

ISO 17025: Requirements, practices and benefits of its implementation



The norm emerged as a generic guide of reference for those laboratories that perform activities of testing or calibration and which sought to prove that they have a system of quality management effective and continuous improvement, which allow them to manage and use the documentation of the laboratory, both managerial and technical.

Do not hold a certificate of quality and/or installation certification is a limitation to work in markets as demanding as the methodology, environment, food, among others.

The main requirements to have the certificate of quality are:

- Qualified staff.
- Laboratory equipment
- Calibration, critical inputs for the realization of the daily work in a laboratory.
- Control over the test methods and/or calibration of a laboratory.
- Proper management and notification of information in the form of certificates of calibration, and accredited test report.

There are advantages for the organization how to avoid errors thanks to a preventive management and improvement, ensure an adequate qualification of staff, hire only accredited laboratories, improve national and international reputation of the laboratory and increases productivity levels to clarify the interaction of the processes.

At the same time, there are advantages for customers who consist of having faith in the employed service, it guarantees the international acceptance of its results, the own funds use is avoided, and the use of an accredited laboratory of metrology encourages the self-regulation of the proper market increasing the competition and the innovation.

The ISO 17025 standard is applicable to all organizations that carry out tests and/or calibrations of testing laboratories belonging to enterprises in all sectors: manufactured products, construction, telecommunications, energy and mines, transport, chemicals, agriculture and livestock, environment, forensic sciences, etc. Also in laboratories that cover the different areas of calibration in a great diversity of magnitudes and equipment from the most "classic" or "frequently" (weighing scales, presses, electrical meters) to the most specific (video signals, thermometric cameras, gas analyzers or optical fiber) that provide their services to all kinds of industries.

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