CERTIFIÉ PAR CSTB
NF
TUBES ET RACCORDS EN PVC NON PLASTIFIE RIGIDE

**CERTIFICATION**

# NF Certification Reference System:

## RIGID NON-PLASTICISED PVC PIPES AND FITTINGS


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This certification reference system has been submitted for validation by the CSTB Technical Department. It was approved by the AFNOR Certification Managing Director on 21/12/2018 for acceptance into the NF certification system.

This document cancels and replaces all previous versions.

As a certifying body accredited by the COFRAC under number 5-0010, scope of accreditation available at www.cofrac.fr, CSTB undertakes to draft certification reference systems that ensure appropriate requirements for product quality, suitability for use and durability.

This certification reference system may therefore be revised, in whole or in part, by CSTB, after consulting the parties involved. Revisions to the certification reference system are approved by the AFNOR Certification Managing Director.

## MODIFICATION HISTORY

| Modified part | Revision no. | Effective date | Modification made |
|---|---|---|---|
| Modified part | Revision no. | Effective date | Modification made |
| Entire document | 0 | 02/1994 | Creation of the certification regulation (grouping together all families in certification rules NF 055) |
| Entire document | 2 | 22/02/1995 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 3 | 14/05/1996 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 4 | 26/03/1997 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 5 | 10/04/1998 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Addendum | | 10/01/1999 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 6 | 21/02/2000 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 7 | 21/06/2001 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 8 | 01/01/2003 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 9 | 15/03/2004 | Revision of the certification regulation:<br>Integrating a check into in-trade products distributed under applications to maintain the right to use the mark. |

| Modified part | Revision no. | Effective date | Modification made |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Integration of Standard NF EN 13598-1 in place of Standard XP T 54-950 |
| Entire document | 10 | 25/01/2005 | Revision of the certification regulation |
| Entire document | 11 | 21/02/2006 | Revision of the certification rules |
| Entire document | 12 | 23/02/2007 | Revision of the certification reference system |
| Entire document | 13 | 11/02/2008 | Revision of the certification reference system |
| Entire document | 14 | 06/03/2009 | Revision of the certification reference system |
| Entire 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". |
| Entire document | 16 | 06/02/2013 | Revision of the certification reference system, integration of the NF monogram |
| Entire document | 17 | 01/03/2017 | Revision of the certification reference system, Integration of Standard NF EN ISO 9001: 2015<br>Removal of TD 4: Irrigation Group<br>Clarification of rules in case of Committee vote<br>Clarification of conditions for audits in a country subject to special vigilance. |
| Entire document | 18 | 21/12/2018 | Revision of the certification reference system: Modification of the structure of the NF reference system document and the structure of the technical documents<br>Added technical document DT 055-07 "admission for stand-by plant"<br>Integration of "heat shrinkage" addendum into technical document 055-01 |

# Part 1.
# Application

## a. Scope of application

This certification reference system currently concerns piping systems composed of rigid non-plasticised PVC pipes and fittings, divided into 4 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,

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

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

The NF mark strives to inspect the safety characteristics for people and goods, the suitability for use and the durability of the products, as well as any complementary characteristics to enable them to stand out in the market.

## b. Added value of certification

Certification is recognition from a third party that the characteristics are compliant, demonstrating the added value of products certified under this reference system.

The certified characteristics of the Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings application are listed in Technical Documents no. 2 through 6.

CSTB is responsible for assessing the certified characteristics, using the following control measures:

| | Admission | Continued monitoring |
|---|---|---|
| **Production audit carried out by a qualified technical auditor:**<br>- Verification that the production inspections and records have been completed: raw materials, production, finished products,<br>- Verification of the quality command provisions: metrology, packaging, storage, traceability, product marking, processing of non-conformities and customer complaints,<br>- Supervision of certified characteristics tests carried out by the applicant, where applicable. | ***Yes*** | ***Yes***<br>***Frequency:***<br>***2 annual audit s) (*)*** |
| **Tests carried out by a laboratory recognised by the certifying body (independent and competent):**<br>- Samples taken by the certifying body and completed on the applicant/holder's site. | ***Yes*** | ***Yes***<br>***Frequency:***<br>***1 annual test campaign*** |

- The frequency may be reduced to 1 audit every 12 months, provided that:
+ the results of the previous assessments are very satisfactory
- The audit frequency may be increased to 2 audits every 12 months if critical non-conformities are observed (depending on the appropriateness of the proposed corrective actions).

## c. Applying for certification/Certification contract

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,
- or distributing products within the scope defined above for which the manufacturer complies with the technical requirements described in Part 2 of this document,

may request the right to use the NF mark "Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings".

Such requests are referred to as "applications" while the entities making them are referred to as "applicants".

Applicants submit their application to the certifying body. It is accompanied by all the useful information concerning the given products, the production conditions and quality control to ensure compliance of the products with this certification reference system.

An application form and the list of information to be supplied to support an application are appended to this certification reference system.

For a period of 10 working days, beginning on the date of receipt by the certifying body of their applications for certification, applicants have the right to desist from their commitments, for any cause whatsoever, by sending a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt to the certifying body.

The Certification contract is composed of the completed and signed application letter, possibly accompanied by the estimate; it is governed by all the documents referenced to this application letter (NF mark general rules, certification reference system, complementary technical requirements, etc.).

The contract is entered into for an unlimited term.

The holder may terminate, with no further legal formality, NF certification for all or some of their certifications for any reason whatsoever, in particular when the relevant activity has ceased.

Such 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 with no further legal formality of the NF certification for one of the reasons defined above.

Beginning at the date when the termination takes effect, the holder undertakes to no longer use in any way whatsoever, nor reproduce on any medium whatsoever, the NF mark for the products for which certification has ended.

