



CENTRE SCIENTIFIQUE ET
TECHNIQUE DU BATIMENT

Certifying Body

84 avenue Jean Jaurès

Champs sur Marne

F – 77442 MARNE-LA-VALLEE Cedex 2

Mandated by



11 rue Francis de Pressensé

F – 93571 LA PLAINE SAINT DENIS Cedex

CERTIFICATION REFERENCE SYSTEM

NF MARK

RIGID NON-PLASTICISED

PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS



**TUBES ET RACCORDS EN
PVC NON PLASTIFIE RIGIDE**

AFNOR Certification Identification No.: NF 055

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Date first brought into application: February 1994

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The English version is provided for information. In case of doubt or dispute, the French version only is valid.

CONTENTS

CERTIFICATION REFERENCE SYSTEM - DATE FIRST BROUGHT INTO APPLICATION: FEBRUARY 1994	1
CONTENTS	2
PART 1 OVERVIEW AND FIELD OF APPLICATION	5
1.1 Your expectations	5
1.2 What we provide	6
Your contact: Fabrice Miemounitou Tel: + 33 (0)1 64 68 88 70 Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44 E-mail: arnaudfabrice.miemounitou@cstb.fr	7
1.3 Applicant's commitment.....	7
PART 2 REFERENCE SYSTEMS	9
2.1 The general rules of the NF Mark.....	9
2.2 The standards and additional specifications	9
2.3 The quality MANAGEMENT provisions: audit reference system	12
Table 1 (Applicable requirements)	14
2.4 Marking.....	17
PART 3 OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATION	21
3.1 Process.....	23
3.2 Case of an initial application.....	24
3.3 Case of a complementary application	26
3.4 Case of an extension application.....	26
3.5 Case of an application to maintain the right to use the mark	26
PART 4 MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION: CONDITIONS FOR FOLLOW UP	28
4.1 Process.....	29
4.2 Conditions for follow-up inspection.....	29
4.3 Assessment and decision-making.....	31
4.4 Declaration of modifications	32
PART 5 STAKEHOLDERS	35
5.1 Mandated body	35
5.2 Audit body.....	35
5.3 Test body	36
5.4 Subcontracting.....	36
5.5 Specific Committee.....	36
PART 6 FEES	38
6.1 Services relating to NF certification	38
6.2 Paying for the services	39
6.3 Rates	40
PART 7 CERTIFICATION DOSSIERS	41
7.1 For an admission request	41
7.2 For a complementary admission application	41
7.3 Case of an extension application.....	41
7.4 Case of an application to maintain the right to use the mark	42
PART 8 GLOSSARY	53

This certification reference system has been approved by the General Manager of AFNOR Certification on 01/03/2017.

It cancels and replaces all previous versions.

CSTB undertakes, with the representatives of holders, users and technical experts, to ensure the relevance of this certification reference system in terms of the certification process and of the definitions of the requirements with relation to the evolution of the market.

So the certification reference system can be revised, wholly or partially, by CSTB and, in every case, after consultation with the Specific Committee. The revision is approved by the General Manager of AFNOR Certification.

MODIFICATION HISTORY

Creation of the PF Mark: 1965

Creation of the NF Mark: 1982

Modified part	Revision no.	Date brought into application	Modification made
The whole document	0	02.1994	Creation of the certification regulation (grouping together all families in certification rule NF 055)
The whole document	2	22/02/1995	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	3	14/05/1996	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	4	26/03/1997	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	5	10/04/1998	Revision of the certification regulation
Addendum		10/01/1999	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	6	21/02/2000	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	7	21/06/2001	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	8	01/01/2003	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	9	15/03/2004	Revision of the certification regulation: Integrating a check into in-trade products distributed under applications to maintain the right to use the mark. Integration of standard NF EN 13598-1 in place of standard XP T 54-950
The whole document	10	25/01/2005	Revision of the certification regulation
The whole document	11	21/02/2006	Revision of the certification rules
The whole document	12	23/02/2007	Revision of the certification reference system
The whole document	13	11/02/2008	Revision of the certification reference system
The whole document	14	06/03/2009	Revision of the certification reference system
The whole document	15	21/04/2010	Revision of the certification reference system, cancellation of Technical Document No. 5 "Sewerage" Group and integration of Technical Document No. 6 "Siphonic Discharge".
The whole document	16	06/02/2013	Revision of the certification reference system, integration of the  monogram
The whole document	17	01/03/2017	Revision of the certification reference system, Integration of standard NF EN ISO 9001: 2015 Removal of TD 4: Irrigation Group Clarification of rules in case of Committee vote Clarification of conditions for audits in a country subject to special vigilance.

Partie 1 OVERVIEW AND FIELD OF APPLICATION

1.1 YOUR EXPECTATIONS

This certification reference system currently concerns piping systems composed of rigid non-plasticised PVC pipes and fittings, divided into 5 groups of products:

- Discharge Group, including solid-wall pipes and fittings and smooth structured-wall pipes for water drainage,
- Pressure Group, including solid-wall pipes and fittings for conveyance of liquid with pressure,
- Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group, including PVC-BO pipes for conveyance of liquid with pressure,
- Siphonic Discharge Group, including solid-wall pipes and fittings for discharge of rainwater intended for siphonic systems,

The following table explains the categories of the products covered by each group.

GROUPS	FAMILIES	CATEGORIES
DISCHARGE	SOLID-WALL	- Pipes for solvent welding assembly (TEC) - Pipes for seal ring assembly (TEJ) - Fittings for solvent welding assembly (REC) - Fittings for seal ring assembly (REJ)
	STRUCTURED-WALL	- Pipes for solvent welding assembly (TESC)
PRESSURE		- Pipes for solvent welding assembly (TPC) - Pipes for seal ring assembly (TPJ) - Fittings for solvent welding assembly (RPC) - Fittings for seal ring assembly (RPJ)
BIAXIALLY-ORIENTED PRESSURE		- Pipes for seal ring assembly (TPBOJ)
SIPHONIC DRAINAGE		- Pipes for solvent welding assembly (TSC) - Pipes for seal ring assembly (TSJ) - Fittings for solvent welding assembly (RSC) - Fittings for seal ring assembly (RSJ)

All rights to use the NF mark are granted to a holder on the basis of conformity with the standard(s) and, if applicable, with additional specifications for a product or range of products from a holder and a designated manufacturing unit.

1.2 WHAT WE PROVIDE

The NF mark in general

The NF mark is a voluntary mark that enhances the prestige of high-quality and reliable products with demonstrated value in use. To meet the requirements of the NF mark is to meet the expectations of the market and of its customers, which are directly or indirectly associated with the preparation of the reference systems.

The NF mark indicates quality and conformity with French, European and international standards and, as the case may be, with specifications.

The NF mark is the property of AFNOR, which has granted its subsidiary, AFNOR Certification, a full licence for exploitation of this mark in all its forms. This is a collective certification mark, the usage of which is authorised under the conditions set by the general rules and by this certification reference system.

The NF mark is the first product certification mark in France and one of the major certification marks in Europe. It enjoys a 90% recognition rate; created nearly 60 years ago, the NF mark has developed and is managed within a network composed of nearly 50 technical bodies, analytical and testing laboratories as well as inspection bodies recognised throughout Europe and, in some cases, worldwide. The NF mark relies on the expertise and technical skills of these bodies to define and to develop the certification reference systems and to monitor their application.

Applying for the NF mark for its products is in line with any company's efforts to advance and to make progress.

As Europe and the globalisation of trade take form, the NF system, in harmony with the mark's customers, seeks, whenever possible, and in the interest of those customers, recognition agreements with other certifications or marks, European and international, which carry the same values and which are recognised on the markets.

The commitments of the certifying body: impartiality, competence, reliability

AFNOR Certification and the Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB), a body mandated by AFNOR Certification, are impartial organisations. They bring you their technical skills in the field of certification, along with assessment of your products and verification of your organisation as well as your quality assurance.

NF applied to your product

The NF mark for your products is the attestation that those products:

- comply with the regulations, standards and complementary texts in force concerning them;
- are the products of manufacturing with verified quality.

The NF Mark **Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings** is substantiated by the NF logo, in conformity with the models below *:



The provisions concerning the use of the NF mark are described in Part 2 of this certification reference system.

Who is to be contacted?

CSTB
Service Hydraulique et Equipements Sanitaires (HES)
Division Canalisations
84 avenue Jean Jaurès – CHAMPS-SUR-MARNE
77447 MARNE-LA-VALLÉE CEDEX 02
FRANCE

Your contact: Fabrice Miemounitou
Tel: + 33 (0)1 64 68 88 70
Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44
E-mail:
arnaudfabrice.miemounitou@cstb.fr

1.3 APPLICANT'S COMMITMENT

Before making its request, the applicant shall make sure that it meets the conditions set down in this certification reference system concerning its product and the sites concerned. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that the regulations applicable to its product are fulfilled.

It shall commit to respecting those same conditions during the whole duration of use of the NF mark.

The applicant undertakes to:

- 1 accept and comply with the conditions set down and defined in the certification reference system specific to the field of products concerned and, in particular, to:
 - present the products for certification in compliance with the existing regulations concerned,
 - implement the modifications required by the changes in the certification reference system communicated by the certifying body,
 - use the NF mark under the conditions set down in the certification reference system and only for the certified products,
 - responsively follow up on the decisions taken by the certifying body as part of certification (in particular, to specify and implement corrective actions in response to any disparity detected or apply a decision of sanction);
- 2 to pay the certification fees (management, audit and tests, if need be) in conformity with the price list in force;
- 3 to not submit to certification any counterfeited products;

- 4 to take the necessary measures:
 - to conduct the audit, including the supply of elements to be examined such as: documentation and records, access to the relevant equipment, locations, production areas, staff and client's subcontractors,
 - for the participation or non-participation of third-party observers during the audit, where appropriate;
- 5 to examine and record all the complaints:
 - those records shall be made available to the certifying body and to the auditors, upon request,
 - to take any appropriate action related to those complaints or defects observed in the products, that affect their conformity to the certification requirements,
 - to provide documents pertaining to the actions undertaken;
- 6 to reserve the trade name of the product presented only for certified products in compliance with the Technical Requirements concerned;
- 7 to efficiently apply the production control system established in order to meet the requirements of the certification reference system;
- 8 to carry out the verifications incumbent upon it so that continuation of the right to use the NF mark may be granted;
- 9 to immediately inform the certifying body of any modification to the original dossier submitted during the application for the right to use the NF mark (in particular any modification to the product(s) related to the application);
- 10 to inform the certifying body of any definitive or temporary halt in production that concerns the certificate;
- 11 to make statements and provide communication on certification consistent with the scope of certification;
- 12 to neither use its product certification in such a manner as to bring the certification body into disrepute, nor to make any statement regarding its product certification that the certification body may consider misleading or unauthorised, in particular:
 - to not use the NF mark in a way that is improper or not in compliance with the certification reference system in force,
 - to not use the certifying body's logo;
- 13 upon suspension, withdrawal or termination of certification, to discontinue its use of all advertising materials that contain any reference thereto, to take action as required by the certification reference system and to take any other required measure;
- 14 to communicate to the certifying body, at its request, all the advertising printed materials and catalogues referring to the NF mark;
- 15 if copies of the certification documents are provided to others, to reproduce them in their entirety or as specified in the certification reference system;
- 16 in making reference to its product certification in communication media such as documents, brochures or advertising, to comply with the requirements of the certifying body;
- 17 for all the associated personnel of the certifying body or of its qualified subcontractors, to make sure that all the safety provisions concerning the working conditions, sites or equipment are in compliance with the regulations in force at the locations concerned.

