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ITU-T Guideline – Testing Laboratories recognition procedure



Technical Report TL-RP

ITU-T Guideline – Testing Laboratories recognition procedure

Summary

ITU-T Guideline "Testing Laboratories recognition procedure"¹ describes the ITU procedure for the recognition of Testing Laboratories, which have competence for testing against ITU-T Recommendations. This guideline also describes the objectives of the ITU-T Conformity Assessment Steering Committee (CASC) which manages the recognition procedure under ITU-T Study Group 11 (SG11).

Keywords

CASC, testing laboratory, recognition procedure, ILAC MRA, Accreditation Body, ITU-T Recommendations

Change Log

This document contains Version 2 of the Guideline on "Testing Laboratories recognition procedure" approved at the ITU-T Study Group 11 meeting held in Geneva, 6-15 July 2022.

This version supersedes Version 1, which was approved at the ITU-T Study Group 11 meeting held in Geneva, 29 April 2015.

Note

This is an informative ITU-T publication. Mandatory provisions, such as those found in ITU-T Recommendations, are outside the scope of this publication. This publication should only be referenced bibliographically in ITU-T Recommendations.

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¹ *NOTE: During the approval of this document by SG11 (29/04/2015), the USA and UK registered reservations regarding the Testing Laboratories (TL) recognition procedure. They have concerns that no budgetary proposals have been developed and that the financial burden and scope of managing these TLs will have an impact on the ITU budget. They stated that it is not clear whether the ITU has an operational role in the conformity and interoperability assessment and in managing the activities of the TLs. They also stated that uncertain are the rules and procedures that would need to be developed for the operation and management of the Conformity Assessment Steering Committee (CASC).*

USA also stated that a number of standards development organizations (SDOs) in the United States that represent a significant number of Sector Members have expressed their concerns regarding the ITU's conformity and interoperability (C&I) program. The USA also stated that:

- *The C&I databases may deform and negatively impact the ICT market by raising equipment costs, increasing time-to-market, and frustrating trade;*
- *The ITU databases pose significant enforcement challenges.*
- *The interoperability between different equipment is often handled by the private sector, including network operators and equipment vendors, in addition to any needed conformity testing, and hence poses significant testing costs and burdens for network operators and equipment vendors.*

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1 Scope

The implementation of the ITU-T testing laboratory recognition procedure will follow the following approach:

- to join the existing conformity assessment programmes by providing ITU-T's technical experts to perform the relevant testing laboratory (TL) assessment against ITU-T Recommendations;
- based on experience gained from collaboration with existing schemes, ITU may, in the future, consider the possibility of establishing an ITU-T TL self-recognition procedure, providing the assessment of ITU-T technical experts and assessment of the TL.

This Guideline describes the criteria and the description for the appointment of ITU-T technical experts and the procedure for the registration of testing laboratories that are eligible to test information and communication technology (ICT) equipment against the ITU-T Recommendations in the ITU list of recognized TLs. This Guideline also describes the ITU-T Conformity Assessment Steering Committee (CASC) and its terms of reference for managing such procedures.

2 References

None.

3 Definitions

This Guideline defines the following terms:

- 3.1 testing laboratory (TL):** A laboratory that performs tests.
- 3.2 recognized TL:** A testing laboratory that has successfully passed the recognition procedures.
- 3.3 candidate TL:** A testing laboratory that has applied for recognition.
- 3.4 ITU-T CASC:** The ITU-T Conformity Assessment Steering Committee that manages the recognition procedures of testing laboratories (TLs).

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Guideline uses the following abbreviations and acronyms:

AB	Accreditation Body
CASC	Conformity Assessment Steering Committee
C&I	Conformance and Interoperability
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ILAC	International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
SG	Study Group

TL	Testing Laboratory
ToR	Terms of Reference
TSB	Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

5 Conventions

None.

6 ITU-T CASC objectives

The main objectives of the ITU-T CASC are:

- to provide the ITU-T view and position to the management organs of the established Conformity Assessment Systems and Schemes of the ILAC;
- to set up criteria, rules and procedures for the appointment of ITU-T technical experts in collaboration with ILAC aiming for a common testing and conformity assessment;
- to process applications from candidate experts from ITU-T membership;
- to appoint the ITU-T technical expert(s);
- to recognize TL with a scope of ITU-T Recommendation(s) which is assessed by ILAC accreditation bodies and register it in the ITU recognized TL list;

The ITU-T CASC works under the auspices of ITU-T SG11 with the participation of ITU-T experts from all ITU-T SGs.