The contract is governed by French law. If there is any problem with interpretation, execution or validity of the Contract, the Parties agree to solve their differences out of court unless there is an emergency that justifies calling in competent jurisdiction acting in summary proceedings.

If the Parties are unable to resolve their differences within three (3) months after they arise, the dispute will be taken before the competent French courts by the most diligent Party.

Note 1: Particular case of an admission request in a country subject to special vigilance

After observing a number of tensions throughout the world, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs defines 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 reinforced 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 as part of the certification process are located in the territory of a country classified in orange- or red-alert areas shall not be taken into consideration by CSTB.

For certification applications made by entities whose sites to be assessed as part of the certification process, during the admission or follow-up stages, are located in the territory of a country classified in a yellow-alert area, Auditors are allowed to travel provided that 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.

Note 2: Specific case of production subcontracting by an applicant

The applicant may subcontract part of the manufacture of their products covered by this certification reference system.

If so, they undertake to:

- be responsible for the effectiveness of the production control system as a whole in accordance with this certification reference system;
- be able to provide, on the one hand, the specifications that define the inspection operations that they impose on their subcontractor in order to comply with the requirements in this certification reference system and, on the other hand, the evidence regarding the subcontractor's success in complying with those requirements.

Note 3: Specific case of a new application in the context of a withdrawal or suspension of a certificate following a penalty

When CSTB announces the withdrawal of a certificate following a penalty, the holder loses their right to use the NF mark. They become a former holder. Former holders may not submit a new certification application for a product, service or person that is identical to the product, service or person at the source of the decision to withdraw the certificate, unless they provide CSTB with evidence deemed satisfactory demonstrating that curative and corrective actions have been implemented since the withdrawal decision, bringing the product, service or person into strict and sustainable compliance with all the Certification requirements.

Likewise, when CSTB announces the suspension of a certificate following a penalty, the holder loses their right to use the NF mark until CSTB lifts the suspension. The suspension can be lifted when the holder provides CSTB with evidence deemed sufficient to demonstrate that curative and corrective actions have been taken since the suspension decision, so that the product or service or person strictly complies with all Certification requirements over the long term.

Note 4: Special case of a preliminary admission application for a "stand-by" plant

A force majeure event[1] could result in the halting of a production line for a long period of time with a significant and detrimental impact on a holder with a certified plant.

When a production line in a certified plant is halted following a force majeure event, a "stand-by" plant could take over all or part of the halted production line(s) of that plant for a very short period of time.

As part of the preventative management of the industrial risk of inoperability of a production line in a certified plant, a holder with a certified plant may request a preliminary admission application for a non-certified "stand-by" plant.

The purpose of the preliminary admission application is to ensure that the quality of the products manufactured in the "stand-by" plant is identical to the quality of the products manufactured by the NF-certified plant and respects the requirements of the certification reference system in all points.

The conditions for and treatment of this case are presented in Technical Document 055-07.

## d. Applicant's commitment

Before applying, applicants must make sure that they meet the conditions defined in this certification reference system, concerning their product and the sites in question. It is the applicants' responsibility to make sure that the regulations applicable to their product are respected.

They must undertake to meet the same conditions throughout the entire duration of the use of the NF mark.

Applicants undertake to:

1 accept and comply with the conditions set down and defined in the certification reference system specific to the field of products in question and, in particular, to:
- present for certification products that conform to the current regulations concerned,
- implement the changes required by changes to the certification reference system communicated by the certifying body,
- use the NF mark in accordance with the conditions defined in the certification reference system and only for the products certified,
- follow through 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 penalty decision);

2 pay the certification fees (management, audit and tests, if applicable) in accordance with the price list in force;

3 not submit any counterfeited products for certification;

4 take the necessary measures:

[1] As defined in Article 1218 of the French Civil Code and French case law: *External and unstoppable event (which is beyond control and the effects of which cannot be prevented by appropriate measures), unforeseeable event (which could not reasonably have been foreseen).*

- to conduct the audit, including the provision 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, as appropriate;

5 examine and record all complaints:
- provide these records to the certifying body and auditors on request,
- take all appropriate actions in relation to these complaints and the imperfections observed in the products which have consequences for their compliance with the certification requirements,
- provide documents pertaining to the actions undertaken;

6 reserve the trade name of the product presented only for certified products in compliance with the relevant Technical Requirements;

7 effectively apply the production control system established in order to meet the requirements of the certification reference system;

8 apply the controls for which they are responsible so that maintenance of the right to use the NF mark may be granted;

9 inform the certifying body without delay of any modifications made to the basic file delivered with the application for the right to use the NF mark (in particular, any modifications made to the product(s) that is/are the subject of the application);

10 inform the certifying body of any permanent or temporary halt in production that concerns the certificate;

11 make statements and provide communication on certification consistent with the scope of certification;

12 neither use their product's certification in such a manner as to bring the certification body into disrepute nor make any statement regarding their product certification that the certification body may consider misleading or unauthorised, in particular:
- not use the NF mark in any abusive way or in any way that does not conform to the current certification reference system,
- not use the certifying body's logo;

13 upon suspension, withdrawal or termination of certification, discontinue their use of all advertising materials that contain any reference thereto, take action as required by the certification reference system and take any other required measures;

14 communicate to the certifying body, at its request, all the printed advertising 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 comply with the requirements of the certifying body when making reference to their product certification in communication media, such as documents, brochures or advertising;

17 for all persons involved with the certifying body or its qualified sub-contractors, to ensure that all the safety provisions relating to working conditions, sites and equipment conform to current local regulations.

## e. Publication

The certifying body reserves the right to publish the certificates to provide the best possible information to users.

The characteristics certified, the list of holders of the NF mark and/or the NF certificates are made public via the certifying body's website.

# Part 2.
# Certification Scheme

The certification scheme for the Rigid Non-Plasticised PVC Pipes and Fittings application consists of this certification reference system, which references:

- the General Rules for the NF mark, which set the organisation and conditions for the use of the mark,
- the standards referred to in §2.2.1;
- the additional technical requirements referred to in §2.2.2.

