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Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies performing inspection (ISO/IEC 17020:2026)

Táto norma obsahuje anglickú verziu európskej normy.
This standard includes the English version of the European Standard.

Táto norma bola oznámená vo Vestníku ÚNMS SR č. 07/26

Pripravuje sa slovenská jazyková verzia.

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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN ISO/IEC 17020

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

April 2026

ICS 03.120.20

Supersedes EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012

English version

Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies performing inspection (ISO/IEC 17020:2026)

Évaluation de la conformité - Exigences pour les organismes effectuant des inspections (ISO/IEC 17020:2026)

Konformitätsbewertung - Anforderungen an Stellen, die Inspektionen durchführen (ISO/IEC 17020:2026)

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 17 February 2026.

CEN and CENELEC members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre or to any CEN and CENELEC member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN and CENELEC member into its own language and notified to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre has the same status as the official versions.

CEN and CENELEC members are the national standards bodies and national electrotechnical committees of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and United Kingdom.



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EN ISO/IEC 17020:2026 (E)

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European foreword

This document (EN ISO/IEC 17020:2026) has been prepared by Technical Committee ISO/CASCO "Committee on conformity assessment" in collaboration with Technical Committee CEN-CENELEC/ JTC 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 October 2026, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by October 2026.

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

This document supersedes EN ISO/IEC 17020:2012.

This document has been prepared under a standardization request addressed to CEN and CENELEC by the European Commission. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States subsequently approves these requests for its Member States.

For the relationship with EU Legislation, see informative Annex ZA, which is an integral part of this document.

Any feedback and questions on this document should be directed to the users' national standards body/national committee. A complete listing of these bodies can be found on the CEN and CENELEC websites.

According to the CEN-CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom.

Endorsement notice

The text of ISO/IEC 17020:2026 has been approved by CEN-CENELEC as EN ISO/IEC 17020:2026 without any modification.

Annex ZA

(informative)

Relationship between this European Standard and the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93 aimed to be covered

This European Standard has been prepared under Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)9277 of 17.12.2021 on a standardisation request to the European Committee for Standardisation and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation as regards accreditation and conformity assessment in support of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council (M/580), to provide one voluntary means of conforming to Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93 [OJ L 218].

Once this standard is cited in the Official Journal of the European Union under that Regulation, compliance with the normative clauses of this standard given in Table ZA.1 and ZA.2 confers, within the limits of the scope of this standard, a presumption of conformity with the corresponding requirements of that Regulation, and associated EFTA regulations.

Table ZA.1 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93 [OJ L 218].

Requirement of Regulation (EC) 765/2008	Clause(s)/sub-clause(s) of this EN	Remarks/Notes
Article 5(1)	1, 6.1, 6.2, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6	

Table ZA.2 — Correspondence between this European Standard and Decision No 768/2008/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 on a common framework for the marketing of products, and repealing Council Decision 93/465/EEC [OJ L 218].

Requirement of Decision No 768/2008/EC	Clause(s)/sub-clause(s) of this EN	Remarks/Notes
Article R17(1)	5.2.1	
Article R17(3)	5.1, Annex A	
Article R17(4)	4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.1.6, 4.1.7, 4.2.4	
Article R17(5)	4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.7, 6.1.2, 8.2.2	
Article R17(6)	6.1.2, 6.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 7.1.1, 7.2	
Article R17(7)	6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3	
Article R17(8)	4.1	
Article R17(9)	5.2.4	
Article R17(10)	4.2	
Article R20(1)	6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.4	
Article R20(2)	6.3.5	
Article R20(3)	6.3.4	
Article R20(4)	6.3.2, 6.3.6	
Article R27(1)	7.1, 7.2	
Article R27(2)	6.1, 6.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3	
Article R27(3)	7.2.5, 7.6.2	

WARNING 1 Presumption of conformity stays valid only as long as a reference to this European Standard is maintained in the list published in the Official Journal of the European Union. Users of this standard should consult frequently the latest list published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

WARNING 2 Other Union legislation may be applicable to the product(s) falling within the scope of this standard.



International Standard

ISO/IEC 17020

Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies performing inspection

*Évaluation de la conformité — Exigences pour les organismes
effectuant des inspections*

**Third edition
2026-03**

ISO/IEC 17020:2026(en)



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ISO/IEC 17020:2026(en)**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.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

ISO and IEC draw attention to the possibility that the implementation of this document may involve the use of (a) patent(s). ISO and IEC take no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO and IEC had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents and <https://patents.iec.ch>. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html. In the IEC, see www.iec.ch/understanding-standards.

This document was prepared by the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (CASCO), in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/CLC/JTC 1, *Criteria for conformity assessment bodies*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 17020:2012), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- the categorization of the inspection body's independence type has been changed to type A and type non-A;
- a definition of "item" and a definition of "client" have been included;
- a new subclause on the control of data and information and actions to address risks and opportunities has been added;
- the common elements in CASCO standards have been incorporated;
- the risk-based thinking applied in this edition has enabled some reduction in prescriptive requirements and their replacement by performance-based requirements;
- there is greater flexibility than in the previous edition in the requirements for processes, procedures, documented information and organizational responsibilities.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

ISO/IEC 17020:2026(en)

Introduction

This document was developed to promote confidence in bodies performing inspection.

Inspection bodies perform inspection activities on behalf of private clients, their parent organizations, regulatory authorities, or others, with the objective of providing information about the conformity of inspected items with regulations, standards, specifications, inspection schemes or contracts. Inspection parameters include matters of quantity, quality, safety, fitness for purpose, and conformity of inspected item(s) with specified requirements (e.g. safety compliance of installations or systems in operation). This document provides requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of inspection bodies as a basis to promote confidence about and acceptance of inspection results by clients, regulatory authorities and others.

This document covers the activities of inspection bodies whose work can include the examination of materials, products, installations, plants, processes, work procedures or services, and the determination of their conformity with requirements and the subsequent reporting of results of these activities to clients and, when required, to regulatory authorities. Inspection can concern all stages during the lifetime of these items, including the design stage. Such work normally requires the exercise of professional judgement in performing inspection, in particular when assessing conformity with general requirements.

This document can be used as a requirements document for accreditation or peer-assessment or other assessments.

The requirements of this document can be interpreted when applied to particular sectors.

Inspection can be an activity embedded in a larger process. For example, inspection can be specified as a surveillance activity in a product certification scheme. Likewise, results of other conformity assessment activities can be used as an input when performing inspection activities. Inspection can be an activity that precedes maintenance or simply provides information about the inspected item with no determination of conformity with requirements.

The categorization of inspection bodies as type A and type non-A reflects the level of their independence. The impartiality requirements are equally applicable to both type A and type non-A inspection bodies.

Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies performing inspection

1 Scope

This document contains requirements for the competence and impartiality of bodies performing inspection, and for the consistent operation of their inspection activities.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements 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 17000:2020, *Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles*

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