Any expert from ITU-T membership can be appointed by CASC as an ITU-T technical expert according to the requirements given in clause 8. The list of ITU-T technical experts will be made publicly available.

Bearing in mind that the ITU-T CASC cooperates with international accreditation bodies, the ITU-T technical experts appointed by ITU-T CASC can work directly as part of the accreditation body teams.

The ITU-T Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) will provide secretariat and facilities as required by ITU-T CASC.

The ITU-T CASC will work mostly using electronic working methods and may have face-to-face meetings which will normally occur concurrently with SG11 meetings. Meetings will be held as determined by the Chairman of ITU-T CASC as soon as a pool of applications have been gathered, and will be announced to its participants. The ITU-T CASC will follow the working rules and procedures that are applied to a Working Party.

The ITU-T CASC will report its activities to ITU-T SG11.

The Terms and References of the ITU-T CASC are made available on its webpage (<https://itu.int/go/casc>).

7 Periodical review

The ITU-T CASC will review the effectiveness of the programme periodically, at least on an annual basis. This periodical review will also check whether the approach is efficient.

8 Criteria for ITU-T technical experts

An expert who is willing to be appointed as an ITU technical expert should follow the instructions defined in Guideline "ITU-T CASC procedure to appoint ITU-T technical experts" ([2019](#)).

9 Criteria for recognized Testing Laboratories

In order to be recognized by the ITU, testing laboratories shall:

- 1) have ITU-T Recommendations in the TL's scope of accreditation;
- 2) be accredited by Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the ILAC MRA for testing (using ISO/IEC 17025).

10 TL recognition procedure

ITU recognizes Testing Laboratories (TLs) which are accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the ILAC MRA for testing, and whose scope of accreditation includes ITU-T Recommendation(s).

A testing laboratory accredited for ITU-T Recommendations may apply to ITU for recognition by supplying, among other things, the identity of the AB (ILAC MRA signatory) performing the accreditation and the relevant part of the scope of accreditation. The application needs to be submitted through the online form that is available on ITU C&I Portal (www.itu.int/go/citest).

By submitting this form, the Testing Laboratory (TL):

- applies to become an ITU-recognized TL for listing in the ITU Testing Laboratories Database;
- confirms that the selected ITU-T Recommendations are included in the TL's scope of accreditation;
- undertakes to conduct testing with the ITU-T Recommendations covered by the scope of accreditation;
- undertakes to update the list of ITU-T Recommendations without undue delay whenever necessary following changes to the scope of accreditation;
- acknowledges that there are no financial implications for ITU and the TL in relation to the approval of the TL and its listing in the ITU Testing Laboratories Database;
- agrees that financial implications related to the assessment of the TL for ITU-T Recommendations are within the mandate of the ILAC MRA signatory accreditation body conducting the assessment;
- agrees that ITU may contact the TL to verify information provided by the submitting party; and
- acknowledges that non-fulfilment of the above criteria may result in either partial or full delisting – ITU will notify TL concerned and the related accreditation body prior to delisting.

Based on received applications, if they are in line with the criteria defined in clause 9, the TSB Director is asked to register the Testing Laboratory in the ITU Testing Laboratory Database accordingly.

Upon recognition, TSB will issue a confirmation letter to the candidate TL and inform CASC accordingly. The confirmation letter will state the Recommendations for which recognition has been granted. The testing laboratory will be added to the list of recognized testing laboratories.

The status as "Recognized TL for ITU-T Recommendations" is valid within the terms of TL accreditation.

If the criteria defined in clause 9 are not met, the TL is not recognized, and TSB informs CASC accordingly.

Any TL including non-ITU members, which expresses its interest to be accredited against ITU-T Recommendations, to be recognized by ITU, needs to approach an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the ILAC MRA. The list of ABs is available at: <https://ilac.org/signatory-search/>.

Afterwards, once the accreditation is given to the TL and the relevant application form has been submitted to ITU by the TL, the TL can be recognized by ITU accordingly.

10.1 Responsibility/Liability

The recognition of a testing laboratory by ITU does not imply or otherwise suggest approval of a product or that the recognized testing laboratory acts as an agent or representative of the ITU.

The ITU does not accept any responsibility for the effects or consequences of services provided by the recognized testing laboratory on users of such services.

10.2 Retaining Recognition

Procedures dealing with the ongoing recognition of test laboratories shall be determined by CASC.

10.3 Suspension or Withdrawal of Recognition

The procedures dealing with the withdrawal or suspension of recognition of test laboratories shall be determined by CASC.