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

## a. Regulations

The granting of the right to use the NF mark in no way substitutes CSTB's responsibility for the legal responsibility on the company which holds the NF mark usage right.

As regards the regulatory requirements covered by this certification reference system, the applicant/holder shall submit to the certifying body during the certification audits the documentary evidence defined in the regulations and attesting to the compliance of their product with the regulatory requirements.

Note: If the documentary evidence is not managed or available on the site where the audit is being conducted, this evidence shall be submitted to the certifying body, using any appropriate means, before the certifying body ends its assessment.

The applicant/holder is held responsible to the certifying body for any inaccurate, deceptive and/or non-compliant documentary evidence with regard to the definition of documentary evidence as laid down in the regulations.

The certifying body's tasks do not lie in proving conformity of a product to the regulatory requirements listed in this document. Those tasks are strictly incumbent upon the bodies approved by the authorities in charge of applying each of the regulations concerned.

The regulations applicable for launching products on the French market and for which the applicants/holders shall submit to the certifying body a document attesting to the conformity of their products with the regulations are listed below.

| Regulations | Documentary evidence required |
|---|---|
| Decree of 29 May 1997 relating to the materials and objects used in fixed installations for<br><br>the production, treatment and distribution of water intended for human consumption, as modified by the Decrees of 24 June 1998 and 22 August 2002. | The ACS (Attestation of sanitary conformity) materials or accessories, as defined in the circular DGS/SDA 2002 n° 571 of 25/11/02, is proof of compliance with the regulation. |

## b. Standards and additional specifications

For the references that indicate a date of implementation or an index, only the version cited is applicable. For references that do not indicate a date of implementation or index, the most recent version of the reference document applies (including any amendments).

### 2.2.1. APPLICABLE 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 - Unplasticized 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 - Unplasticized 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 - Unplasticized poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U).

Part 1: General

Part 2: Pipes

Part 3: Fittings

Part 4: Valves

Part 5: Fitness for purpose of the system

**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.

**Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group:**

* **NF T 54-948** (February 2010) Plastics piping systems for water transport under pressure – Pipes made of biaxial oriented poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-BO) and their joints – Specifications.

**Siphonic Discharge Group:**

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

**Standard relative to the quality management system**

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

### 2.2.2. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

In addition to the requirements set out in the previous paragraphs, the products shall comply with the complementary specifications laid down in the following documents:

- **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 additional specifications defined in the following technical documents (these technical documents have the same revision index as the certification reference system: no. 18):

- **Technical document 055-01**: Specifications applicable to all groups.
- **Technical document 055-02:** Discharge Group.
- **Technical document 055-03:** Pressure Group.
- **Technical document 055-04:** ~~Irrigation Group~~ **This technical document has been removed**
- **Technical document 055-05:** Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group.
- **Technical document 055-06**: Siphonic Discharge Group.
- **Technical document 055-07**: Admission for a stand-by plant

## c. Declaration of modifications

This paragraph specifies the information that the holder of the right to use the NF mark must provide to CSTB and the procedures they must follow in the event of any modifications to:

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

Failure to respect this obligation as observed by CSTB may lead to a suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark.

In any cases not provided for above, CSTB determines whether the modifications bring the certification into question and whether it is necessary to carry out a complementary quality assurance operation.

Depending upon the results of the examination, CSTB communicates the appropriate decision.

### I. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE HOLDER

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

In case of merger, liquidation or absorption of the holder, all rights to use the NF mark from which they might benefit shall automatically stop.

A new admission application may be submitted and its examination may be streamlined depending upon the modifications made.

## II. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT

➔ **For production transfers:**

Any transfer (in whole or in part) of the manufacturing unit of a certified product to another production site entails an immediate halt in the NF marking by the holder on the affected products.

The holder shall declare this transfer in writing to CSTB, which will organise an audit of the new production unit and, where appropriate, have tests carried out.

The visit may be streamlined or even cancelled if the new manufacturing unit is already known to CSTB.

The procedures for assessing and deciding whether to renew the certification are the same as those for admission as described in Part 3 of this certification reference system.

➔ **Regarding production process modifications:**

The holder must demonstrate that the modification of the production process does not have an impact on the performance of the product's certified features (cf. §2.4.2: §8.5.6. 9001 V15); they inform CSTB of this.

## III. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT'S QUALITY ORGANISATION

The holder must declare in writing to CSTB any modification relating to their quality organisation that may affect the production process's compliance with the requirements of this certification reference system.

In particular, they must declare any changes to the certification of the quality management system. If the distribution is carried out by a third party, where appropriate, the holder shall undertake to immediately inform CSTB of any modification made to the distribution of their products and, in particular, any halt in supply by the designated third party.

Any temporary halt in internal quality assurance operations for a certified product entails an immediate halt in the NF marking of this product by the holder, who must inform CSTB of this.

CSTB then communicates to the holder a decision to suspend the right to use the NF mark for a specific duration following which, if the right of use cannot be re-established, this holder's right to use the NF mark will be withdrawn.

## IV. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT

Any modification to the certified product relative to the application dossier that is likely to have an effect on the product's compliance with the requirements in the certification reference system must be declared to CSTB in writing.

According to the modification declared, CSTB determines whether this is a certification extension application.

## V. TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT HALT IN PRODUCTION

Any permanent or temporary halt in the production of the certified product (or range of products) or any abandonment of a right to use the NF mark shall be declared to CSTB in writing, specifying the time necessary to sell off the inventory of the NF-labelled products. CSTB shall notify the holder of the NF mark of the suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark. When the period indicated by the holder expires, the product is removed from the list of certified products.

