

CERTIFICATION

NF Certification Reference System: Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets



FIBRE-CEMENT
PROFILED SHEETS



Identification No.: NF 249
Revision No.: 08
Date brought into application: 23/05/2022

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

NF Certification Reference System - Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets
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NF certification administrative management annex

This certification reference system has been submitted for validation by the CSTB Technical Department. It was approved by the AFNOR Certification Managing Director on 23/05/2022 for acceptance into the NF certification system.

It cancels and replaces all previous versions.

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

This certification reference system may therefore be revised, in whole or in part, by CSTB, after the interested parties have been consulted in accordance with the requirements in Standard NF X 50-067. Revisions to the certification reference system are approved by the AFNOR Certification Managing Director.

MODIFICATION HISTORY

Modified Part	Revision no.	Date brought into application	Modifications made
The whole document	0	04 June 1998	Creation of the Certification Regulation
The whole document	1	July 2001	Revision of the Certification Regulation
The whole document	2	July 2007	Revision of the certification reference system Inclusion of Addendum no. 1 and the new AFNOR Certification framework
Parts 1, 2 and 3	3	September 2008	Replacement of "Technical Appraisal" with "Technical Appraisal or Technical Application Document" throughout the document. Integration of a "Note" on page 25
Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4	4	15 June 2012	Taking into consideration of the appearance of Standard NF DTU 40.37 – September 2011 for fibre-cement corrugated sheets Addition of the assembly characteristic strength test Integration of the new NF mark logo
2.2.3	5	13 September 2017	Inclusion of the reference to Regulation (EU) no. 305/2011 of the European Parliament and Council of 9 March 2011.
2.4.2			The transition period on the assessment of 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).

Modified Part	Revision no.	Date brought into application	Modifications made
3.4.3	5	13 September 2017	Tests on non-certified characteristics can be carried out in the manufacturer's laboratory under the supervision of the CSTB auditor.
3.3.1	6	29 May 2020	Removal of the notion of "mock audit"
3.3.1.1			« Checking verifications » paragraph added
3.4.3.2			Clarification on the fact that several initial tests can be done in the manufacturer's laboratory
3.4.3.3			"Number of tests" instead of "number of sheets"
3.4.7			Paragraph added to mention the number of sheets to sample in the case of counter-tests
3.4.3.2	7	16 April 2021	Clarification on test modalities and addition of the table regarding the sheet dimensions that are to be sent to the mark laboratory in case of an admission
3.4.6			Addition of the table regarding the sheet dimensions that are to be sent to the mark laboratory in case of a follow-up
Part 4			Update of the name of the "Enveloppe Du Batiment" departement
1.2	8	23 May 2022	Change regarding the reduction of audit frequency
2.4.2			Removal of the reduction of audit frequency for the ISO 9001 certified manufacturers
2.5.2.2			Introduction of the "Classification" in on the product's labels
3.3.2			Removal of the reduction of audit frequency for the ISO 9001 certified manufacturers
3.4.3.2			Addition of the definition of the impact test height and removal of the table mentioning the sheets dimensions
3.4.3.3			Addition of the definition of the impact test height for the follow-up testing
3.4.6			Removal of the table mentioning the sheet size for the follow-up testing

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Modified Part	Revision no.	Date brought into application	Modifications made
3.5.1	8	23 May 2022	Addition of the paragraph: « Impact test » and the information about manufacturers being able to do the test at the height above 1,20 m
Part 4			Update on the CSTB's details

Part 1

Application

1.1 Scope

This certification reference system presently concerns Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets used in roofing.

The NF mark strives to inspect:

- ❖ the safety characteristics for people, pets and goods, when required in view of the normal and common use of products,
- ❖ and/or the suitability for use,
- ❖ and/or the durability of the products,
- ❖ and/or any complementary characteristics to enable them to stand out in the market.

Certified products benefit from a positive assessment of their suitability for use, in reference to, for example, a DTU ^(*) (Unified Code of Practice), Technical Appraisal or any other positive technical assessment of a construction system ^(**) including the product and/or service and compatible with the other systems with which this system is combined to build a construction work.

Note: a construction system covers the whole process from design to execution, leading to the processing of a product or the use of a service for the execution of parts of works.

The product characteristics influence the performance of the roof structure (safety, durability, etc.) produced with fibre-cement profiled sheets.

(*) For sheets only, installation rules are described in NF DTU 40.37 - Roof Covering Made of Fibre-Cement Corrugated Sheets.