Partie 2

REFERENCE SYSTEMS

The reference system of the NF Mark – Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings is composed of general rules of the NF mark, this certification reference system and the relevant standards and specifications referred to therein.

This certification reference system is in line with the framework of the certification of products and services, other than food-related, as provided for in the Consumer Code (articles R-115-1 to R 115-3 and L 433-1 to L 433-11). It specifies the conditions for applying the General Rules of the NF mark to products defined in Part 1.

2.1 THE GENERAL RULES OF THE NF MARK

The NF Mark is a registered collective certification mark with general rules establishing the general organisation and conditions for use of the mark.

This certification reference system is in line with the framework of the certification of products and services, other than food-related, as provided for in the Consumer Code (articles R-433-1 and R 433-2 and L 433-3 to L 433-11). It specifies the conditions for applying the General Rules of the NF mark to products defined in Part 1.

This certification reference system specifies the guidelines for applying the General Rules of the NF mark to products defined in Part 1.

The right to use the NF Mark is granted based on conformity to standards and, generally speaking, to all the reference systems defined in this part, for a product from a designated holder and from a designated production unit.

2.2 THE STANDARDS AND ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

2.2.1 Regulations

The products covered by this certification reference system shall comply with the French regulations in force (see technical documents 2 to 6).

CSTB keeps a list of the texts in force.

In addition to these regulations, these products must meet the following requirement:

- *For products for which the promotion includes claims about their environmental characteristics, those applying for / holding certification must complete an EPD (Environmental Product Declaration) on their product according to the method set down in the decree of 23 December 2013, relating to the environmental declaration of certain construction products intended for use in building work (regulatory requirement defined in decree no. 2013-1264)*

2.2.2 Standards

Product standards

The products concerned by these rules must meet the requirements set down in the standards cited in the technical documents defined in paragraph 2.2.3.

List of standards cited by product group:

Discharge Group:

NF EN 1329-1 (July 1999) - Plastics piping systems for soil and waste discharge (low and high temperature) within the building structure - Unplasticised poly (vinyl chloride) (PVC-U) - Part 1: Specifications for pipes, fittings and the system.

NF EN 1453-1 (July 2000) - Plastics piping systems with structured-wall pipes for soil and waste discharge (low and high temperature) inside buildings - Unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U) - Part 1:

Specifications for pipes and the system.

Pressure Group:

NF EN 1452 (January 2010) Plastics – Plastics piping systems for water supply - Unplasticised poly (vinyl chloride) (PVC-U).

Part 1: General

Part 2: Pipes

Part 3: Fittings

Part 4: Taps and Auxiliary Equipment

Part 5: System's Suitability for Use

NF T 54-034 (October 2005) Piping systems made of unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-C) and/or biaxially-oriented poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-BO) for conveyance under pressure of non-gaseous fluids – Rules for design, choice of components.

Irrigation Group:

~~**NF T 54-086** (September 1990) - Plastics - Non-Plasticised PVC pipes and fittings for underground irrigation systems.~~

Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group:

NF T 54-948 (February 2010) Plastic piping systems for conveyance of water under pressure – Biaxially-oriented polyvinyl chloride (PVC-BO) pipes and their assemblies - Specifications.

Siphonic Discharge Group:

NF EN 1329-1 (July 1999) - Plastic piping systems for soil water and wastewater discharge (low and high temperature) within the buildings' structure (PVC-U) - Part 1: Specifications for pipes, fittings and the system.

The standards are supplemented by complementary specifications (defined in paragraph 2.2.3).

Standard relative to the quality management system

NF EN ISO 9001:2008 and NF EN ISO 9001:2015, Quality management systems – Requirements.

2.2.3 Complementary specifications

In addition to these regulations and standards, these products must meet the following requirement:

- **The pipes and fittings concerned by this reference system must be manufactured using a lead-free formulation. This requirement is effective as of the approval date of the reference system; a 2-year transition period will be authorised for implementation of this specification for all holders.**

In addition to the requirements set down in the previous paragraphs, the products shall meet the complementary specifications defined in the following technical documents (these technical documents have the same revision index as the certification reference system: No. 17):

- **Technical Document 1:** Specifications applicable to all groups.
- **Technical Document 2:** Discharge Group.
- **Technical Document 3:** Pressure Group.
- **Technical Document 4:** ~~Irrigation Group.~~
- **Technical Document 5:** Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group.
- **Technical Document 6:** Siphonic Discharge Group.

2.3 THE QUALITY MANAGEMENT PROVISIONS: AUDIT REFERENCE SYSTEM

2.3.1 Purpose

The holders and their distributors are each responsible for the right to use the NF mark relative to the product considered.

The holder shall implement all necessary means to guarantee that the product complies with this certification reference system at all times. **Moreover, it shall ensure the supervision of external service providers using any method to assess all the component elements of a product or external service(s) for which it is the applicant or holder of the right to use the certification mark.**

This paragraph sets the minimum measures that the holder shall implement in the areas of quality management to ensure that the products that are covered by the NF mark are, at all times, manufactured in compliance with this certification reference system.

This paragraph constitutes the audit reference system.

The quality system relies in part on the establishment by the holder of a set of organisational measures ensuring conformity of the delivered products with the standards and complementary specifications, if applicable. These provisions are described in paragraphs 2.3.2 and 2.3.3.

The quality requirements are defined according to 2 options, left to the choice of the applicant or holder:

2.3.2 Minimum requirements for quality management (Quality control option)

The applicant/holder shall have implemented its own methods, the existence and effectiveness of which have been assessed based on the requirements of Standard NF EN ISO 9001:

- NF EN ISO 9001 revision 2008 (applicable until 15 September 2018), and
- NF EN ISO 9001 revision 2015 (applicable as of 15 September 2015).

If the manufacturing unit is not NF EN ISO 9001-certified, the applicant/holder must justify the introduction of a range of organisational provisions and a production control system to control conformity with the standards and complementary specifications for the delivered products that meet at least the requirements in this certification reference system.

The audits are carried out according to Table 1 as follows. This table indicates the specific requirements in Standard NF EN ISO 9001 which must be verified in the context of the certification.

As part of an audit, all requirements identified on the shaded lines in Table 1 below must be audited, as well as the register of client complaints; these reductions lead to a shorter audit period but not fewer audits. All other requirements in terms of quality management shall be audited over a 3-year period.

Possibility of reduction (“Quality management” option):

If the manufacturing unit has a certified quality management system that conforms to Standard NF EN ISO 9001, the audits may be “reduced”. Only the requirements identified on a “shaded” line in Table 1 are to be audited.

This reduction can be envisaged as long as:

- the ISO 9001 certificate includes within its scope and domain the sites and activities covered by the certification mark; and
- the ISO 9001 certificate is issued by a certifying body accredited by the COFRAC or by a member of the EA (European cooperation for Accreditation) or by a member of the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) - see signatories on the COFRAC website www.cofrac.fr, and
- the last ISO 9001 audit report from the body is forwarded to CSTB prior to the body's audit or examined during the body's audit.

Until 15 September 2018, the audits will be carried out on one of the 2 revisions of the standard ISO 9001 (2008 or 2015) depending on the version used by the holder and, consequently, its ISO 9001 certificate. As of 15 September 2018, the audits will be carried out only according to the 2015 revision.

A customer complaint register shall be kept and shall mention how the complaints are being dealt with. The holder's register shall comprise the following:

- a record of all complaints and appeals;
- a record of the actions taken;
- a record of the corrective measures adopted when the complaints have revealed a manufacturing anomaly.

The choice of one or the other of these options involves:

The applicant or holder implementing a system consistent with the option chosen.

Various third-party quality assurance procedures.

In all cases, this reduction can be called into question if the conditions according to which the reduction was accepted are no longer respected.

TABLE 1 (APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS)

§ ISO 9001: 2008	§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
5. Management responsibility				
5.5.1 / 5.5.2.	5.3.	Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Organisation chart * Description of responsibilities and authorities (examples: organisation chart, job sheets, etc.) * Person appointed to be responsible for organising and efficiently implementing the production system 	<p>For individuals in charge of inspection or with a direct impact on the critical points in terms of product creation and production</p> <p>All items except: * ISO 9001 V15: §5.3 c,d</p>
7. Support				
6.1.	7.1.4.	Environment for the operation of processes	Evidence of the maintenance of the work environment. Examples: storage of a product and its components to protect them from bad weather, suitable ambient conditions, etc.	For the processes related to completion of the products/services
7.6.	7.1.5.	Monitoring and measuring resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * List of the inspection, measuring and test equipment used on the product/service production site and/or in the laboratory, * Identification of the equipment used to determine their validity, * Planning for the verification or calibration of the equipment having an impact on the validity of the results (in particular the equipment used to perform tests on certified characteristics) * Evidence of the verification and/or calibration operations (ex: equipment data sheet, verification or calibration report, etc.), * Evidence of connection to national or international standards (where possible) * Validation of software used to monitor and measure the specified requirements, where appropriate. 	For the processes related to completion of the products/services
6.2.	7.2.	Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Compliance with test methods and inspection provisions. * Actions planned to acquire the necessary skills (training, tutoring, etc.), where appropriate. 	For individuals in charge of inspection or with a direct impact on the critical points in terms of product creation and production
4.2.	7.5.	Documented information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * List of the internal and external documented information. <p>Examples: Procedures, operating methods, test methods, inspection instructions, quality records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Evidence of control of internal and external documents <p>Example: Availability of the applicable version of the test method, the reference system, the inspection provisions, etc.</p>	<p>For the processes related to completion of the products</p> <p>All items except: * ISO 9001 v08: § 4.2.1., 4.2.2</p> <p>Note: Quality manuals are no longer required.</p>
8. Operation				
7.4.	8.4.	Control of externally provided products and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * List of the service providers * Contract / order defining the requirements of the applicant / holder of the certification * Evidence of the verification of raw materials, components (1), services purchased * Evidence of the verification of subcontracting conditions: transport, handling, tests (2), etc. 	<p>For raw materials, purchased components, and external services affecting the quality of the product/service ></p> <p>External providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * supplier of raw materials, components, services integrated into the product/service * subcontractor of external services (ex: tests, handling, transport, etc.) <p>(* Specific case of applicants/holders subcontracting part of their production</p> <p>CSTB audits the subcontractors (as provided for in the certification reference system)</p> <p>All items except: * ISO 9001 v08: § 7.4.1. * ISO 9001 v15: § 8.4.1.</p>

