The following documents describe the US conformity assessment principles followed by a series of brief abstracts on related major International Conformity Assessment standards.

United States Conformity Assessment Principles — republished September 2011

DESCRIPTION / ABSTRACT:

United States Conformity Assessment Principles (3rd edition) articulates the principles for US conformity assessment activities that will allow consumers, buyers, sellers, regulators, and other interested parties to have confidence in the processes of providing conformity assessment, while avoiding the creation of unnecessary barriers to trade.

These principles are based on the conformity assessment language in the *Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade*, one of the agreements within the World Trade Organization (WTO). They supplement the language of the agreement to give additional clarity and focus to conformity assessment in the United States.

The concise and clear presentation of these principles is intended to promote national and international understanding and recognition of competently conducted conformity assessment processes resulting in increased acceptance of US products within national and international markets. Global acceptance is vital to the continued economic health of the United States, as well as to the protection of human health, safety, and the environment.

Because standards underlie all conformity assessment activities, this document is intended to be a companion to the principles of the US standards system as described in the *United States Standards Strategy*. These two documents should be considered together in the evaluation of standards and conformity assessment activities and related issues.

A downloadable copy is available at the American National Standards Institute website at the following link:

http://www.ansi.org/uscap

ISO/IEC 17021 — 2nd Edition, February 1, 2011

Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

DESCRIPTION / ABSTRACT:

This International Standard contains principles and requirements for the competence, consistency and impartiality of the audit and certification of management systems of all types (e.g. quality management systems or environmental management systems) and for bodies providing these activities. Certification bodies operating to this International Standard need not offer all types of management system certification.

Certification of management systems (named in this International Standard "certification") is a third-party conformity assessment activity (see ISO/IEC 17000:2004, 5.5). Bodies performing this activity are therefore third-party conformity assessment bodies (named in this International Standard "certification body/bodies").

NOTE 1 Certification of a management system is sometimes also called "registration", and certification bodies are sometimes called "registrars".

NOTE 2 A certification body can be non-governmental or governmental (with or without regulatory authority).

NOTE 3 This International Standard can be used as a criteria document for accreditation or peer assessment or other audit processes.

ISO/IEC 17024 — 2nd Edition, July 1, 2012

Conformity assessment - General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons

DESCRIPTION / ABSTRACT:

This International Standard contains principles and requirements for a body certifying persons against specific requirements, and includes the development and maintenance of a certification

scheme for persons.

NOTE For the purposes of this International Standard, the term "certification body" is used in place of the full term "certification body for persons", and the term "certification scheme" is used in place of the full term "certification scheme for persons".

ISO/IEC 17025 — 3rd Edition, November 1, 2017

General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

DESCRIPTION / ABSTRACT:

This document specifies the general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of laboratories.

This document is applicable to all organizations performing laboratory activities, regardless of the number of personnel.

Laboratory customers, regulatory authorities, organizations and schemes using peer-assessment, accreditation bodies, and others use this document in confirming or recognizing the competence of laboratories.

ISO/IEC 17065 — 1st Edition, September 15, 2012

Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services

DESCRIPTION / ABSTRACT:

This International Standard contains requirements for the competence, consistent operation and impartiality of product, process and service certification bodies. Certification bodies operating to this International Standard need not offer all types of products, processes and services certification. Certification of products, processes and services is a third-party conformity assessment activity (see ISO/IEC 17000:2004, definition 5.5).

In this International Standard, the term "product" can be read as "process" or "service", except in those instances where separate provisions are stated for "processes" or "services" (see Annex B).