(**) For fibre-cement sheets to support half-round tiles, the installation rules are described in the sheet's valid Technical Application Document and for which Specialised Group No. 5.1: Roofing Products and Systems prepared a favourable assessment, accepted by the applicant and recorded by CSTB's Technical Department.

The NF mark – Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets applies, on the date of approval of this reference system, to NT type products only, due to Decree no. 96-1133 of 24 December 1996 banning asbestos.

The certified characteristics are identified in the §1.2 below.

1.2 Certification added value

Certification is recognition by a third party of the conformity of the characteristics demonstrating the added value of fiber-cement profiled sheets.

The certified characteristics of the Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets application are the following:

- According to Standard NF EN 494 in force:
 - i. Composition (NT = asbestos-free).
 - ii. Category: nominal profile height (C = 40 to 80 mm).
 - iii. Breaking load for category C sheet: class 1 (min. 4,250 N/m).

- iv. Bending moment for category C sheet: class X (min. 55 N.m/m).
 → According to Standard NF EN 15057 in force:
- v. Determination of soft body impact resistance (large retained bag).
 → According to Standard NF P 33-303-2 in force :
 - Classification of soft body impact resistance (large retained bag).

These certified characteristics are assessed under CSTB's responsibility, with the following inspection resources:

	Admission	Continued monitoring
Production audit carried out by a qualified technical auditor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verification that the production inspections and records have been carried out: raw materials, production, finished products, - Verification of the quality command provisions: metrology, packaging, storage, traceability, product marking, processing of non-conformities and customer complaints, - Supervision of certified characteristics tests carried out by the applicant, where applicable. 	Yes	Yes Frequency: 3 audits every 24 months (*) (**)
Tests carried out by a laboratory recognised by the certifying body (independent and competent): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Samples taken by the certifying body (on the applicant/holder's site). 	Yes	Yes Frequency: Every 12 months

(*) The frequency may be reduced to 1 annual audit, provided that:

- The production site has been certified NF more than 5 years;
- the results of the previous assessments are very satisfactory for the past 3 years (the manufacturing unit has not been the subject of any critical deviation, warning or sanction).

(**) The audit frequency may be increased to 2 annual audits if critical non-conformities are observed (depending on the appropriateness of the corrective actions).

1.3 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 Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets.

Such a request is referred to as "application", while the entity which makes it is known as the "applicant".

The applicant submits its 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.

During a period of 10 working days, beginning on the date of receipt by the certifying body of its application for certification, the applicant has the right to desist from its commitments, for any cause whatsoever, by sending a registered letter with return 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 his or her certifications for any reason whatsoever, in particular when 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 return receipt, remitted by the holder, communicating the termination with no further legal formality of the NF certification for one of the reasons defined above.

The certifying body reserves the right to halt an NF certification. The certifying body then specifies the transitional procedures and conditions before the definitive halting of the certification concerned.

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 from their emergence, the dispute will be taken by the most diligent Party before the competent French courts.

Note 1: Particular case of an admission request and follow-up audits in a country subject to special vigilance.

After 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/>

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- 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 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.

For follow-up audits in red- or orange-alert areas, or in yellow-alert areas for which the auditors have exercised their right to withdraw, the following exceptional measures shall be implemented:

The follow-up audits shall be cancelled and replaced by the following measures:

- performance of tests on one or more products sampled from the market, **and**
- analysis of tests and inspection records since the last audit, **and**
- analysis of customer complaint records since the last audit.

Furthermore, specific conditions relating to the applicant/holder’s situation may require additional measures to be determined by CSTB after consultation with the relevant committee.

In the case where the geographical area remains permanently in red- or orange- or yellow-alert for which the auditors have exercised a right of withdrawal, beyond three successively conducted evaluations in derogation mode, the withdrawal of the certification will be pronounced.

Note 2: Specific case of production subcontracting by an applicant

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

If so, he undertakes 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 he imposes on his subcontractor in order to comply with the requirements in this certification system, on the other hand the evidence regarding the subcontractor’s skills in complying with those requirements.

Note 3: Special case of a new application when a certificate is withdrawn or suspended after a sanction

When CSTB announces the withdrawal of a certificate following a sanction, the holder loses his//her right to use the NF mark. The holder thus becomes a former holder. Former holders can only submit a new certification application for a product, service, or person identical to the product or service or person involved in the decision to withdraw the certificate, subject to providing CSTB with evidence deemed sufficient to demonstrate that curative and corrective actions have been taken since the withdrawal decision, so that the product or service or person strictly complies with all Certification requirements over the long term.