Any temporary halt in the manufacture of the certified products (or range of products) must be the subject of a suspension of the right to use the NF mark for a maximum period of 6 months, renewable once. The total duration of the suspension of the right to use the NF mark for these products must not exceed one year. The removal of the suspension may only be announced following one or more assessments.

## VI. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION CIRCUIT

The holder shall commit to informing CSTB of any modification to the distribution of the certified products as soon as they become aware of such modification and, in particular, whenever they stop supplying a distributor who holds the right to use the NF mark, which means that the right to use the NF mark is no longer maintained.

The distributor whose right to use the NF mark has been maintained shall commit to informing CSTB of any modifications in their supplies that would result in the right to use the NF mark no longer being maintained. The distributor's right to use the NF mark can only be validated after a new examination in accordance with Part 3 of this certification reference system.

## d. Quality management provisions: audit rules

### I. PURPOSE

Applicants/holders and their distributors holding a right of use are each responsible for the right to use the NF mark for the relevant product.

The applicant/holder shall implement all necessary means to guarantee that the product complies with this certification reference system at all times. In addition, they must manage their external service providers by using all appropriate methods to assess all the component elements of a product or external service(s) for which they are the applicant or holder of the right to use the certification mark.

This paragraph sets the minimum provisions that the applicant/holder shall implement in terms of quality management to ensure that the products are manufactured in accordance with this certification reference system at all times.

The quality system depends in part on the establishment by the applicant/holder of a set of organisational measures ensuring conformity of the delivered products with the additional specifications and standards, if applicable. These measures are described in the paragraphs below entitled “Option 1” and “Option 2”:

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

## Option 1: “Quality Management”

The “Quality Management” option is based on certifying the compliance of the holder’s system with the ISO 9001 quality management model.

Applicants/holders shall have implemented their own measures, the existence and effectiveness of which are assessed based on the requirements of the NF EN ISO 9001 V15 standard.

The audits are carried out according to Table 2 below. This table indicates the specific requirements in Standard NF EN ISO 9001, which must be verified as part of the certification.

As part of an audit, all requirements identified on the shaded lines in Table 2 below must be audited, as well as the register of client complaints; these reductions lead to a shorter audit period but not fewer audits.

As part of this option, CSTB may take certification issued by a certification body for systems into account, provided that:

- 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 is examined during the body’s audit.

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.

**Possible reduction:**

If the manufacturing unit has a certified quality management system that conforms to Standard NF EN ISO 9001, the audits may be "simplified". Only the requirements identified on a "shaded" line in Table 2 are to be audited.

This simplification 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 is examined during the body's audit.

## Option 2: "Quality Control"

The "Quality Control" option is based in part on the establishment by the applicant/holder of a set of organisational measures ensuring conformity of the delivered products with the additional specifications and standards, in the absence of certification by an accredited Certifying Body of the compliance of the quality system. These provisions are described in paragraphs 2.4.2 and 2.4.3.

Within the framework of an audit, all the necessary requirements identified on the shaded lines in Table 2 below, shall be audited, as well as the register of customer complaints. All other requirements pertaining to quality management shall be audited over a period of 3 years.

The applicant/holder shall justify that a set of organisation measures and a production control system have actually been set up to control conformity with standards and complementary specifications for delivered products satisfying at least the requirements in this certification reference system.

### II. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

**Table 2 (Applicable Requirements)**

| § ISO 9001: 2008 | § ISO 9001: 2015 | REQUIREMENTS | MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED | APPLICABLE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5. Leadership** | | | | |
| 5.5.1/5.5.2. | 5.3. | Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities | * Organisation chart<br>* Description of responsibilities and authorities (examples: organisation chart, job sheets, etc.)<br>* Person appointed to be responsible for organising and effectively implementing the production system | For individuals in charge of inspection or with a direct impact on the critical points in terms of product creation and production<br>All items except:<br>* ISO 9001 V15: §5.3 c,d |
| **7. Support** | | | | |
| 6.4. | 7.1.4. | Environment for process implementation | Evidence of maintenance of the work environment.<br>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. | Resources for monitoring and measuring | * List of the inspection, measuring and test equipment used on the product/service production site and/or in the laboratory,<br>* Identification of equipment used to determine its validity,<br>* 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),<br>* Evidence of the verification and/or calibration operations (e.g. service log, verification or calibration report, etc.),<br>* Evidence of connection to national or international standards (where possible),<br>* 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. | Competencies | * Compliance with test methods and inspection provisions.<br>* 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 | * List of the internal and external documented information.<br>Examples: Procedures, operating methods, test methods, inspection instructions, quality records<br>* Evidence of control of internal and external documents | For the processes related to completion of the products<br>All items except:<br>* ISO 9001 v08: §4.2.1, 4.2.2<br>Note: Quality Manuals are no |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Example: Availability of the applicable version of the test method, reference system, inspection provisions, etc. | longer required. |
| **8. Operational activities** | | | | |
| 7.4. | 8.4. | Control of processes, products and services from external providers | * List of service providers<br>* Contract/order defining the requirements of the applicant/holder of the certification<br>* Evidence of verification of raw materials, components ***(1)***, services purchased<br>* Evidence of the verification of subcontracting conditions: transport, handling, tests ***(2)***, etc. | For raw materials, purchased components, and external services affecting the quality of the product/service ><br>External providers:<br>* supplier of raw materials, components, services integrated into the product/service<br>* subcontractor of external services (ex: tests, handling, transport, etc.)<br>(*) Specific case of applicants/holders subcontracting part of their production<br>CSTB audits the subcontractors (as provided for in the certification reference system)<br>All items except:<br>* ISO 9001 v08: §7.4.1.<br>* ISO 9001 v15: §8.4.1. |
| **§ ISO 9001: 2008** | **§ ISO 9001: 2015** | **REQUIREMENTS** | **MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED** | **APPLICABLE** |
| 7.5.1/7.5.2. | 8.5.1. | Control of production and provision of services | * Information defining the characteristics of products and services. Examples: product plan, description of the service, etc.<br>* Information defining the activities to be carried out and the results to be obtained.<br>Examples: operating procedure(s), working instructions, test method(s), certification reference system (expected performance)<br>* Monitoring and measurement activities.<br>Examples: Monitoring plan, inspection procedures and instruction(s), test method(s), etc.<br>* 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)* | ■ |
| 7.5.3. | 8.5.2. | Identification and traceability | * Identification/Marking of the product in accordance with the requirements in this Certification Reference System<br>*Marking of commercial documents in accordance with the requirements of this Certification Reference System. | For identification and traceability |
| 7.5.5. | 8.5.4. | Preservation | Verifying that the product is preserved throughout the production line (identification, handling, storage, packaging, transport, etc.). | ■ |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| - | 8.5.6. | Control of changes *(in production/provision of service)* | * Evidence of control of modifications in the manufacturing process/provision of service, in particular the impact of modifications on the product's performance ***(3)***:<br>- review of modifications,<br>- person authorising the modification and all necessary actions. | ■ |
| 8.2.4. | 8.6. | Release of products and services | * Provisions for inspecting products; records of the results of inspections and conformity with the acceptance criteria ***(4)***,<br>* Names of the persons having authorised release of the finished products/services | ■ |

