

# **ISO 17065: CE, G-mark and product certification**

## **Executive Summary**

A concise overview: CE and Gulf G-Mark are mandatory conformity marks for products sold in the EU/EEA and GCC countries respectively. This paper explores how ISO/IEC 17065 underpins the certification process, detailing structure, pathways, benefits, and corporate relevance.

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# Introduction

Product certification assures consumers of a product's quality, safety, and compliance with established standards. It builds trust and confidence between producers and consumers and it also makes opportunities for companies to expand globally. A certification mark can also differentiate a product from others in a competitive market. As well as reduce risk associated with potential defects, and failures (zinfli, n.d.).

At the heart of trust in conformity marks is ISO/IEC 17065, an international standard detailing the competencies and impartial operations required of certification bodies. It ensures these bodies are technically capable, consistent in their processes, and free from conflicts of interest—fostering confidence among manufacturers, regulators, and end-users (PJLA. 2025) (FreightAmigo, n.d.).

## BENEFITS OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION



- ✓ STANDARDIZATION FOR INDUSTRY
- ✓ MARKET DIFFERENTIATOR
- ✓ REGULATORY REQUIREMENT
- ✓ CONSUMER PROTECTION

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## What is ISO 17065 ?

ISO/IEC 17065, formally titled “Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services”, is an international standard published jointly by ISO and IEC. It defines the criteria that certification bodies must meet to ensure their practices are competent, impartial, consistent, and trustworthy (Management Systems World, n.d.).

# Structure and Requirements:

## CE Mark

- A manufacturer's declaration indicating that a product meets applicable EU regulations (e.g., Low Voltage, EMC). For low-risk products, manufacturers may use self-certification, while higher-risk items (like medical devices or pressure equipment) require involvement of a Notified Body.
- Manufacturers must compile a technical dossier (also called a technical file), including design details, risk assessments, test reports, and other compliance evidence. This dossier must accompany an EU Declaration of Conformity, signed by the manufacturer and, if involved, listing the Notified Body's ID

## Gulf G-Mark

- The Gulf Conformity Mark (G-Mark), introduced in May 2009 by the Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO), certifies that products comply with mandatory GCC technical regulations (e.g., low-voltage electrical devices, toys).
- To attain certification, products must undergo testing in accredited labs, followed by review and approval from a GSO-approved certification body. Successful products receive a Certificate of Conformity and permission to affix the G-Mark.
- The G-Mark certification is valid for three years, after which manufacturers must reapply for renewal—typically involving updated testing and documentation.

## Path to certification:

Step	CE Mark	G-Mark
1. Determine directives/regions	Identify applicable EU directives	Identify relevant GSO technical regs (e.g., LVE, SASO)
2. Technical assessment	Internal testing or via a Notified Body	Testing in accredited labs (ISO/IEC 17025), review by notified body
3. Technical dossier	Compile EU Declaration & technical documentation	Submit documentation and test reports to SASO/GSO
4. Certification	Affix CE mark (with notified body number if used)	Receive certificate of conformity and place G-Mark
5. Maintain & renew	Keep records for market surveillance; renew as needed	Re-certify every 3 years with retesting

# Conclusion:

Achieving CE and G-Mark certifications underpinned by ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation serves as a powerful strategic asset: the CE mark opens doors to the vast EU/EEA market, enhances reputational credibility, streamlines compliance, and fosters long-term internal expertise (CE mark provides “access ... to the vast and lucrative EU market” and promotes “long-term growth and development” with expert partners like SGS).

While the G-Mark ensures GCC-wide acceptance of products, protects consumer safety, and reduces trade friction through harmonized technical regulations.

Together, these certifications validated by ISO 17065’s assurance of impartiality and competence transform compliance from a regulatory obligation into a competitive differentiator that accelerates market access, builds consumer trust, and strengthens operational resilience.

# About Company:

**QPFG – Quality Partner for Germany** is a consulting firm specialized in helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Germany navigate quality management and information security. We guide businesses through ISO 9001 and ISO 27001 certification, supplier audits, and regulatory readiness, all with practical, scalable solutions designed for real-world business needs.

With deep industry expertise in healthcare, automotive, and IT, we combine agility with compliance. Best of all, up to 80% of consulting costs can be covered through German subsidies, making professional guidance more accessible than ever. Whether you're improving internal processes or strengthening data protection, QPFG is your reliable partner for quality-driven growth.





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