§ ISO 9001: 2008	§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
7.5.1 / 7.5.2.	8.5.1.	Control of production and service provision	<p>* Information defining the characteristics of products and services. Examples: product plan / description of the service, etc.</p> <p>* Information defining the activities to be carried out and the results to be obtained. Examples: operating method(s), working instruction(s), test method(s), certification reference system (expected performance)</p> <p>* Monitoring and measurement activities Examples: Monitoring plan, inspection procedures and instruction(s), test method(s), etc.</p> <p>* Conservation of documented information proving the conformity of products/services with the acceptance criteria (Same as § 8.2.4. ISO 9001 v08 and § 8.6. ISO 9001 v14)</p>	■
7.5.3.	8.5.2.	Identification and traceability	<p>* Identification / Marking of the product in accordance with the requirements in the Certification reference system</p> <p>*Marking of commercial documents in compliance with this certification reference system.</p>	For identification and traceability
7.5.5.	8.5.4.	Preservation of the product	Verifying that the product is preserved throughout the production line (identification, handling, storage, packaging, transport, etc.)	■
-	8.5.6.	Control of changes in production / service provision	<p>* Evidence of control pertaining to the modifications in the manufacturing process / service provision, in particular the impact of modifications on the product's performance (3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reviewing the modifications, - person permitting modifications and all the necessary related actions. 	■
8.2.4.	8.6.	Release of products and services	<p>* Provisions for the control of products; records of the results of inspections and the conformity with the acceptance criteria (4)</p> <p>* Name of the persons responsible for releasing the finished products / services</p>	■
8.3.	8.7.	Control of non-compliant components	<p>* Provisions for processing non-conformities, including customer complaints, and implementation of those provisions (5)</p> <p>* No dispensation granted as regards the performance of a certified characteristic</p>	■
9. Performance evaluation				
5.6.	9.3.	Management review	Management review report	
10. Improvement				
8.5.2.	10.2.	Nonconformity and corrective action	<p>* Implementation of corrective actions to deal with non-conformities pertaining to a certified product, including customer complaints (6)</p> <p>* Effectiveness of the actions taken.</p>	■

*: No acceptance by exemption may be considered for a product with NF marking.

As part of follow-up, the auditor decides the points to be audited basing him/herself on previous audit reports and on any modifications made to the system since the last audit

2.3.3 Requirements specific to the products

The holder shall possess the necessary ways and means for the inspection and testing defined by the standards and complementary specifications mentioned in paragraph 2.2 of this certification reference system and in the technical documents relative to each product group.

The holder commits to carrying out reliable and regular verification of its production. The verification operations are organised in three phases as follows:

- Inspections of product components;
- Inspections carried out during production;
- Checks and tests carried out on finished products.

Verifications of the product's components

Holders are required to carry out an inspection of all components used in the manufacture of their certified products upon receipt and in all cases prior to use.

This inspection, the content of which may vary according to the holder's internal inspection structure and the guarantees of regularity provided by the suppliers, generally includes:

- incoming checks enabling the delivery to be accepted;
- quality assurance operations, making it possible to assess the compliance and/or the regularity of the product's components when compared with the expected characteristics.

The method for taking the samples necessary for the inspection shall be described in detail in the holder's quality plan and shall not be left to the operator's discretion only.

This inspection can be simplified if the holder contractually imposes a comprehensive inspection before delivery by its supplier(s) and if it possesses, for each batch delivered, the resulting analysis sheets or if the supplier is certified according to standard NF EN ISO 9001: 2008 for relevant products or if the products are certified.

In-production inspection

In-production inspection must be organised by the applicant/holder. This concerns the product in its intermediate states at the main steps of fabrication and the review inspection of the set points of the production equipment (fabrication machines, tooling). Verification instructions shall be formalised and made available to the operators.

The results of those verifications shall be recorded at each operation.

Inspection and testing on finished products

The holder shall check the characteristics of the finished products before their delivery. It is responsible for organising this inspection.

The inspections and tests on products manufactured by the holder are usually carried out according to the standards and complementary specifications mentioned in the technical documents of this certification reference system. They respect the testing methods specified in the technical documents of these rules.

The various characteristics verified are measured according to the procedures defined in the reference standards referred to in paragraph 2.2 of this certification reference system and in the technical documents relative to each product group and family.

The inspections on finished products are carried out by the holder itself at the production site.

Type testing for an application for the right to use the NF mark:

- ⇒ Type testing for an admission application
- ⇒ Type testing for an extension application

NOTE: Type tests are tests intended to verify the ability of products to fulfil the intended application. The results of the type tests remain valid as long as no major modifications are made to the products (such as a change in formulation or design) and on the condition that the stability of the production process is regularly checked.

Inspection on finished products

The holder is required to take random samples at the end of the production line and carry out the inspections and tests on these samples. Samples taken must be representative of a varied sample of product dimensions.

The method for collecting the samples required for testing must be clearly specified in the holder's quality plan and must not be left to the sole discretion of the operator.

If the results of the standard inspections are inconclusive, the inspections are reinforced in order to detect the causes of the failure and to remedy this by completing manufacturing inspections, when necessary.

The applicant may outsource the completion of tests to an external laboratory, on the condition that a contract is put in place.

The holder shall record the results of the previous inspections. Should the admissible number of not-entirely-satisfactory products be exceeded, the holder must:

- carry out enhanced inspections the following month,
- implement the necessary corrective actions and include them on the quality assurance records.

Utilising the results

The test results shall be utilised by the operator or the supervisor to whom he/she remits them so as to verify, as a minimum, the compliance or non-compliance with the internal specifications and with the specifications of these rules.

2.4 MARKING

Marking is an integral part of the certification of a product.

Beyond the identification of a certified product and its traceability, the marking of a product with the NF logo ensures an optimal protection of the mark and facilitates legal actions and convictions in cases of fraudulent imitations.

Furthermore, the listing of the main certified characteristics represents an advantage for consumers and enhances the value of the certification and of its content.

2.4.1 The NF logo

The NF logo shall ensure the identification of each certified product.

The NF-certified product is covered by its own trade reference.

The holder must not use the NF mark except to single out certified products without there being any risk of confusion whatsoever with other products.

Separate identification of certified products is done using the NF logo and must be done by means of a distinct product name, colour or any other means necessary to prevent confusion between certified and non-certified ranges.

The logo's graphic tools are available from the CSTB Technical Department (Tel.: +33 (0)1 64 68 89 52 – E-mail: certification@cstb.fr).

It is recommended that the holder remit to CSTB, in advance, all the documents upon which the NF mark appears.

2.4.2 Reference texts

The Consumer Code: striving for transparency

Communication concerning the data relative to the Certification of the product and service is governed by regulations. The purpose of these is to make the meaning of the identification tags, Certification marks, etc. transparent for consumers and for users.

Therefore, Article R 433-2 of the Consumer Code stipulates that:

"When reference is made to certification in an advertisement, the marking or the presentation of any product or service and on commercial documents of all types referring thereto, the following information must be brought to the knowledge of the consumer or the user:

- *The name or the company name of the certifying body or the collective certification mark,*
- *The designation of the certification reference system used,*
- *The conditions under which the certification reference system can be consulted or obtained.*

The general rules of the NF Mark

The purpose of the marking rules below is to guide the holder in complying with the regulation and NF Certification requirements. The NF mark's general rules specify the guidelines for usage, the guidelines for validity and the procedures for penalties in cases of wrongful usage.

The holder shall not use the NF mark in all documents except to single out certified products, without there being any risk of confusion, whatsoever, with non-certified products.

The reference system for the NF mark – Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings

This NF Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings certification reference system is available from the CSTB Technical Division (Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 89 52 – E-mail: certification@cstb.fr) or on the website www.marque-nf.com.

2.4.3 Marking conditions

This paragraph describes both the procedure for affixing the NF logo and the marking of the certified characteristics. “Certified characteristic” means “all data of which the content is inspected within the framework of the NF mark”.

It deals with the following three aspects for marking the NF logo on:

- *the NF-certified product,*
- *the packaging of the NF-certified product, if relevant,*
- *the documentation and on the websites.*

The marking procedures are defined in each technical document

In order to meet the requirements in article **R 433-2** of the Consumer Code, the marking must integrate the following elements whenever possible:



www.marque-NF.com

or <http://evaluation.cstb.fr>

Certified characteristic:

The certified characteristics are defined in Part 2 of each Technical Document.

It is recommended that consumers be informed about the primary reasons for and advantages of using a certified product. The certified characteristics must appear on at least one of the supports (product, packaging or communication media).

- **If there are 2 interchangeable products, one being NF 55-certified and the other not NF 55-certified, the applicant/holder must report the 2 trade names to the certifying body.**
- **To prevent any confusion between these interchangeable NF 55-certified products and non-NF 55-certified products, the applicant/holder must ensure that the trade names used are not too similar. Differentiation between 2 trade names of certified and non-certified products must meet the following requirements:**
 - **the differentiation may not be done by adding a term separated by a non-alphabetical character to the first name,**
 - **there may be no more than 4 consecutive shared characters and the number of differentiating characters must be greater than or equal to the number of shared characters.**

- The holder may not include in its documentation any characteristics different from those mentioned on the NF 55 certificates (field of application, performances, CCSigma, burial depth, etc.).

2.4.4 Information concerning certified characteristics

The certified characteristics are defined in Part 2 of each Technical Document.

Without prejudice to the penalties set down in the general rules of the NF mark, any erroneous communication of the certified characteristics exposes the holder to legal action for fraud and/or for false advertising.

In application of article R 433-2 of the Consumer Code (see paragraph 2.4.2), all documentation relating to an NF-certified product must have the form specified in the technical documents.