| **§ ISO 9001: 2008** | **§ ISO 9001: 2015** | **REQUIREMENTS** | **MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED** | **APPLICABLE** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8.3. | 8.7. | Control of non-compliant outputs | Provisions for processing non-conformities, including customer complaints, and implementation of those provisions ***(5)***,<br>* No dispensation granted as regards the performance of a certified characteristic | ■ |
| **9. Performance evaluation** | | | | |
| 5.6. | 9.3. | Management review | Management review report | |
| **10. Improvement** | | | | |
| 8.5.2. | 10.2. | Nonconformity and corrective action | * Implementation of corrective actions to deal with non-conformities pertaining to the certified product, including customer complaints ***(6)***,<br>* Effectiveness of the actions taken. | ■ |

***: 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 based on previous audit reports and on any modifications made to the system since the last audit.

## III.REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE PRODUCTS

The applicant/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 applicant/holder undertakes to carry out reliable and regular inspection of their production facilities. Inspection operations are organised into three phases:

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

### (1) Inspection of product components

Applicants 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 applicant'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 applicant's quality plan and shall not be left to the operator's discretion only.

This inspection can be simplified if the applicant contractually imposes a comprehensive inspection before delivery from their supplier(s) and if they possess, for each batch delivered, the resulting analysis sheets, or if the supplier is certified according to Standard NF EN ISO 9001 for the productions concerned, or if the products are certified.

**(2) Subcontracting tests**

Applicants/holders may subcontract the tests to an external laboratory, on the condition that the subcontracting relationship is governed by a contract or an order. Subcontracting is only permitted if the following conditions are met:

- subcontracting the tests does not result in a disruption to the production process (due to waiting time for results, for example);
- the conditions for subcontracting the tests are formalised in the contract or order and must define the applicable test method, testing frequency, requested waiting times for results, notification of results in writing, the procedure in case of non-compliant results and the type of equipment used;
- the subcontractors' laboratory where the test is carried out must be accredited according to standard NF EN ISO/CEI 17025, otherwise the party requesting the test (holder of the certification mark) must ensure that the equipment used is compliant (calibration, test configuration, etc.) and the staff carrying out the test have the necessary skills.

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.

**(3) Approach for assessment of the additional requirement in Standard ISO 9001 version 2015 relative to Standard ISO 9001 version 2008**

Within the framework of the Product Certification audit, the only additional requirement referred to concerns the requirements of §8.5.6 in Table 1: "Control of changes in production/service provision".

If the applicant/holder does not comply with this requirement, the auditor shall give notice of:

- a suggested improvement (if the failure to comply occurred prior to 15/09/18)
- a deviation (if the failure to comply was after 15/09/2018).

### (4) Inspection and testing on finished products

The holder shall check the characteristics of the finished products before their delivery. They are 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 of 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.

***Analysing 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.

### (5) Provisions for processing non-conformities

These include:

- an analysis to identify the cause of the anomaly,
- an analysis to determine the impact of the anomaly on production since the previous inspection,
- management to ensure that the implementation of the corrective actions is effective,
- and in the unlikely event that non-compliant products are delivered to a customer, the latter shall be notified immediately so that appropriate measures can be taken.

### (6) Customer complaints

The customer complaint record is audited. For this purpose, holders shall keep:

- a record of all complaints and appeals pertaining to products covered by this certification reference system;
- a record of the corrective measures adopted, in particular when complaints have revealed a manufacturing anomaly.

The holder shall be able to show the auditor extracts from these records of complaints involving products covered by this certification reference system.

## e. Marking – General provisions

Marking is an integral part of product certification.

Beyond the identification of a certified product and its traceability, the marking of a product with the NF logo ensures better protection for users and helps to protect holders from wrongful usage and counterfeit products.

The reproduction and attachment of CSTB, AFNOR and AFNOR Certification logos are strictly prohibited without the prior agreement of these bodies.

In addition, the listing of the main certified characteristics is intended to make it clear to consumers and users which technical characteristics the NF mark relates to. It thereby serves to emphasise the certification and its content.

Under no circumstances is it possible to make reference to the NF mark before the right to use this mark is obtained, or to present counterfeit products for certification.

The purpose of the marking rules described below is to guide the holder in complying with Regulatory Requirements and Certification Requirements. The General Rules for the NF mark specify the guidelines for usage, the guidelines for validity and the penalty procedures for wrongful usage of the NF mark.