Likewise, when CSTB announces the suspension of a certificate following a sanction, the holder loses his/her right to use the NF mark until CSTB removes the suspension. The suspension can be removed 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.

1.4 Applicant's commitment

Before making their application, applicants must make sure that they meet the conditions defined in this certification reference system concerning their product and the sites concerned. 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,
 - responsibly 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** 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:
 - 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;

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- 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, 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, ensure that all the safety provisions relating to working conditions, sites and equipment conform to current local regulations.

1.5 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

The Certification Scheme

The certification scheme for the application for Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets consists of this certification reference system, which references:

- The NF mark General Rules, which set the organisation and conditions for the use of the mark,
- The standards referred to in § 2.2.1,

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.

2.1 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.

The documentary evidence must be communicated to CSTB for the examination of the admission/extension file. If the product is modified, the documentary evidence must be presented to the auditor as part of the surveillance audit, by any appropriate means.

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
<p>Article L121-2 of the Consumer Code: "Trade practice is regarded as deceptive if it is done in either of the following circumstances: 2° "When it is based on allegations, information or presentations that are false or likely to mislead and that cover at least one of the following elements: ... b) The essential features of the goods or services, namely: their substantial qualities, their composition, accessories, origin and quantity, the manufacturing method and date of manufacture, the conditions of use and their suitability for use, their properties and the results expected from their use, as well as the results and main characteristics related to the tests and inspection carried out on those goods and services".</p>	<p>Trade name of the product Trade presentation of the product (brochures, Web site, etc.)</p>
<p>Regulation (EU) no. 305/2011 of the European Parliament and Council of 9th March 2011.</p>	<p>Declaration of performances</p>
<p>Decree 2013-1264 of 23 December 2013 regarding the environmental declaration of certain construction products intended for use in building work.</p>	<p>Verified individual or collective Environmental Declaration(s) in the case of an environmental claim on French soil.</p>
<p>Delegated Regulation commission (EU) 2016/364 of 1 July 2015 on the classification of reaction to fire characteristics of construction products</p>	<p>None</p>

2.2 The standards and complementary 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

Product standards

The products that are covered by this reference system shall meet the requirements defined in the following standards:

- NF EN 494+A1: Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets and Fittings for roof coverings. Classification index P 33-301, October 2015 for roof coverings - Product specification and test methods
- NF EN 15057: Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets - Impact Resistance Test Method. Classification index P 33-304 October 2006
- NF P30-311: Fasteners for roofing – Determination of the characteristic resistance of the assembly – Fibre-cement profiled sheets. Classification index P 30-311 December 2014.
- NF P33-303-2: Roofing of buildings - Roofing system in fiber cement profiled plates. Resistance to penetration of a large soft body - Test and classification. Classification index P 33-303-2 December 1997.

DTU 40-37: Building works – Roof covering made of fibre-cement corrugated sheets. Classification index P 34-203-1-1 September 2011.

Standards relative to the quality management and environmental management system

NF EN ISO 9001 revision 2015: Quality management systems – Requirements.

NF EN ISO 14001: Environmental management systems – Requirements.

Note: Regulations

The NF mark – Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets applies, on the date of approval of this reference system, to NT type products only, due to Decree no. 96-1133 of 24 December 1996 banning asbestos.

2.2.2 TECHNICAL COMPLEMENTARY 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:

NF P 08-102 Dimensional Control of Corrugated Sheets July 1963 horizontal edge straightness.

2.3 Modification declaration

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

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

2.3.1 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.

2.3.2 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT

- Case of a production transfer:

Any transfer (total or partial) 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 products concerned.

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

The visit may be reduced or even cancelled when the new manufacturing unit is already familiar to CSTB.

The procedures of assessment and of renewal decision of the certification are the same as those for admission as described in Part 3 of this certification reference system.

- Case of a modified production process:

The holder shall prove that the modification of the production process does not have an impact on the performances of the product's certified features (Cf. § 2.4.2.: § 8.5.6. 9001 V15). Furthermore, the holder shall inform CSTB of this absence of impact.

2.3.3 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT'S QUALITY ORGANISATION

The holder shall declare in writing to CSTB any modification relative to his quality organisation which might affect the conformity of the production to the requirements of this certification reference system.

