

Organizational Alignment of "Deutscher Kalibrierdienst" (DKD) to Meet the Requirements of ISO/IEC 17011

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Abstract

Since 1977, the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) as the National Metrology Institute (NMI) of Germany has been operating an accreditation system for calibration laboratories, the Deutscher Kalibrierdienst (DKD). DKD is signatory to the Mutual Recognition Arrangements of both the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

Within the scope of the development of the new ISO/IEC 17011: General requirements for bodies providing assessment and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies, the question arose as to whether an accreditation body operated by an NMI can ensure sufficient impartiality, as strictly speaking, the NMI offers the same (calibration) services as its accredited calibration laboratories.

It was therefore decided to make some organizational modifications as regards the accreditation activities to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011. The management of the DKD accreditation body was completely separated from the PTB management, and the technical supervision of DKD was assigned to the German Ministry of Economics. In order to secure permanent support from PTB experts in metrological issues and competent assessors, a coordination committee was established by PTB and DKD for discussion and solving questions of mutual interest.

The new structure might serve as a model for other NMIs with accreditation activities as well. The report will explain this in more detail and provide some information about the experience gained in six months of operation.