Without prejudice to the penalties set down in the General Rules of the NF mark, any erroneous communication of the certified characteristics and any fraudulent use of the NF logo exposes the holder to legal action for, in particular, deceptive marketing practices.

### I. THE NF LOGO

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

The holder undertakes to respect the NF mark's graphic charter. The NF logo and its graphic charter are available from the application administrator.

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 holder shall not use the NF logo except to single out certified products without there being any risk of confusion whatsoever with other products, especially non-certified products.

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).

To prevent any confusion between certified products and non-certified products, applicants/holders must ensure that the trade names used are not identical or similar (for example: "Prod+" for a certified product and "Prod" for a non-certified product).

It is recommended that the holder submit all documents in which the certification mark appears to CSTB in advance.

If the product cannot be marked for technical reasons, CSTB must be contacted to determine a common marking rule.

### II. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MARKING

This paragraph describes both the NF logo affixing procedure and the marking of the certified characteristics.

*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 materials (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 their documentation any characteristics different from those mentioned on the NF 55 certificates (field of application, performances, etc.).

### *1. Marking of certified products*

NF-certified products must bear the NF logo as defined in the graphic charter for the NF mark and under the conditions defined in Part 2 of the technical documents for the different groups.

### *2. Marking on the packaging of the certified product or on the product's accompanying documentation (if applicable)*

All packaging for certified products or accompanying documents shall include all the marking components defined in Paragraph 2.5.2: logo of the mark, name of the application, reference to the website and, if possible, the list of the certified characteristics.

Placing the logo on the packaging of certified products is one of the ways used to promote the NF mark. Such marking, if present, must comply with the graphic charter and the conditions defined in Part 2 of the technical documents for the different groups.

### *3. Marking on communication media and documentation (Technical or commercial documents, posters, advertising, websites, etc.)*

Reproduction of the NF mark on letterhead used for the holder's correspondence is prohibited, unless the holder has been granted the NF mark for all of their manufactured products.

References to the NF mark in documentation shall be made in a way that does not allow for any confusion between certified products and other products. They shall include all the marking components defined in Paragraph 2.5.2: logo of the mark, name of the application, reference to the website and the list of certified characteristics.

Examples of additional indications:

- name and address of the certification body (CSTB, 84 avenue Jean Jaurès - Champs sur Marne - F - 77447 Marne-la-Vallée);
- holder's name and address (name and address of the delegate in the European Economic Area, as the case may be);
- identification of the holder;
- name of the product (trade name);
- essential certified characteristics (designations and values);
- certificate number;
- etc.

For the French market, this information must be provided in French (Law No. 94-665 of 4 August 1994 regarding the use of the French language). If necessary, the information can also be given in one or more other languages.

For the proper interpretation of this paragraph, the holder is advised to submit to CSTB in advance all documentation where the certification mark is expected to be used.

## f. Conditions for terminating marking or for removing the mark in the case of suspension, withdrawal or abandonment

If any product is accidentally not in conformity, the product and its packaging shall not be marked with the NF logo or the logo must be crossed out or concealed to prevent any risk of confusion.

In case of accidental non-compliance observed after the product has been launched on the market:

→ The industrialist is responsible for:
- ❖ Immediately informing CSTB
- ❖ Validating the qualities/batch numbers/lead times, etc. involved
- ❖ Planning retroactive removal of the mark and possible withdrawal from shops

→ CSTB is responsible for:
- ❖ Defining the means for checking removal of the mark (customer commitment, etc.)
- ❖ Estimating the risks of improper use of the mark, for example:
  - certification for proof of compliance or failure to comply with the regulations,
  - certification on products/services at risk,
  - very competitive market with "self-monitoring";
- ❖ Based on these risks, possible triggering of an on-site inspection (company or shop) or informing the public authorities;
- ❖ Commitment of the holder to take corrective actions and/or on-site inspection before the possible withdrawal decision is made.

## g. Fraud and falsification

### I. INTRODUCTION

For the Certification of Products or Services, any fraud or falsification is subject to the penalties set down in Articles L. 121-2 to L. 121-5 of the Consumer Code.

If fraud or falsification relating to the use of the NF mark is detected, AFNOR Certification or CSTB reserves the right to institute legal proceedings before the Department of Competition, Consumption and Repression of Fraud for enforcement in compliance with the Law.

For example, the following actions are considered as "wrongful usage":

- to give the same trade name to certified products and non-certified products;
- to cite or provide information in sales brochures, catalogues or any other medium, that does not comply with the certification reference system.

For example, the following actions are considered as "counterfeit":

- to cite as valid a certificate which is pending but not yet issued;
- to use the NF mark when the right to use the NF mark has not yet been granted.

CSTB communicates all wrongful use to the holder by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, and the holder must immediately take all necessary steps to eliminate such wrongful use.

### II. LEGAL ACTION

In addition to the actions mentioned above, AFNOR Certification or CSTB reserves the right to initiate any legal action it deems necessary, and all third parties which consider themselves to have suffered damages shall also be free to seek appropriate redress for themselves.

# Part 3.
# Certification Process

## a. General

– Definition of the applicant (see Part 5);

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 penalty of withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark):

- Initial admission application: submitted by a manufacturer not having the right to use the NF mark in the application concerned. 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; they must also prove that their quality assurance system has been in operation for more than three months;