Partie 3

OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATION

- Definition of the applicant (see Part 8);
- Definitions of different types of applications (admission application / complementary admission application / extension application / maintenance application, a new admission application for a product (or product range) after a sanction of withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark):
 - an initial admission application: it is made by a manufacturer that does not have the right to use the NF mark for the application in question. It corresponds to a product (or a range of products) from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a trade reference specific to the product submitted and technical characteristics; it must also prove that its quality assurance system has been in operation for more than three months.
 - A complementary admission application: it is sent by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new Group or a new manufacturing unit;
 - An extension request: it is sent by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new product or modified range.
 - An application to maintain the right to use the mark: it is made by a holder that has the right to use the NF mark for the application in question for an NF-certified product intended to be marketed by a distributor under a different brand and/or trade reference, without modifying the certified characteristics.
 - A new application for admission for a product (or a range of products) following the withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark as a result of a sanction in the event of deceptive marketing practices in application of Articles L 121-2 to L121-5 of the Consumer Code and the sanctions provided for in articles L 132-1 to L 132-9.

Particular case of an admission request in a country subject to special vigilance

Observing a number of tensions throughout the world, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs defined alert areas for each country under the following conditions:

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/conseils-aux-voyageurs/conseils-par-pays/>

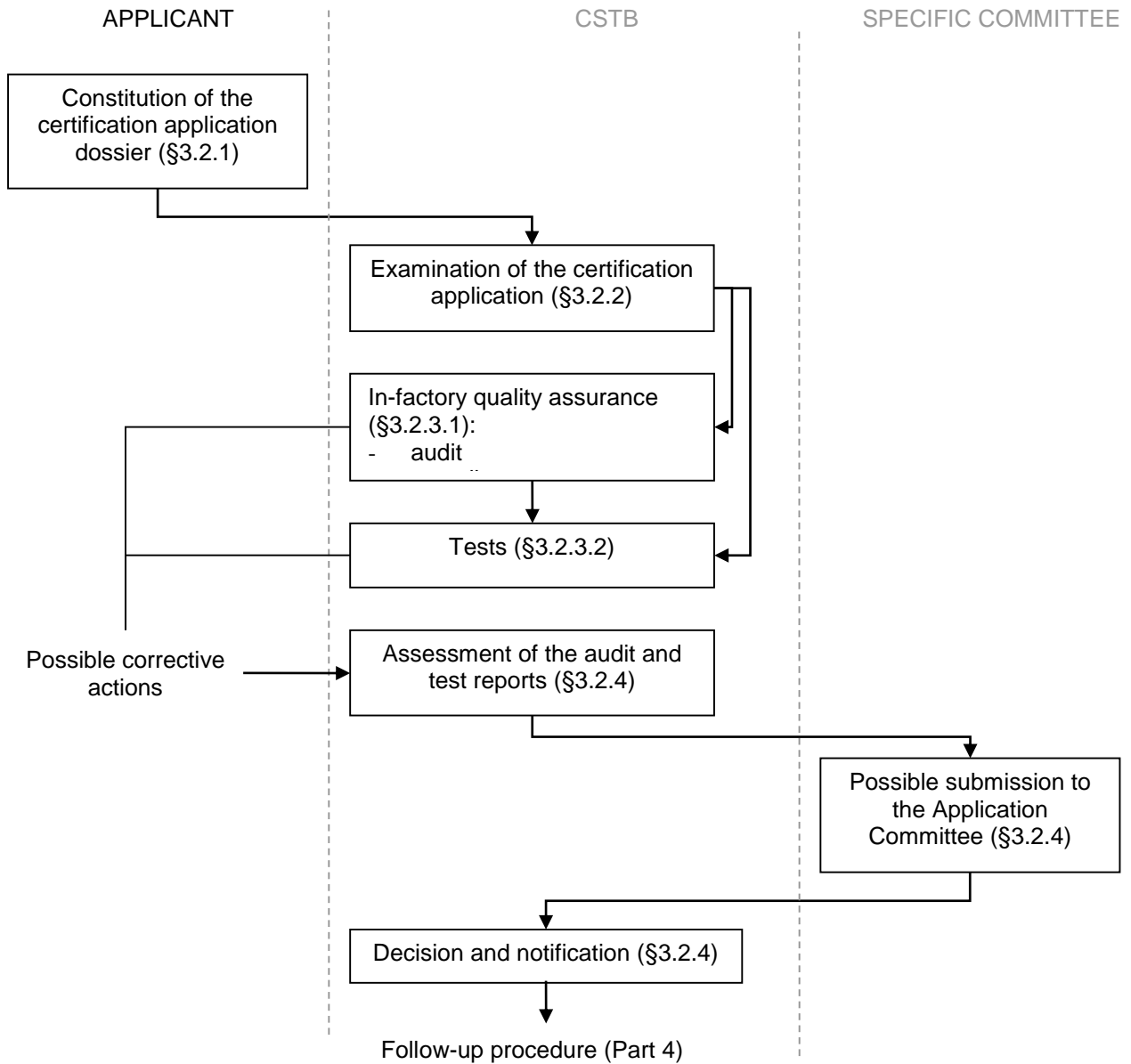
- green areas for normal vigilance;
- yellow areas for increased vigilance;
- orange areas inadvisable unless for imperative reasons;
- red areas highly inadvisable.

In accordance with the recommendations of the French Government, with a view to ensuring the safety of CSTB personnel and its subcontractors (hereafter referred to as “the Auditors”), any admission applications for certification made by entities whose sites to be assessed within the framework of certification are situated on the territory of a country classified in orange- or red-alert areas shall not be taken into consideration by CSTB.

As regards certification applications made by entities whose sites to be assessed within the framework of certification, during the admission or follow-up stages, are situated on the territory of a country classified in a yellow-alert area, Auditors are allowed to travel provided the audited entity makes arrangements locally and entirely at its own expenses for the transport and accommodation of Auditors so that their safety may be ensured.

Within 10 days prior to any travel, the applicant/holder shall provide CSTB with the Auditors' travel and accommodation conditions required to ensure their safety. CSTB may make observations and justify additional requests; it reserves the right to cancel any business trip if the conditions submitted do not provide sufficient guarantees for safety.

3.1 PROCESS



3.2 CASE OF AN INITIAL APPLICATION

3.2.1 Submission of the certification application dossier

Before submitting the application, the applicant shall ensure that, at the time of application, it meets the conditions set down in this certification reference system and particularly, in Part 2, concerning its product and the sites concerned. It shall commit to following the reference system in force throughout the duration of use of the NF mark.

The application shall be made in accordance with the conditions and models given in Part 7.

When the application is received, the following procedure is initiated:

- The admissibility of the dossier;
- The implementation of the inspections;
- The assessment and the decision.

3.2.2 Assessing the admissibility of the certification application

The application can only be admitted if:

- All the documents requested are included with the application.
- The products covered by the application comply with the technical specifications set down in Part 2 of these rules.
- The quality assurance system has operated for more than three months.
- The admissibility of the application is conditional on the ability of the applicant to produce a range compliant with the reference system, enabling significant contribution to the quality of the final system, in keeping with existing French regulations. The minimum content of this range is set out in each TD and can be produced on one or more sites.

CSTB also ensures that it has all the ways and means to reply to the application and it may need to request additional information necessary for the admissibility of the dossier if the latter is incomplete.

Once the application is admissible, CSTB organises the inspections and informs the applicant of the organisational procedures (auditor, audit duration, sites to be audited, laboratories, products to be sampled, etc.).

3.2.3 Quality assurance procedures

There are generally two types of inspections performed within the framework of the NF mark:

- the audits carried out during visits to the manufacturing unit;
- the tests on products submitted.

3.2.3.1 The audits

The purpose of the audits is to ensure that the measures defined and implemented by the applicant in the manufacturing unit meet the requirements in Part 2 of this certification reference system and in the technical documents relative to the product groups:

- Technical Document 1: Specifications applicable to all groups.
- Technical Document 2: Discharge Group.
- Technical Document 3: Pressure Group.
- Technical Document 4: Irrigation Group.

- Technical Document 5: Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group.
- Technical Document 6: Siphonic Discharge Group.

This entails checking, before admission, the existence and effectiveness of the measures taken in terms of quality as well as the applicant's product quality control; these are the admission audits carried out by the auditor.

The duration of an audit is at least 2 days; however, this duration may vary depending on:

- 1 - The type of audit: Admission or Extension.
- 2- The number of families to certify.
- 3- The range of products admitted or to admit.

The maximum duration of an audit is 5 days.

In case the applicant subcontracts part of its manufacturing, CSTB reserves the right to send an auditor to complete an audit on the premises of the subcontractor(s) on the basis of the same reference system.

All the ways and means (premises, installations, equipment) enabling the auditor to carry out the mission incumbent upon him/her, shall be placed at his/her disposal free of charge, along with persons qualified to implement them.

The auditor takes the samples necessary for testing from inventory and the factory. For certain destructive tests, it is possible to take samples of products eliminated due to minor defects in terms of appearance that do not cause non-conformity of the NF-certified products. The samples are identified by the auditor using a distinctive symbol and are sent by and under the responsibility of the holder to the mark's laboratory assigned to carry out the tests within a time span set at the time of the sampling, unless the inspection agent decides to take responsibility. An information sheet recording the samples taken is prepared on the site and handed to the holder. Should it be impossible to take these samples, the holder shall send the samples requested by CSTB to the mark's laboratory within the time prescribed.

An audit report is prepared and given to the applicant when the audit is complete.

3.2.3.2 The tests

The mark's laboratories are responsible for carrying out the tests.

The tests are carried out in compliance with the standards listed in Part 2 and in the technical documents pertaining to the product groups.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

3.2.4 Assessment and decision-making

CSTB assesses the test and audit reports intended for the applicant according to the procedures in force.

The reports, as the case may be, are accompanied by a request for a reply within a prescribed time span.

In certain cases, an additional inspection may be requested when the report is analysed.

For each irregularity, the applicant shall describe the actions implemented or planned along with the time span for their application and the individuals in charge.

CSTB analyses the pertinence of the reply and can request the implementation of an additional check.

If needed, CSTB can anonymously submit all the results of the assessment to the Specific Committee for approval.

Depending on the results of all the inspections, CSTB's Technical Director will make one of the following decisions:

- Certification agreement
- Certification refusal.

In the event of a positive certification decision, **CSTB** shall grant the right to use the NF mark and CSTB shall remit the certificate to the applicant, which will then become a holder of the right to use the NF mark.

