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British Standard

Accreditation of testing laboratories

**Part 1. Specification of the general requirements
for the technical competence of testing laboratories**

Accréditation des laboratoires d'essai

Partie 1. Compétences techniques générales des laboratoires d'essai — Spécifications

Anerkennung von Prüfstellen

Teil 1. Allgemeine Anforderungen an die technische Ausstattung von Prüfstellen

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Foreword

This Part 1 of BS 6460 was published under the direction of the Quality Management and Statistics Standards Committee. It is based upon criteria of competence developed for use by the National Testing Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (NATLAS).

Organizations or individuals that make use of the services of testing laboratories need to be able to place reliance on the quality of the testing services they obtain. It is *important therefore, that the laboratories are able to demonstrate their technical capability, the competence of their management and staff and their range of facilities, that they can establish and maintain arrangements for assuring the quality of the services they provide, and that such work is suitably attested.*

The aim of this standard is to present requirements, the observance of which should ensure that the work of a testing laboratory is conducted with technical and commercial integrity and with an appropriate level of accuracy in all tests and measurements.

This standard embodies the principal requirements of certain other major Laboratory Accreditation Schemes (e.g. British Standards Institution System for the Registration of Test Houses of Assessed Capability, Central Electricity Generating Board Standard QA42-5, Ministry of Defence Standard 05-32, which have subsequently been superseded by NATLAS), and is broadly consistent with the provisions of ISO Guide 25 : 1982 'General requirements for the technical competence of testing laboratories'.

A guide to the application of this Part of BS 6460 is currently in course of preparation and will be published as Part 2. In addition, NATLAS is considering arrangements for assessing the performance of laboratories by interlaboratory comparisons.

Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.