer organizations.

This International Standard provides only guidance and does not contain requirements. It is compatible with ISO/IEC 17065, which specifies requirements for product certification bodies.

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

- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

The modal verb “shall”, which indicates a requirement, is not used because this International Standard only provides guidelines.

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

AUSTRALIAN/NEW ZEALAND STANDARD

Conformity assessment—Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes**1 Scope**

This International Standard describes the fundamentals of product certification and provides guidelines for understanding, developing, operating or maintaining certification schemes for products, processes and services.

It is intended for use by all with an interest in product certification, and especially by certification scheme owners.

NOTE 1 In this International Standard the term “product” can also be read as “process” or “service”, except in those instances where separate provisions are stated for “processes” or “services”. Definitions of product, process and service are given in ISO/IEC 17065.

NOTE 2 The certification of products, processes and services is a third-party conformity assessment activity (see ISO/IEC 17000) carried out by product certification bodies. The requirements for product certification bodies are specified in ISO/IEC 17065.

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 17000:2004, *Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*

ISO/IEC 17065:2012, *Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17000, ISO/IEC 17065 and the following apply.

3.1**certification system**

rules, procedures and management for carrying out certification

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2004, 2.7, modified]

3.2**certification scheme**

certification system (3.1) related to specified products, to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply

Note 1 to entry: The rules, procedures and management for implementing product, process and service certification are stipulated by the certification scheme.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17065:2012, 3.9, modified]

3.3

scheme owner

person or organization responsible for developing and maintaining a specific *certification scheme* (3.2)

Note 1 to entry: The scheme owner can be the certification body itself, a governmental authority, a trade association, a group of certification bodies or others.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17065:2012, 3.11]

4 Product certification

4.1 Concept of product certification

4.1.1 Product certification is the provision of assessment and impartial third-party attestation that fulfilment of specified requirements has been demonstrated. Product certification is carried out by product certification bodies which should conform to ISO/IEC 17065. Specified requirements for products are generally contained in standards or other normative documents.

4.1.2 Product certification is an established conformity assessment activity that provides confidence to consumers, regulators, industry and other interested parties that products conform to specified requirements, including for example product performance, safety, interoperability and sustainability.

4.1.3 Product certification can facilitate trade, market access, fair competition and consumer acceptance of products on a national, regional and international level.

4.2 Objectives of product certification

4.2.1 The fundamental objectives of product certification are:

- a) to address the needs of consumers, users and, more generally, all interested parties by giving confidence regarding fulfilment of specified requirements;
- b) to allow suppliers to demonstrate to the market that their product has been attested to fulfil specified requirements by an impartial third party body.

4.2.2 Product certification should provide the following:

- confidence for those with an interest in fulfilment of requirements, and
- sufficient value so that suppliers can effectively market products.

5 Product certification schemes

5.1 Basics

5.1.1 Product certification schemes should implement the functional approach as described in ISO/IEC 17000:2004, Annex A. The functions are:

- **selection**, which includes planning and preparation activities in order to collect or produce all the information and input needed for the subsequent determination function;
- **determination**, which may include conformity assessment activities such as testing, measuring, inspection, design appraisal, assessment of services and processes and auditing to provide information regarding the product requirements as input to the review and attestation functions;
- **review**, which means verification of the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of selection and determination activities, and the results of these activities, with regard to fulfilment of specified requirements (see ISO/IEC 17000:2004, 5.1);