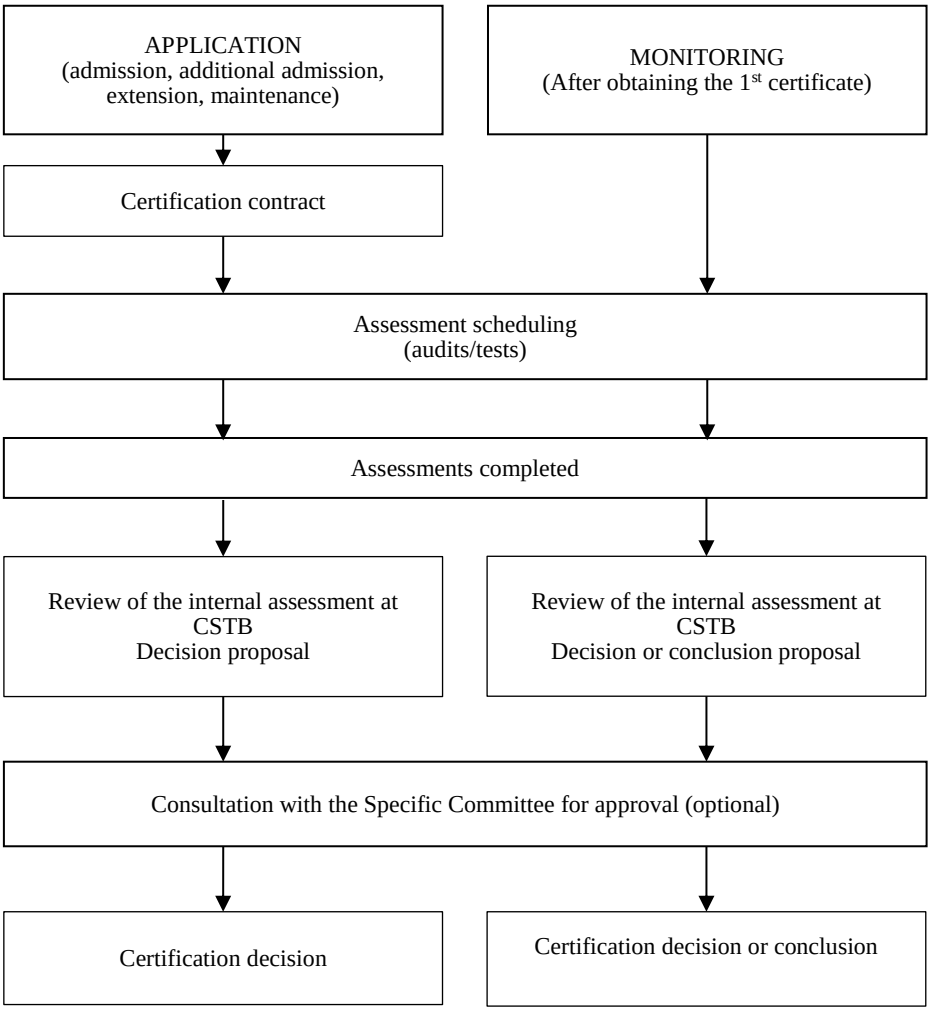
- Additional admission application: submitted by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new Group or a new manufacturing unit;

- Extension application: submitted by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new product or modified range.

- Maintenance application: submitted 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 penalty in the event of deceptive marketing practices in application of Articles L. 121-2 to L. 121-5 of the Consumer Code and the penalties provided for in articles L. 132-1 to L. 132-9.

## b. Certification application processing procedure




The conditions for obtaining certification and the certification follow-up procedure are described in Parts 1 and 2 of the Appendix to this certification reference system.

## c. Audits

### I. ADMISSION 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 055-01: Specifications applicable to all groups.
- Technical document 055-02: Discharge Group.
- Technical document 055-03: Pressure Group.
- Technical document 055-05: Biaxially-Oriented Pressure Group.
- Technical document 055-06: Siphonic Discharge Group.

This entails checking, before admission, the existence and effectiveness of the measures taken in the quality field as well as the product quality control operations by the applicant. These are the admission audits conducted by the auditor.

If the applicant subcontracts part of their production, CSTB reserves the right to carry out an audit on the premises of the subcontractor(s) based on this certification reference system.

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 their 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 resources (premises, installations, equipment) required by the auditor to carry out their mission shall be placed at their disposal free of charge, along with persons qualified to implement them. In the event of any dangerous situation as per the certifying body's safety requirements, the auditor reserves the right to withdraw.

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.

The mark laboratories are responsible for carrying out the tests.

An audit report shall be prepared and addressed to the applicant.

### *1. For an initial admission application*

The audit normally lasts 2 day(s) per manufacturing unit.

The audit duration may be adapted according to the risk: level of development of the quality system, organisation of the company (process, laboratory, etc.).

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.

### *2. For a complementary admission application*

The application shall be submitted in accordance with the conditions and templates provided in Part 3 of the administrative appendix.

The steps described in Paragraph 3.3.1 above apply, with the specific consideration that the audit may be adapted or accompanied by a follow-up audit.

***3. For an extension application***

The application shall be submitted in accordance with the conditions and templates provided in Part 1.3 of the administrative appendix. .

***4. For a maintenance application***

The application shall be submitted in accordance with the conditions and templates provided in Part 1.4 of the administrative appendix.

## II. FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

Follow-up audits are intended to check that the provisions defined are still being maintained following admission.
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 resources (premises, installations, equipment) required by the auditor to carry out their mission shall be placed at their disposal free of charge, along with persons qualified to implement them.

All of the provisions described in Paragraph 3.3.1 apply.

**Inspections**

The auditor carries out at least the following audits, taking into account the information collected during the previous audit, the results of recent inspections and any remarks made by the Specific Committee:

- verification of the actual application of the corrective measures announced as a result of any observations made during the previous audit;
- verification of compliance with the holder's quality requirements as set out in this certification reference system;
- verification of the self-check records since the last audit, statistically for at least one certified product and for the products sampled for the mark laboratory's tests;
- verification of sales documents;
- verification of any changes in the characteristics of the certified products.

An audit report is prepared and addressed to the holder.

The audit normally lasts 1 day(s) per manufacturing unit.

The audit duration may be adapted according to the risk: level of development of the quality system, organisation of the company (process, laboratory, etc.).

1 - the number of certified products.

2- the range of products admitted.

The maximum duration of an audit is 3 days.