In particular, they shall declare any modification in the certification of their 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 his products, and in particular any halt in supply by the designated third party.

Any temporary halt in the internal quality assurance operation 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.

2.3.4 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT

Any modification to the certified product when compared with the application dossier likely to have an effect on the product's compliance with the requirements in the certification reference system, shall be declared in writing to CSTB.

Depending on the modification declared, CSTB determines whether this is a certification extension application.

If there is a significant change that could have an impact on the performances of relevant products, affixing NF Marking on the products and on sales brochures will be prohibited.

The results of the admission/extension audit as well as the results from the Mark's testing laboratory or an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory following sampling carried out during the audit will make it possible to confirm the right of use of the NF Mark for holders/applicants subsequent to the changes made.

2.3.5 TEMPORARY OR DEFINITIVE 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. Lifting of the suspension may only be announced following an assessment of the additional audit and results of tests conducted at the Mark laboratory.

2.3.6 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.

2.3.7 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Should a standard be removed due to safety reasons, CSTB shall inform of this withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark, thus entailing an immediate halt by the manufacturer in the NF marking related to its production as well as the withdrawal of its NF-labelled products from marketing channels.

2.4 The quality management provisions: audit reference system

2.4.1 PURPOSE

Applicants/holders and their distributors holding a right of use are responsible for satisfying all the certification requirements for the right to use the NF mark relative to the product in question.

Applicants/holders shall implement all the necessary ways and means to permanently guarantee the product's conformity with this certification reference system. In addition, they must manage their external service providers using all 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 respecting the 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 standards and additional specifications, if applicable. These measures are described in paragraph 2.4.2 below.

2.4.2 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Applicants/holders shall have implemented the ways and means that they possess, the existence and effectiveness of which are assessed based on the requirements of standard NF EN ISO 9001 revision 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 additional 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.

Table 1 (Applicable requirements)

§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
4. Context of the organization			
4.1.	Understanding the organization and its context	-	NA
4.2.	Understanding the needs and expectations of interested parties	-	NA
4.3.	Determining the scope of the quality management system	-	NA
4.4.	Quality management system and its processes	-	NA
5. Leadership			
5.1.	Leadership and commitment	-	NA
5.2.	Policy	-	NA
5.3.	Organizational roles, responsibilities and authorities	<p>* Organization chart</p> <p>* Description of responsibilities and authorities (examples: organization chart, job sheets, etc.)</p> <p>* Person appointed to be responsible for organizing and efficiently implementing the production system</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p><To be considered for persons in charge of inspection or having a direct impact on the critical points related to the making of the product></p> <p>All the items except: * ISO 9001 V15: §5.3 c,d</p>
5.4.	Communication		NA
6. Planning			
6.1.	Actions to address risks and opportunities	-	NA
6.2.	Quality objectives and planning to achieve them	-	NA
6.3.	Planning of change (SMQ)		NA
7. Support			
7.1.1.	Resources – General	-	NA
7.1.3.	Infrastructure	-	NA
7.1.4.	Environment for the operation of processes	<p>Evidence of the maintenance of the work environment.</p> <p><i>Examples: Storage of a product and its components to protect them from bad weather, adapted ambient conditions, etc.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p><To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided></p>

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§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
7.1.5.	Monitoring and measuring resources	<p>* List of the inspection, measuring and test equipment used on the product/service production site and/or in the laboratory,</p> <p>* Identification of the equipment used to determine their validity,</p> <p>* 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),</p> <p>* Evidence of the verification and/or calibration operations <i>ex: equipment data sheet, verification or calibration report, etc.</i></p> <p>* Evidence of connection to national or international standards (where possible),</p> <p>* Validation of software used to monitor and measure the specified requirements, where appropriate.</p>	<p>■</p> <p><To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided></p>
7.1.6.	Organizational knowledge	-	NA
7.2.	Competence	<p>* Compliance with test methods and inspection provisions.</p> <p>* Actions planned to acquire the necessary competence (training, tutoring, etc.), where appropriate.</p>	<p>■</p> <p><To be considered for persons in charge of inspection or having a direct impact on the critical points related to the making of the product></p>
7.3.	Awareness	-	NA
7.5.	Documented information	<p>* List of the internal and external documented information. <i>Examples: Procedures, operating methods, test methods, inspection instructions, quality records</i></p> <p>* Evidence of control of internal and external documents <i>Example: Availability of the applicable version of the test method, the reference system, the inspection provisions, etc.</i></p>	<p>■</p> <p><To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided></p> <p><i>Note: Quality manuals are no longer required.</i></p>
8. Operation			
8.1.	Operational planning and control	-	<p>NA</p> <p><i>Note: Operational control: Same as ISO 9001 v15 § 8.5.1.</i></p>
8.2.2.	Requirements for products and services	-	NA
8.3.	Design and development of products and services	-	NA