The procedures for communication concerning certification are set down in paragraph 2.4 of this certification reference system.

The applicant can contest the decision taken by sending a request in accordance with the general rules of the NF mark.

3.3 CASE OF A COMPLEMENTARY APPLICATION

The application shall be made in accordance with the conditions and models given in Part 7.

The steps described in paragraph 3.1 above apply with the following specifics: the audit can be adapted or accompanied by a surveillance audit.

3.4 CASE OF AN EXTENSION APPLICATION

The application shall be made in accordance with the conditions and models given in Part 7.

The steps described in paragraph 3.1 apply along with the following specific requirements:

- In the case of a new product: the audit can be adapted or accompanied by a surveillance audit.
- In case a factory requests an extension for a modified certified product, the tests are defined depending on the modification planned;
- The audit can be adapted or accompanied by a surveillance audit.
- The audit regime (twice yearly or yearly) following this extension will be proposed by CSTB after consulting with the Specific Committee.

3.5 CASE OF AN APPLICATION TO MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TO USE THE MARK

The application shall be made in accordance with the conditions and models given in Part 7.

For distribution under other trademarks, it is acceptable to make certain presentation modifications to the products in question that have no functional effect. In this case, the holder must specify in the

maintenance application the list of modifications made to the products in question. CSTB then ensures that these modifications have no functional effect.

The Specific Committee is notified when CSTB issues decisions to maintain the right of use.

The company that distributes the certified products must provide CSTB with all the sales documents (catalogues, brochures, etc.) that refer to these products and must do so each time the documents are updated.

Inspections at retail sites (merchants, DIY superstores, etc.) are carried out yearly for products that are the subject of an application to maintain the right to use the mark.

Partie 4

MAINTAINING CERTIFICATION: conditions for follow up

Throughout the certification period, the holder shall:

- comply with the requirements defined and the conditions for marking described in Part 2;
- keep its certification dossier up to date;
- Keep CSTB systematically informed of any changes to one of the characteristics of the certified product.

CSTB follows up on the certified products once the right to use the NF mark is granted. This follow up includes audits and testing of products.

It also includes monitoring the use of the mark and the logo on the products, packaging and on all communication media.

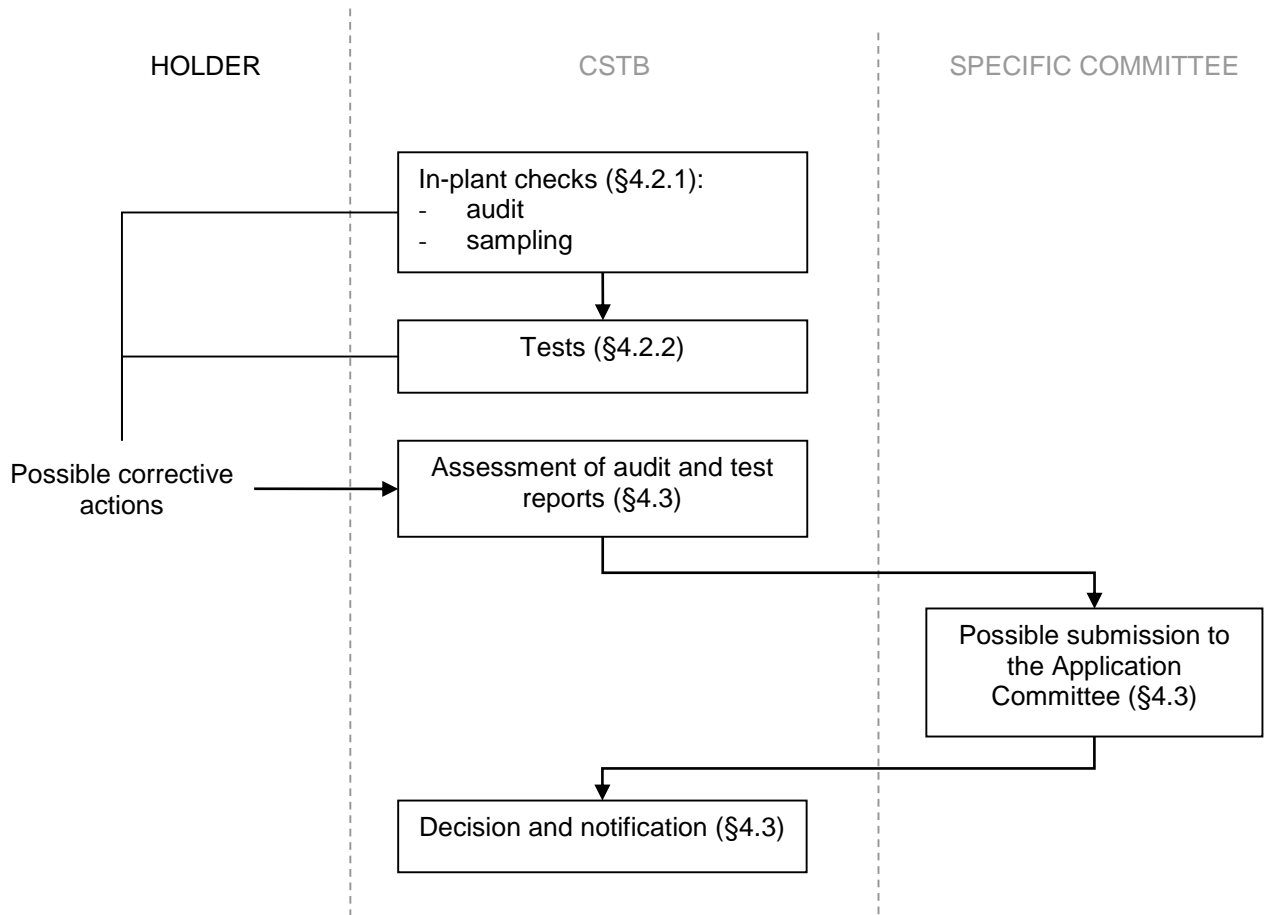
The NF mark is granted to a product coming from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a specific trade reference and technical characteristics. Consequently, any modification to the conditions for obtaining the NF mark shall be communicated in writing to CSTB by the holder.

Moreover, AFNOR Certification and CSTB reserve the right to carry out or to have carried out any additional test or audit which they deem necessary following complaints, contestations and disputes about which they have knowledge and relative to the use of the NF mark.

Retail site inspections may be conducted.

In cases of disputes with users, the inspections may include taking samples or completing tests on the utilisation premises (in this case, the holder is requested to be represented so as to witness the operations).

4.1 PROCESS



4.2 CONDITIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION

The follow-up conditions depend upon the following:

- the option chosen by the holder in terms of quality control, in accordance with Part 2;
- the decisions made as a result of the previous inspections.

It involves audits of the manufacturing unit and tests on products.

As regards distributors whose right of use has been maintained, possible inspections may be carried out on CSTB's initiative.

4.2.1 The audits

4.2.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the audit is to ensure that the measures defined and implemented by the holder in the manufacturing unit continuously meet the requirements of Part 2 of these rules and technical documents relating to product groups and families.

This entails checking, after admission, that these measures are still maintained; these are the periodic audits (follow-up audits), the normal frequency of which is defined in §4.2.1.2.

An audit lasts at least 1 day; however, this duration may vary depending on:

- 1 - the number of certified products.
- 2- the range of products admitted.

The maximum duration of an audit is 3 days.

If an audit is combined with another application, the common verifications provided as part of the applicable requirements of the ISO 9001 standard defined in Table 1, being audited only once (Responsibility, Document Management, Control Operations, Staff, Installations and Equipment, Processing Non-Compliant Products, Traceability and Complaints), the duration can be combined. The duration of the audit will be equal to the sum of the duration of the 2 audits less 0.5 days.

If the holder subcontracts the production of certain components, CSTB reserves the right to send an auditor to complete an audit on the premises of the subcontractor(s) on the basis of the same reference system.

All the ways and means (premises, installations, equipment) enabling the auditor to carry out the mission incumbent upon him/her, shall be placed at his/her disposal free of charge, along with persons qualified to implement them.

The auditor takes the samples necessary for testing from inventory and the factory. It is possible to take, as samples, products eliminated for minor appearance defects for certain destructive tests. The samples are identified by the auditor using a distinctive symbol and are sent by and under the responsibility of the holder to the mark's laboratory assigned to carry out the tests within a time span set at the time of the sampling, unless the inspection agent decides to take responsibility. An information sheet recording the samples taken is prepared on the site and handed to the holder. Should it be impossible to take these samples, the holder shall send the samples requested by CSTB to the mark's laboratory within the time prescribed.

An audit report is prepared and given to the holder when the audit is complete.

4.2.1.2 Frequency of audit visits

Normal surveillance of the manufacturing units

The applicable follow-up audit regime during monitoring of certified products is the twice-yearly regime (2 audits per year) during the 3 years immediately following admission, then the yearly regime (1 audit per year).

In the case of the yearly regime:

CSTB will ensure that the interval between two visits is not less than 9 months and does not exceed 15 months,

Case of a complementary admission:

- case of a holder with more than 3 years of prior history: 2 audits during the year following the complementary admission, then back to 1 yearly audit if no major disparities were detected,
- case of less than 3 years of prior history: the frequency of 2 audits per year shall apply for 3 years.

Reinforced review inspection

Depending on the non-conformities detected during audits or tests, CSTB may decide to go back to the twice-yearly regime for a defined period of time, with or without increased additional inspections.

CSTB consults the Specific Committee for advice before deciding to place a holder under increased monitoring.

4.2.2 Tests on the NF-certified product

The tests are carried out in compliance with the standards and complementary specifications listed in Part 2 and in the technical documents pertaining to the product groups and families.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

4.2.3 Inspections in retail sites

Inspections in retail sites are performed once a year on products marketed by distributors whose right to use the NF mark has been maintained.

The CSTB carries out checks on these products in terms of marking, appearance and dimensions. CSTB reserves the right to take samples, as necessary, of these products for testing at the Mark's laboratory.

The costs of these inspections are to be borne by the distributor, in accordance with Part 6 of this certification reference system.

4.3 ASSESSMENT AND DECISION-MAKING

CSTB assesses the test and audit reports transmitted and/or remitted to the holder according to the procedures in force.

The reports are accompanied, in certain cases, by a request for reply within a prescribed time span.

In certain cases, an additional inspection may be requested when the report is analysed.

The holder, for each irregularity, shall propose actions to be implemented or considered along with the time span for implementation and the individuals in charge.

CSTB analyses the pertinence of the reply and can request the implementation of an additional check.

CSTB anonymously submits all the results of the assessment to the Specific Committee for approval.

