

ISO/IEC 17011:1994 - Its Relation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Why Laboratories Should Know It

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Abstract

Everyday laboratories are going through the accreditation process to ISO/IEC 17025, which has many requirements. Checklists used by many accreditation bodies number beyond 50 pages. Have you wondered why accreditation bodies are applying requirements to ISO/IEC 17025 that just don't seem to exist within the standard? Have you ever read a section in ISO/IEC 17025 and interpreted the section exactly the opposite as the Accreditation Body is applying it? Have you ever scratched your head at an answer received from an accreditation body giving you several options to a question? Thank the standard writers for developing ISO/IEC 17011:2004. ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies (CAB) is the requirements document for all accreditation bodies operating programs that accredit CABs. This standard is what is used during the peer evaluation process for the mutual recognition arrangements that accreditation bodies sign. While CABs are being assessed against ISO/IEC 17025, they need to have an understanding of ISO/IEC 17011 and its impact on the assessment process. By the way, with the publication of ISO/IEC 17011 laboratories are now considered conformity assessment bodies (CAB).