Certification
Certification is an activity governed by the French Consumer Code by which an accredited certification organization that is separate from the manufacturer, importer, seller or service provider attests, as requested by the latter, that a product complies with characteristics described in a certification reference system and subject to supervision.

Certification Body
A certification body issues certificates under the supervision of an accreditation body (COFRAC, the French Accreditation Committee). The certification body is accredited for certification activities related to products and services, based on European standard EN ISO/CEI 17065. AFNOR Certification is an accredited certification body. An accredited certification body may designate a representative.

Representative
An organization that is mandated by the accredited certification body to manage its certification mark. CSTB (the Scientific and Technical Centre for Building) has been mandated by AFNOR Certification to manage the NF Valves – Hydraulic Fountain Fittings mark.

NF Valves – Hydraulic Fountain Fittings mark
This certification mark that is specific to pillar fire hydrants and fire hydrants, gate valves and butterfly valves has been created by AFNOR Certification.

Certification Reference System or Certification Rules
A set of specifications which the product and the manufacture shall comply with so as to claim the NF quality mark. This includes the relevant standards and any other additional specification likely to guarantee quality.

Standard
A standard is a document that has been approved by a recognized body, as a result of a consensus among experts, representing all the economic stakeholders concerned. Standards offer solutions to technical or trade issues that have been approved by all. They define the performance levels that have to be met by a product together with the means for determining those levels. There are national, European and international standards.

CE marking
CE marking is mandatory when placing on the European market any product that falls within its scope. It covers the product’s regulated characteristics only. Once CE marking has been approved for a given product family, all the products in this family have to carry this marking. It does not allow for comparison of the products in question and must not be mixed up with a quality mark. The requirements to be met for being authorized to affix CE marking differ from one product family to the other. There are 6 systems of attestation of conformity (1+, 1, 2+, 2, 3 and 4). Level 1+ is equivalent to certification by a “notified” body, level 4 is a simple self-declaration issued by the manufacturer with no action by an independent external body.
The tool specifiers and purchasers prefer

An NF-certified product will undoubtedly comply with the relevant applicable standards. It will also meet a number of other requirements related to the product itself and the associated services, or the supervision on the manufacturer’s premises. No wonder why the NF Valves - Hydraulic Fountain Fittings mark has now been recognized as the favourite tool of specifiers or purchasers.

This certification has been created by AFNOR Certification which has entrusted CSTB (Scientific and Technical Centre for Building) with the task of managing it, thus conferring unquestionable credibility upon it.

The NF mark is a guarantee of...

- **Compliance with regulations including:**
  - French regulations: health compliance certificate for materials and products in contact with potable water;
  - European regulations: CE marking applicable to pillar fire hydrants and fire hydrants.

- **Quality:** obligation for manufacturers to have a certified quality system in compliance with standard ISO 9001. The certification scope covers each manufacturing stage ranging from the design stage to the marketing stage, including the various inspection operations.

- **Product performance:** additional characteristics deemed essential for users to be taken into consideration (quality of materials, effectiveness of anticorrosion protection, hydraulic characteristics, interchangeability, etc.).

- **Availability:** minimum stocks and very short delivery time imposed on manufacturers, hence maximum reactivity for the proper handling of the work on the building sites and shorter time when water supply is being cut off in the event of operations that cannot be scheduled.

- **Traceability:** strict and permanent supervision of the origin of the products, both during the examination for admission to the mark and later on, during the biannual inspection audits.

- **Documentation:** catalogues and instructions for installation and use available to customers, and supervised by CSTB which makes sure that the NF logo is properly used. Those documents comprise specific technical data and refer to certified characteristics.