Depending on the results of all the inspections, CSTB's Technical Director will make one of the following decisions:

- renewal of the certification;
- sanction (the sanction goes from a warning up to withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark).

- If the decision is favourable, AFNOR Certification shall renew the right to use the NF mark.
The penalty is enforceable from the date of its notification.

The cost of additional verification due to the penalties will be borne by the holder.

The holders and their distributors are each responsible, within their respective roles, for the right to use the NF mark, relative to the product in question and undertake to apply the measures resulting from penalties, decided upon in accordance with the certification reference system.

Any suspension or any withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark results in a ban on using the NF mark or making reference to it. This obligation is valid not only for the holder but also for the entire sales network of its company, as well as for the dealers called upon to distribute its products. In the same way, any inadvertently non-compliant product and its packaging shall not be marked with the NF logo provided or these logos shall be crossed out or covered up to eliminate any risk of confusion.

After consulting with the Specific Committee, a suspension of the right of use for an entire product range (group or family of products) may be accompanied by a ban on selling all or some of the products in the manufacturer's inventory covered by the suspended certificate.

The catalogues and other documentation shall no longer mention the NF Mark for the product subject to a suspension or a withdrawal (erratum and/or reprinting).

The originals of the NF certificates in question must be returned to CSTB.

The holder can contest the decision made by submitting a request in accordance with the NF general rules.

4.4 DECLARATION OF MODIFICATIONS

This section describes information to be provided and approaches to be followed in cases of modifications concerning:

- the holder;
- the manufacturing unit;
- the quality organisation of the manufacturing unit;
- the product.

In cases not provided for earlier, CSTB determines whether the modifications affect the certification and whether it is necessary to carry out an additional inspection.

Depending on the results of the examination, CSTB's Technical Director communicates the appropriate decision.

4.4.1 Modification concerning the holder

The holder shall communicate in writing to CSTB any legal modification of its company or any modification in its company name.

In case of merger, liquidation or absorption of the holder, all rights it may have to use the mark are automatically terminated.

A new application can be submitted and its examination can be reduced depending upon the modifications.

4.4.2 Modification concerning the manufacturing unit

Any transfer (total or partial) of the manufacturing unit of an NF-certified product to another production site shall lead to an immediate halt of NF marking by the holder on the products concerned.

The holder shall inform CSTB in writing of this transfer and CSTB will organise an audit of the new production site and, as the case may be, have tests carried out.

The visit may be shortened or even eliminated if CSTB is already familiar with the new site.

The procedures for assessment and for certification renewal decision-making are the same as those for admission, as described in Part 3.

4.4.3 Modification concerning the manufacturing unit's quality organisation

The holder shall declare in writing to CSTB any modification relative to its quality organisation that might affect the conformity of the production with the requirements of these rules (modifications concerning its installations, its quality plans, etc.).

In particular, it shall declare any certification modification made to its quality management system.

Any temporary halt in the internal quality assurance operation for an NF-certified product results in an immediate halt of its NF marking by the holder.

The CSTB then communicates a decision to suspend the right to use the NF mark for a specific time period, after which, if the right of use cannot be re-established, it will be withdrawn.

4.4.4 Modification concerning the NF-certified product

Any modification of the NF-certified product in relation to the application dossier, the accepted model and rules set out in these rules that could have an effect on the conformity of the product with the requirements of these rules, shall be declared in writing to CSTB.

The CSTB determines whether this is a certification extension application.

4.4.5 Temporary or definitive halt in production

Any temporary or definitive halt in the manufacture of an NF-certified product or any withdrawal from the right to use an NF mark shall be declared in writing to CSTB, specifying how much time will be required to sell off the inventory of products with NF marking. When this time period expires, CSTB sends notice of the suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF Mark.

The holder must request temporary suspension of the right to use the NF Mark for any temporary halt in the manufacturing of a product family for a period exceeding 6 months. This suspension can be renewed once (1 year maximum); after this, CSTB may reassess the right to use the NF mark after consulting with the Specific Committee.

At the end of this suspension, the audit regime remains unchanged.

4.4.6 Modification concerning the distribution channel

In cases of applications to maintain the right to use the NF mark, the holder shall commit to informing CSTB of any modification to distribution as soon as it becomes aware of such a modification and, in particular, whenever it stops supplying a distributor that has the right to use the NF mark.

The distributor maintaining the right to use the NF mark shall commit to informing CSTB of any modification in its supplies that would ipso facto cause the halt in the right to use the mark until the procedure described above is again carried out for the new supply source.

Partie 5 STAKEHOLDERS

The organisations involved in the procedure for granting the right to use the NF mark and in the surveillance of NF-certified products are designated below.

The NF mark is the property of AFNOR, which has granted AFNOR Certification an exclusive exploitation licence. AFNOR Certification manages and coordinates the NF certification system which specifies in particular the governance rules and the operating conditions applicable to the NF mark.

5.1 MANDATED BODY

In accordance with the general rules of the NF mark, AFNOR Certification assigns the performance of various functions necessary for the management of the NF Mark – Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings to the following organisation, **referred to as the mandated body** (M.B.):

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Service Hydraulique et Équipements Sanitaires (HES)
Division “Canalisations”
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
CHAMPS SUR MARNE
F-77447 MARNE LA VALLEE CEDEX 2
Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 85 67
Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

5.2 AUDIT BODY

The audit functions for the manufacturing unit and, as the case may be, on the utilisation premises are carried out by the following organisation, designated the audit body:

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Service Hydraulique et Équipements Sanitaires (HES)
Division “Canalisations”
84, Avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02
Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 85 67
Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

Laboratoire National d'Essais (LNE)

Centre Matériaux Énergie Environnement
Division “Plastiques et Composites”
29, avenue Roger Hennequin
78197 TRAPPES CEDEX
Tel: +33 (0)1 30 69 10 00
Fax: +33 (0)1 30 69 12 34

The auditors have the right to inspect the premises of any applicant or holder as part of their task.

5.3 TEST BODY

Whenever the inspections performed include tests on products, these will be conducted, at the request of the MB, by the following laboratories, referred to as the laboratories of the mark:

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Service Hydraulique et Équipements Sanitaires (HES)

Division "Canalisations"

84, Avenue Jean Jaurès

Champs sur Marne

77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02

Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 85 67

Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Laboratoire d'Assainissement CAPE

11, rue Henri Picherit

BP 82341

F-44323 NANTES Cedex 3

Tel: +33 (0)2 40 37 20 78

Fax: +33 (0)2 40 37 20 40

Laboratoire National d'Essais (LNE)

Centre Matériaux Énergie Environnement

Division "Plastiques et Composites"

29, avenue Roger Hennequin

78197 TRAPPES CEDEX

Tel: +33 (0)1 30 69 10 00

Fax: +33 (0)1 30 69 12 34

5.4 SUBCONTRACTING

After receiving the Specific Committee's agreement, the various functions described in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 can be carried out by other audit bodies or recognised laboratories with which CSTB has signed a subcontracting contract. Specific conditions or restrictions may be defined by the Specific Committee.

As external auditors, the following requirements must be met:

- 1 – External auditors are submitted to the Specific Committee for assessment; acceptance of these external auditors is subject to annual revalidation.
- 2 – The specific conditions related to the auditor must be set on a case by case basis by the Specific Committee and recorded in the minutes of this Specific Committee; these conditions must be reviewed each year within the framework of the Specific Committee.
- 3 - External auditors are subject to the same qualification procedure as internal auditors.

Subcontracting auditors: Mr Michel Frank (self-employed)

5.5 SPECIFIC COMMITTEE

An impartial consultative authority is established called the Specific Committee, the Secretariat of which is provided by CSTB.

The Specific Committee is requested to give its opinion on the following:

- the initial draft certification reference system or the draft revised version, as specified in the Consumer Code,
- the preparation of advertising and promotional activities that fall within its competence,

- the selection of bodies participating in the certification process and the examination and implementation of recognition agreements.

It can be consulted about any other question pertaining to the application concerned and in particular about any interpretation of the certification reference system with a view to making decisions regarding dossiers in accordance with the certification reference systems and at CSTB's request.

The composition of the Specific Committee is set to respect representation between the different parties concerned, without leading to the predominance of any one of them and guaranteeing their relevance.

It is composed as follows:

President (appointed from among the members).

Vice President:

1 representative of AFNOR Certification.

1 representative of CSTB.

Board of certified manufacturers: (5 to 8 members)

Board of users: (5 to 8 members)

Board of technical and administrative bodies: (5 to 8 members)

The committee issues decision notifications and its members shall be precluded from receiving any remuneration for the functions entrusted to them.

The length of the members' terms is 3 years. This appointment is renewable by tacit agreement. The committee's President can change every year.

Between sessions, the Specific Committee can entrust some of its functions to an organisation for which it will have designated the members by name, chosen mandatorily from among the members of the Specific Committee, and will have defined the task.

The members of the Specific Committee officially commit to keeping all information communicated to them confidential, particularly that which is individual in nature. The CSTB takes special measures to ensure the confidentiality of the dossiers of the applicant or of the holder, presented to the Committee (except in cases of dispute/remedy **or appeal**).

The composition of the Specific Committee can be revised annually.

If a vote is taken, a Specific Committee makes decisions based on a simple majority of its present or represented members, subject to the following two-fold condition:

- real representation of the board representing the applicants or holders, on the one hand, and of the board representing the users and advisors, on the other hand (non-representative of an interest);
- none of the boards has a majority of the people present or represented (predominance of an interest).

If this is not the case, there is either written consultation or a new meeting.

The representatives of audit bodies and mark laboratories have the right to participate in the meetings of the Specific Committee.

Partie 6 FEES

NF certification includes the following services:

- developing and setting up an application,
- examining the certification application,
- processing the certification application,
- testing,
- auditing,
- sampling,
- fee for the right to use the NF mark,
- additional inspections,
- promoting **the NF mark**

6.1 SERVICES RELATING TO NF CERTIFICATION

Nature of the service	Definition of the service	General terms and conditions common to all NF marks
Developing and setting up an application	Participation in the implementation of the NF mark, including the preparation of the certification reference system.	This service is paid by the company when it makes its initial application for the right to use the NF mark. The fee for these services remains due even if the right to use the NF mark is not awarded or if the application is withdrawn during the examination.
Examining the certification application	Services including examination of the application dossiers, the relationships with the applicants, the laboratories, the auditors and the assessment of the results of the inspections.	This service is invoiced when the application is received. It is a single flat amount. The fee for these services remains due even if the right to use the NF mark is not awarded or if the application is withdrawn during the examination.
Processing the certification application	Services for processing the dossiers of certified products and their holders, preparing lists of certified products and assessing the results of the inspections.	
Testing	Laboratories' testing services.	The laboratories' price lists are provided upon request. The fee for these services remains due even if the right to use the NF mark is not awarded or if the application is withdrawn during the examination.
Auditing	Services including preparation of the audit, the audit itself as well as the report.	Payment for these services remains due even if the right to use the NF mark is not awarded or renewed.

