GUIDE 43-1

Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons —

Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes

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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.

ISO/IEC Guide 43-1 was prepared by ISO/CASCO Ad Hoc Group for Revision of ISO/IEC Guide 43. A draft was circulated to CASCO members and IEC National Committees for comments. A final draft has subsequently been approved by ISO/CASCO and by IEC Council for publication as an ISO/IEC Guide.

Parts 1 and 2 of ISO/IEC Guide 43 cancel and replace the first edition (ISO/IEC Guide 43:1984).

ISO/IEC Guide 43:1984 covered guidance on development and operation of laboratory proficiency testing with limited emphasis on the use of the outcomes of proficiency testing by accreditation bodies. It is now intended to provide guidance in three areas, namely:

a) to distinguish between use of interlaboratory comparisons for proficiency testing and for other purposes;

b) the development and operation of interlaboratory comparisons for use in proficiency testing schemes; and

c) the selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies.

ISO/IEC Guide 43 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons:*

— *Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes*

— *Part 2: Selection and use of proficiency testing schemes by laboratory accreditation bodies*

Annexes to this part of ISO/IEC Guide 43 provide statistical guidance on treatment of data from proficiency testing schemes and guidelines on documentation (Quality Manual) for the operation of proficiency testing schemes.

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