

Declaration of commitment

The Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), which has its seats in Braunschweig and Berlin, is the National Metrology Institute and the supreme technical authority of the Federal Republic of Germany for metrology. As the successor to the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt (PTR) founded in Berlin in 1887, it is one of the oldest national institutes in the world for natural and engineering sciences in the field of metrology.

PTB operates an integrated quality system which covers the activities in its business areas. This Quality Manual describes the structural and operational organization of quality management for the scientific and technical services of PTB. Its application ensures that organizational and technical activities are planned, supervised and steered and that contractual requirements are complied with. This Quality Manual documents the quality assurance principles for all the tasks within the scope of which PTB provides scientific and technical services. These comprise tasks of research and technical development - especially the realization and dissemination of the units - as well as calibrations and measurements for the dissemination of the units, and conformity assessments.

For these services, the quality system describes all the measures and procedures necessary to comply with the legal requirements, the requirements of DIN EN ISO/IEC 17 025 and, thus, with the principles of DIN EN ISO 9001 as well as with the guidelines of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Association) for assuring good scientific practice. In addition, for selected activities, the requirements of DIN EN ISO 17 034 and of DIN EN ISO/ IEC 17 065, respectively, are integrated into the quality system. Quality management is subjected to a self-assessment ("review") process which is a component of the strategic planning processes and the basis for the [Self-declaration on quality management](#). The constant improvements resulting from this are one of the input quantities for a series of external assessment processes performed by independent expert committees in the field of metrology at the national and international level.

The President of PTB has the overall responsibility for the tasks performed within his sphere of responsibilities being carried out in compliance with the quality requirements. He is organizationally independent and has the necessary authority to take ultimate decisions in all matters relating to PTB.

PTB's quality management system covers the individual divisions/bodies. The respective heads of the divisions and bodies represent, independently, the fields of work which are assigned to them by the **Schedule of Responsibilities of PTB**, they take the final decision in matters falling into their scope of responsibility, or they implement the decisions of their superiors. The heads of the divisions/bodies, represented by their quality managers, form the "Quality Management Committee" (Ausschuss "Qualitätsmanagement", abbreviated to: A-QM). This committee implements, under the direction of the Senior Quality Manager, the quality management related decisions and agreements of the Presidential Board on the basis of the **Standing Orders of A-QM** and advises the President on decisions concerning general matters of quality management.

The Senior Quality Manager of PTB is responsible for all matters with regard to quality management. He is advised in his activity by the Quality Managers in the individual divisions/bodies and supported by the Working Group (WG) PSt 2 "Central Quality Management". The President has entrusted the Vice-president of PTB with the technical supervision of the Senior Quality Manager. The Senior Quality Manager is represented by the Vice-president of PTB.

Within the scope of the Statutes for PTB, the Quality Manual provides the binding basis for the performance of scientific and technical services by PTB. It is valid for all employees of PTB and is herewith put into force.

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