	Travel expenses are to be added to these services.	
Sampling	Services including preparation and the sampling itself.	The minimum amount to be invoiced is half a day.
Fee for the right to use the NF mark	This fee for the right of use, which goes to AFNOR Certification, is intended to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the general operation of the NF Mark (setting up quality assurance, monitoring NF network organisations, managing the NF mark Committee) - defending the NF mark: registration and protection of the mark, legal counsel, dealing with improper usage and justice costs - contribution to the generic promotion of the NF mark. 	The annual fee for using the NF Mark is invoiced to the holder after certification of a product. Whenever the NF mark is granted during the year, the amount of the usage fee is prorated for the number of months following the decision to grant the right of use.
Additional inspections	Services resulting from additional checks or verification tests that may become necessary following inadequacies or anomalies detected by the standard inspections.	These services are paid by the holder at existing rates, which can be provided on request.
Inspection in retail sites	Inspection carried out in the retail site of the products distributed under an application for maintaining the right of use (for holders/distributors only).	These services are to be borne by the distributor-holder maintaining the right to use the NF mark, at existing rates, which can be provided on request.
Promoting the NF mark	Sector promotion actions to promote the NF mark.	The fee for this service is determined each year and invoiced in addition to the other services.

6.2 PAYING FOR THE SERVICES

The registration fee and the costs relating to the examination and inspection services, invoiced as part of an admission or extension application for the right to use the mark, are payable in a lump sum payment, at the time the application is submitted, for its official registration. They are considered earned even in the event that the right of use is not granted or extended.

Expenses relating to the annual monitoring services and the right of use are payable during the first quarter of each year and are considered earned in the event of non-renewal, cancellation or suspension of the right of use during the year.

The CSTB assumes responsibility for passing on to AFNOR Certification the share that is due to it.

The applicant or the holder of the right of use shall pay all the expenses under the prescribed conditions. Any failure on its part constitutes an obstacle to the performance by AFNOR Certification and by CSTB of the responsibilities of verification and corrective action that are incumbent upon them under these rules.

Should initial formal notice sent by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt not result, within one month, in the payment of all the sums due, all penalties provided for in the General Rules of the NF mark may be applied for all the products admitted for that holder.

6.3 RATES

Rates will be revised annually in the form of a price list published by CSTB. This revision is decided on after consultation with the Specific Committee.

The fees are provided on request by CSTB and will be sent out at the same time as the certification reference system.

Partie 7

CERTIFICATION DOSSIERS

The application for the right to use the NF Mark shall be prepared by the holder in one copy sent to CSTB according to the models described below.

In case the product comes from a manufacturing unit located outside the European Economic Area, the applicant designates a delegate within the European Economic Area who co-signs the application.

An application concerning a product that benefits from a foreign conformity mark or from a test certificate from a foreign laboratory is processed taking into account any existing recognition agreements, in accordance with **Article 7** of the general rules of the NF mark.

NOTE: Electronic versions of template letters and sheets may be obtained from CSTB.

7.1 FOR AN ADMISSION REQUEST

Applicants prepare a dossier including:

- An application and commitment letter using standard letter 001, in French;
- A general information sheet concerning the applicant, using standard sheet 003;
- An information sheet concerning the product / product family / product range in accordance with the definition given in Part 1 of the certification reference system and established using standard sheet 004;
- Additional elements set out in sheet 005 (specific to the application).

The application is to be formulated in **1 original on the applicant's letterhead**. The technical file is to be submitted in 1 copy. All the documents are to be remitted to CSTB.

7.2 FOR A COMPLEMENTARY ADMISSION APPLICATION

Holders prepare a dossier including:

- An application and commitment letter using standard letter 001, in French;

The application is to be formulated in **1 original on the applicant's letterhead**. The technical file is to be submitted in 1 copy. All the documents are to be remitted to CSTB.

7.3 CASE OF AN EXTENSION APPLICATION

Holders prepare a dossier including:

- An application and commitment letter using standard letter 002A, in French;
- An information sheet concerning the product / range of products (established in accordance with standard sheet 004) indicating only the modifications made in relation to the NF-certified product / range of products;
- Possible addition of elements listed in sheet 005.

The application is to be formulated in **1 original on the applicant's letterhead**. The technical file is to be submitted in 1 copy. All the documents are to be remitted to CSTB.

7.4 CASE OF AN APPLICATION TO MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TO USE THE MARK

7.4.1 Conditions

The application dossier contains:

- for each trademark, an application and commitment letter following standard letter 002B, to be completed by the holder, accompanied by the distributor's signature, in French;
- the distributor's sales literature (instructions or catalogue excerpt) relating to the products concerned, in French or English.

The application is to be formulated in **1 original on the applicant's letterhead**. The technical file is to be submitted in 1 copy. All the documents are to be remitted to CSTB.

STANDARD LETTER 001
NF MARK
RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS
APPLICATION FORM FOR THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK
OR EXTENSION OF THIS RIGHT TO A NEW PRODUCT FAMILY

(to be composed on the applicant's letterhead)

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment
Services HES - Attention M. MIEMOUNITOU
84, Avenue Jean Jaurès
CHAMPS SUR MARNE
77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02

Subject: NF Mark - RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS
Application for the right to use the NF mark.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the right to use the NF mark

- for the following product/range:..... (detailed list of products that may be appended to the application)
- produced in the following manufacturing unit: (company name) (address)
- for the following trade name:..... (trademark, trade reference, which may be appended to the application).

To that end, I declare that I understand and accept the general rules of the NF mark and the certification reference system of the NF mark "Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings" and I commit to following them throughout the usage of the NF Mark.

I authorise the full publication of the certificates relating to this application.

I acknowledge having been informed that:

- ***this contract is entered into for an unlimited term,***
- ***the contract may be terminated as of right for all or certain of its products for any reason, when the certified products are no longer manufactured / implemented or when the production factory's activity has halted. This termination takes effect only after the expiration of a period of 15 days beginning on the date of receipt by CSTB of the registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, remitted by the holder, communicating the termination as of right of the NF certification.***

To support this application, I commit:

1. to accept and comply with the conditions fixed and defined in the certification reference system specific to the field of products concerned, and, in particular, to:

- **present the products for certification in compliance with the existing regulations concerned,**
- **implement the modifications required by the changes in the certification reference system communicated by the certifying body,**
- **use the NF mark under the conditions set down in the certification reference system and only for the certified products,**
- **follow up on the decisions taken by the certifying body as part of certification (in particular, specify and implement corrective actions in response to any disparity detected or apply a sanction decision).**

2. to pay the certification fees (management, audit and tests, if need be) in conformity with the price list in force;

3. to not submit any counterfeited products for certification;

4. to take the necessary measures:

- to conduct the audit, including the supply of elements to be examined such as documentation and records, access to the relevant equipment, locations, production areas, staff and subcontractors of the client concerned,
- for the participation or non-participation of third-party observers during the audit, when appropriate.

the participation or non-participation of third-party observers during the audit (COFRAC auditor, CSTB certified auditor or CSTB staff); the presence of this observer is systematically communicated to the applicant by CSTB prior to the audit. The applicant may decline an observer on the basis of justifying a potential conflict of interest.

5. to examine and record all complaints:

- make these records available to the certifying body and the auditors, upon request;
- take any appropriate action related to these complaints or defects observed in the products, that affect their conformity to the certification requirements;
- document the actions taken.

6. Meet the conditions for use of the NF Mark as defined in paragraph 4.1 and 4.2 of the NF's general rules;

7. to efficiently apply the quality control system established in order to meet the requirements of the certification reference system;

8. to immediately inform the certifying body of any modification to the original dossier submitted during the application for the right to use the NF mark *under the conditions set down by the certification reference system* (particularly any modification to the product(s) related to the application);

9. to inform the certifying body of any definitive or temporary halt in production concerning the certificate *under the conditions set down by the certification reference system*;

10. to make statements and provide communication on certification consistent with the scope of certification;

11. to not use the certification of its projects in a way that could harm the certification body, *the NF Mark or the certified products*, particularly:

- to not use the NF mark in a way that is improper or non-compliant with the certification reference system in force;
- to not use the certifying body's logo.

12. to, upon suspension, withdrawal or termination of certification, discontinue use of all advertising matter that contains any reference thereto, take action as required by the certification reference system and take any other required measure;

13. to communicate to the certifying body, on its request, all the printed advertising and catalogues referring to the NF mark;

14. if copies of the certification documents are provided to others, to reproduce them in their entirety or as specified in the certification reference system;

15. when making reference to the certification of its products in communication materials, *whether physical or electronic*, such as documents, brochures or ads, to comply with the requirements set down in the general rules of the NF mark in addition to the *requirements defined in the certification reference system*;

16. for all the individuals associated with the certifying body or its qualified subcontractors, to make sure that all the safety provisions concerning working conditions, sites or equipment are in compliance with the regulations in force at the locations concerned.

<OPTION (1): Furthermore, I delegate to the Company (legal name) (company legal form), (registered office), represented by (Mr/Ms)* (name of the legal representative) in that person's capacity (position) to represent me in the European Economic Area for all questions relating to the use of the NF Mark – Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings.

I undertake to immediately notify CSTB of any new appointment of the representative designated above.

For this purpose, I request that the services for which I am responsible be invoiced directly to the Company. It will make the payments on my behalf and in my name as soon as the invoices are received, as agreed when accepting the role of representative.

Yours faithfully,

Date and signature of the applicant's legal representative

<OPTION (1): Date and signature of the legal representative of the applicant preceded by the handwritten note

<OPTION (1): Date and signature of the representative of the European Economic Area preceded by the note "Acceptance of representation">

"Agreement for representation">(1) Applies only to applicants located outside of the EEA

STANDARD LETTER 002 A
NF MARK
RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS
EXTENSION APPLICATION FORM FOR THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK
FOR A NEW OR MODIFIED PRODUCT
(to be composed on the applicant's letterhead)

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment
Services HES
Attention M MIEMOUNITOU
84, Avenue Jean Jaurès –
CHAMPS SUR MARNE
77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02.

Subject: NF MARK - RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS

Extension application for the right to use the NF mark.