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.

Heightened monitoring

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.

## d. Sampling

The auditor takes the samples necessary for testing from inventory and the factory. It is possible to take samples of products eliminated due to minor non-conformities in appearance for some destructive testing. 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.

A sheet listing the samples taken is prepared on-site and handed over to the applicant/holder; this sheet should be attached to the samples sent to the mark laboratory.

It is agreed that if these samples cannot be taken, the holder will send the sample(s) requested by CSTB to the mark laboratory by the specified deadline. If the holder does not send the sample(s) to the mark laboratory by the deadline specified by CSTB, penalties may be applied to the holder (penalty, suspension).

Inspections at 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.

CSTB carries out checks on the marking, appearance and dimensions of those products.

The costs for these verifications are to be borne by the distributor, in accordance with Part 4 of the Appendix to this certification reference system.

## e. Tests

### I. ADMISSION TESTS

The tests are carried out in accordance with the standards and additional specifications set out in Part 2 of this certification reference system and Technical Documents 2 through 6.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

The tests are carried out under the responsibility of the mark's laboratory(-ies).

### II. TESTS ON THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT (FOLLOW-UP)

The tests are carried out in accordance with the standards and additional specifications set out in Part 2 of the certification reference system and Technical Documents 2 through 6.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the holder.

Those tests on certified characteristics are carried out in a laboratory of the mark.

# Part 4.
# Stakeholders

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.

The organisations involved in the procedure for granting the right to use the NF mark and in monitoring the certified products are specified below.

## a. The certifying body

In accordance with the General Rules of the NF mark, AFNOR Certification has contractually recognised the competency of the certifying body, referred to as the Mandated Body:

**Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)**
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
F-77447 Marne La Vallée Cedex 2
☎: +33 (0)1 64 68 85 67
🗐: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

CSTB is responsible to AFNOR Certification for the operations entrusted to it in order to award and monitor proper use of the NF mark.

Contact:
Hydraulique et Equipements Sanitaires (HES) Department
“Canalisations” Division

## b. Auditing bodies

The audit functions for the manufacturing unit, and on the utilisation premises where applicable, are carried out by the following body, designated the auditing body:

**Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)**
Hydraulique et Equipements Sanitaires (HES) Department
“Canalisations” Division
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
F-77447 Marne La Vallée Cedex 2

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

The auditors have the right of inspection on the premises of any applicant or holder in the context of their mandate.

## c. Test bodies

When the inspections carried out as part of the holder's use of the NF mark include tests on products, such tests are carried out at CSTB's request by the following laboratory, referred to as the mark laboratory:

**Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)**
Hydraulique et Equipements Sanitaires (HES) Department
"Canalisations" Division
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
F-77447 Marne La Vallée Cedex 2

**Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)**
Laboratoire d'Assainissement CAPE
11, rue Henri Picherit
PO Box 82341
F-44323 NANTES Cedex 3
Tel: +33 (0)2 40 37 20 78
Fax: +33 (0)2 40 37 20 40

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

## d. 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 of the certification reference system or the 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 taking 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, which does not lead to any of them dominating and which guarantees their relevance.

It is composed as specified below:

- A Chairperson chosen from the members of the colleges defined below;
- A Vice Chairperson: a representative of CSTB;
- Manufacturers College (Holders): from 5 to 8 representatives;
- Users'/Specifiers' college: from 5 to 8 representatives;
- Technical and Administrative Bodies' College: from 5 to 8 representatives.

As regards the NF mark, AFNOR Certification is a member of this Specific Committee.

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

The Specific Committee issues decision notifications and its members may not receive any remuneration for the functions entrusted to them.

Members are appointed for a term of three years. This appointment is renewable by tacit agreement for further successive periods of one year, not exceeding three renewals, unless notice of termination without good cause is given by CSTB or the member, by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, three months prior to the end of the period in progress at the time of renewal.

The Specific Committee's Chairperson can change every year.

The members of the Specific Committee formally undertake to maintain the confidentiality of information, particularly personal data, disclosed to them.

When appropriate, the Specific Committee may decide to set up working groups or subcommittees and define their missions and responsibilities. The composition of the working groups must be validated by the Specific Committee. The working groups are composed of at least one representative of the "Manufacturers" College, one representative of the "Users/Specifiers" College and one representative of CSTB. It may call upon professionals, external individuals or holders that are not members of the Specific Committee.

In the event of decisions or votes, the Specific Committee makes decisions by simple majority of the members present or represented, under the following dual condition:

- actual representation of the College representing the applicants or holders, on the one hand, and of the College representing the users and specifiers, on the other hand (non-representation of an interest);
- none of the Colleges has a majority of the people present or represented (predominance of an interest).

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

# Part 5.
# Glossary

**Additional admission:**

An additional 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.

**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.

**Environmental Declaration:**

Data based on the analysis of the product's life cycle, used for computing the environmental impacts of works into which the product subject to the Environmental Declaration is likely to be integrated (see also www.inies.fr).

**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.

**Granting the right to use the NF mark or admission:**

Authorisation notified by CSTB to an applicant allowing the latter to affix the NF mark to the product for which an 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 submitted 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:**

A comment drawing a holder's attention to a minor non-conformity in order to prevent a deviation that would lead to a warning.

**Product:**

A finished product from a given manufacturing unit, defined by a brand name, a commercial reference specific to the product presented, and technical features.

**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 their 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:**

A decision notified by CSTB which temporarily and for a set period of time cancels the authorisation 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 fittings:**

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.

**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 issued by CSTB whereby the holder is invited to correct any errors observed within a given period of time.

This Environmental Declaration is to be drawn up under the responsibility of an applicant/holder (individual data sheet) or of an association (common data sheet).

**Withdrawal:**

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

A withdrawal can be pronounced as a penalty or in case of abandonment of the right of usage by the holder.