	CO-ORDINATION OF NOTIFIED BODIES PPE Regulation 2016/425 RECOMMENDATION FOR USE	PPE-R/00.019 Version 1

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Article: 26	Annex:	Clause:	

Key words:

sub-contracting, accreditation, acceptance of test results, competence of laboratories

Question:

Is it possible for a certification body to accept test data obtained by other than accredited laboratories?

Are test reports from authorities outside the European Union acceptable for the purpose of CE marking?

If this is so, what are the minimum criteria to be used in judging their competency and how should they be monitored?

What quality control methods should be applied to sub-contracting laboratories?

Can the notified body use test reports on materials, items or components carried out by other specialised laboratories?

Can the notified body use reports on tests carried out by the manufacturer or the applicant?

Solution:

Under all circumstances, the notified body takes on the responsibility for test results/test reports it accepts as the basis for certification.

Therefore, it should generally be recommended to use test results from accredited test laboratories only.

As this will not always be possible, other sources of testing have to be used. Sub-contracting laboratories should meet the requirements according to ISO / IEC 17025, if this is not the case, the notified body has to ensure by other means that the test results are reliable.

The notified body itself will have to specify the conditions for the acceptance of other test laboratories to carry out the tests. It shall ensure that the sub-contractor meets the requirements set out in Article 26 of the PPE Regulation.

Quality control measures for sub-contracting test laboratories are important, the notified body itself is responsible for deciding how to proceed with this.