Enclosure(s): a technical file

Dear Sir/Madam,

As the holder of the NF Mark - Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings for the product of my manufacture, identified under the following references:

- name of the product/group and/or product family:
- manufacturing unit:
- trade reference:
- trademark:
- right of use granted on (date) and bearing the following number:

I am writing to apply for the right to use the NF mark for the product / product range I manufacture, derived from the NF-certified product / product range with the following modifications: (description of the modifications).

This product/range for which I am seeking an extension will replace the certified product / product range:

- NO (1)
- YES (1)

I declare that the products / product range covered by this application are, with relation to the other characteristics, strictly in conformity with the products / product range already NF-certified and manufactured under the same conditions.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature of the legal
representative of the applicant**

**Date and signature of the representative
in France ²**

<OPTION (2): Date and signature

of the European Economic Area representative

(1) Delete inapplicable items

(2) Only applies to applicants located outside the European Economic Area.

STANDARD LETTER 002 B
NF MARK
RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS
APPLICATION FORM TO MAINTAIN THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK
(to be composed on the applicant's letterhead
and signed by the owner of the mark)

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment
Services HES
Attention M MIEMOUNITOU
84, Avenue Jean Jaurès –
CHAMPS SUR MARNE
77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02.

Subject: NF MARK RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS

Application to maintain the right to use the NF mark.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply to maintain authorisation to affix the NF mark to products that only differ from those admitted to the mark by their references and trademarks, which are affixed thereon and by slight changes that in no way modify their characteristics.

The following company, at the address listed below, will distribute these products under the trademark (*new brand requested*):

Name:

Address:

Identification of the product admitted to the NF mark		Trade name requested by the distributor
Certificate no.	Name and reference of the holder's product	
xxx....		

Please find attached a copy of the commitment sheet signed by the Company (*distributor's name*) to distribute under the trade name (*name or trade reference*) only the products that I have delivered to said company.

I commit to immediately informing CSTB of any modification made to the distribution of these products and, in particular, in the event of supply discontinuation to the company named above.

I authorise CSTB to inform the above-named Company of any penalties, applied in accordance with the Certification Reference System, relating to the products covered by this document.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature of the legal
representative of the holder, maintenance applicant**

**Date and signature of the representative
in France ²**

<OPTION (2): Date and signature

of the European Economic Area representative

DISTRIBUTOR’S VALIDATION

I, the undersigned
 acting in my capacity as:
Indicate the position of the representative (Manager, President, General Director, etc.)
 headquartered at:
 hereby undertake:

- to make no technical changes, in particular affecting the nature and/or operational features of the products named below:

Identification of the product admitted to the NF mark		Trade name ¹ requested by the distributor
Certificate no.	Name and reference of the holder's product	
.....

- to make no other modifications of details on the products as manufactured by the company <holder> except for the following <modifications>. Any subsequent modification shall be reported beforehand to CSTB for approval and also agreed with the holder;
- to not change the abovementioned trade names unless agreed with the holder of the right to use the NF mark;
- to distribute under these trade names only the products delivered by the company <holder>;
- to not make any modification to said trade names without having first notified CSTB by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt;
- to not make any modification to the marking of the products affixed by the holder, in conformity with the provisions of the NF <No.> Certification Reference System, which the undersigned attests to having read and approved;
- to lend CSTB my assistance for any verification pertaining to the products herein covered and their marketing;
- to apply the measures resulting from the penalties imposed in accordance with the certification reference system for granting NF marking, which the undersigned attests to having read and approved;
- to send all commercial documents to CSTB that make reference to the products admitted to the NF Mark (catalogues, brochures, etc.);
- to pay the admission fee provided for in the mark's price list and make all additional payments that will be required of me in accordance with these rules, *particularly the fee for the annual inspection in the retail site according to the financial regime of the NF 055 Mark*;
- to affix the trade name to the products delivered by the company <holder>.

Yours faithfully,

¹ "Trade name" means any distinctive feature that makes it possible to accurately identify both the distributor and the product covered by the NF mark.

Date and signature of the legal representative of the maintenance beneficiary

Date and signature of the representative in France ¹

<OPTION (2): Date and signature of the European Economic Area representative

¹ Only applies to applicants located outside the European Economic Area.

SHEET 003
APPLICANT GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET
NF MARK
RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS

MANUFACTURING UNIT

- Company name: _____
- Address: _____
- Country: _____
- Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
- SIRET No.: _____ NAF Code¹: _____
- Name and capacity of the legal representative: _____
- Name and capacity of the contact person (if different): _____
- VAT identification number: _____
- Email address: _____
- Website: _____
- Certified quality system: ISO 9001:2008

HOLDER (if different from the manufacturing unit):

- Company name: _____
- Address: _____
- Country: _____
- Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
- SIRET No.¹: _____ NAF Code¹: _____
- Name and capacity of the legal representative²: _____
- Name and capacity of the contact person (if different): _____
- VAT identification number³: _____
- Email address: _____
- Website: _____

DELEGATE (if requested):

- Company name: _____
- Address: _____
- Country: _____
- Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
- SIRET No.¹: _____ NAF Code¹: _____
- Name and capacity of the legal representative²: _____
- Name and capacity of the contact person (if different): _____
- VAT identification number³: _____
- Email address: _____
- Website: _____

SHEET 004

**NF MARK RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS
PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET
PIPES SUBMITTED FOR ADMISSION**

Name of pipe extruder:

Relevant family:

Trademark:

Nominal external diameter DN (mm)	Nominal thickness (mm)	Nominal pressure (if applicable)	Type of assembly (sealing ring or solvent- welding)

Date

Stamp and signature

SHEET 004

NF MARK RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS

PRODUCT INFORMATION SHEET

FITTINGS SUBMITTED FOR ADMISSION

Name of the holder:

Relevant family:

Trademark:

Designation	Angle	Orifice: M = Male F = Female	Dimensions	Type of assembly (sealing ring or solvent-welding)

Date

Stamp and signature

SHEET 005

NF MARK RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS

TEMPLATE HOLDER'S TECHNICAL FILE

The application for authorisation to affix the NF mark can only be validly taken into account if all the information below has been supplied by the applicant.

1 - PRODUCTS PRESENTED

Refer to the PRODUCTS sheet (sheet 004).

2. MANUFACTURING DEFINITION

2.1 RAW MATERIALS

- nature, origin and designation of the raw materials used,
- nature, origin and type of seals used,
- nature of controls performed on raw materials.

2.2 MANUFACTURING CONDITIONS

- description of the main manufacturing phases.

3 - GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MANUFACTURING UNIT

- other production and parts represented by the products covered by the NF mark and/or which are the subject of the application,
- other possible quality mark(s) on products which are the subject of the application,
- manufacturing unit organisation chart.

4. QUALITY CONTROL AND ORGANISATION

If the quality assurance system is certified by a third party (recognised by AFNOR CERTIFICATION) for the chain of products in question, the certificate must be included in the technical file.

The application must prove compliance of the quality assurance system with the specifications in annex 5 of this certification reference system.

Partie 8 Glossary

Admissibility:

The character of a dossier that makes it possible to carry out the examination of the application; admissibility relates to the administrative and technical parts of the dossier.

Admission:

An admission application: is sent by an applicant that does not have the right to use the NF Mark.

Application/Applicant:

Any legal entity:

- Manufacturing products within the scope defined above and that can comply with the technical requirements described in Part 2 of this document;
- Distributing products within the scope defined above for which the holder complies with the technical requirements described in Part 2 of this document.

can apply to receive a right to use the NF mark. Such a request is referred to as an "application"; the entity making the request is known as the "applicant".

Audit:

See standard NF EN ISO 9000: 2008.

Part of the site visit relating to examining the product and assessing the specific methods put in place to ensure its compliance with the requirements set out in the Certification Reference System.

Category:

Within a given family, all the products with a similar assembly system.

Complementary admission:

A complementary admission application is sent by a manufacturer who has the right to use the NF Mark for a product under another technical document or for a new manufacturing site.

Extension:

An extension application: it is sent by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new product or modified range.

Decision communicated by CSTB by which the right to use the NF mark is extended to a holder for a modified product or a modified product range.

Family:

All products of the same structure intended for the same application.

Fitting type

For a given group and category, all products that have identical shapes and material composition.

Example:

- 1 type = all diameters of 45°MF elbows for Discharge and for solvent welding assembly.
- 1 type = all diameters of 45°FF elbows for Discharge and for seal ring assembly.

Granting the right to use the NF mark or admission:

Authorisation communicated by CSTB to an applicant to affix the NF mark to the product for which the application has been made.

Group:

All products intended for the same application but having a different structure.

Holder:

Legal entity that has received the right to use the mark.

Maintenance:

a maintenance application: it is made by a holder that has the right to use the NF mark for the application in question for an NF-certified product intended to be marketed by a distributor under a different brand and/or trade reference, without modifying the certified characteristics.

Decision communicated by CSTB by which the right to use the NF mark is granted to a holder for a marketed product under another trademark and/or trade reference without the certified characteristics being modified.

The marking of these products must be consistent with the requirements of this Certification Reference System and must be completed at the production site. The trademark must be submitted to CSTB for approval after assessment by the Specific Committee.

Observation:

Comment aiming to draw a holder's attention to a minor non-conformity so as to avoid any propensity that might result in a warning.

Product:

Finished product coming from a determined manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a trade reference specific to the product presented and technical characteristics.

Renewal:

Decision whereby the holder's right to use the NF mark is renewed.

Right to use the NF mark:

Right communicated by CSTB to the applicant to use the NF mark for its product in accordance with the General Rules and with this Certification Reference System.

Subcontracting:

A company carries out some of the production steps under the control of the NF mark holder.

Suspension:

Decision communicated by CSTB that provisionally and for a given duration cancels the authorisation of the right to use the NF mark. The suspension may be decided on as a penalty or in the case of temporary withdrawal by the holder.

Transfer:

Total or partial production line change of one or more models admitted to the NF mark. The transfer may only be carried out within the same manufacturing site.

Type of pipes

For a given family and category, all products that have identical dimensions and material composition. The length and presence of shaped sockets are not taken into consideration in the type definition criteria.

Example:

- 1 type = 32 x 3.0 mm TEE pipe (Discharge Group, solvent welding or seal ring assembly category).

Warning:

Penalty decision communicated by CSTB by which the holder is asked to correct the defects detected within a given time span.

Withdrawal:

Decision communicated by CSTB to cancel the right to use the NF mark.

The withdrawal can be decided on as a sanction or in the case of abandonment of the right to use the NF mark by the holder.