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§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
8.4.	Control of externally provided processes, products and services	<p>* List of the service providers</p> <p>* Contract / order defining the requirements of the applicant / holder of the certification</p> <p>* Evidence of the verification of raw materials, components (1), services purchased</p> <p>* Evidence of the verification of subcontracting conditions: transport, handling, tests (2), etc.</p>	<p>■</p> <p><To be considered for raw materials and components that are purchased, as well as external services having an impact on the quality of a product/service></p> <p><u>External providers:</u></p> <p>* supplier of raw materials, components, services integrated into the product/service</p> <p>* subcontractor of external services (ex: tests, handling, transport, etc.)</p> <p><i>(* Specific case of applicants/holders subcontracting part of their production</i> <i>CSTB audits the subcontractors (as provided for in the certification reference system)</i></p> <p>All the items except: * ISO 9001 v15: § 8.4.1.</p>
8.5.1.	Control of production and service provision	<p>* Information defining the characteristics of products and services. <i>Example: product plan / description of the service, etc.</i></p> <p>* Information defining the activities to be carried out and the results to be obtained. <i>Examples: operating method(s), working instruction(s), test method(s), certification reference system (expected performance)</i></p> <p>* Monitoring and measurement activities. <i>Examples: Monitoring plan, inspection procedures and instruction(s), test method(s), etc.</i></p> <p>* Conservation of documented information proving the conformity of products/services with the acceptance criteria (Same as § 8.6.ISO 9001 v15)</p>	<p>■</p>
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>	<p>■</p> <p><To be considered in all cases for identification (and for traceability, where relevant)></p>
8.5.3.	Property belonging to customers or external providers	-	NA
8.5.4.	Preservation	Verifying that the product is preserved throughout the production line (identification, handling, storage, packaging, transport, etc.).	■

§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
8.5.5.	Post-delivery activities	-	NA
8.5.6.	Control of changes (<i>in production / service provision</i>)	* Evidence of the control pertaining to the modifications in the manufacturing process / service provision, in particular the impact of modifications on the product's performance: - reviewing the modifications, - person permitting modifications and all the necessary related actions.	■
8.6.	Release of products and services	* Provisions for the control of products; records of the results of inspections and the conformity with the acceptance criteria (3) * Name of the persons responsible for releasing the finished products / services	■
8.7.	Control of nonconforming outputs	* Provisions for processing non-conformities, including customer complaints, and implementation of those provisions (4) * No dispensation granted as regards the performance of a certified characteristic	■
9. Performance evaluation			
9.1.	Monitoring, measurement, analysis and evaluation	-	NA
9.2.	Internal audit	-	NA
9.3.	Management review	Management review report	< NA > or < A >: Collecting the Specific Committee's opinion
10. Improvement			
10.1.	General		NA
10.2.	Nonconformity and corrective action	* Implementation of corrective actions to deal with non-conformities pertaining to a certified product, including customer complaints (5) * Effectiveness of the actions taken.	■
10.3.	Continual improvement	-	NA

(1) Control of the product components

Applicants/holders are required to carry out a control of all components used in the manufacture of their certified products upon reception, and in all cases prior to use.

The "receipt" internal quality control operation specified by the applicant/holder shall cover:

- the inspection methods for products upon receipt that assess compliance and/or regularities in relation to the expected characteristics,
- including, as applicable, rules for collecting product samples.

This inspection covers all control actions carried out by the supplier. For example: compliance sheet issued after a systematic inspection prior to delivery, which the applicant/holder requires the supplier to perform; supplier certified according to Standard NF EN ISO 9001 for relevant products or certified supplies; etc.

(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.

(3) Inspection during production and on finished products

The applicant/holder shall possess the necessary ways and means for the controls and tests defined by the standards, reference documents and additional specifications mentioned in Paragraph 2.2 of this reference system. The applicants/holders agree to carry out reliable and regular verification of their production:

- Control of the product components,
- Inspection during production,
- Verifications and tests carried out on finished products.

During production

Control during production shall be put in place by the applicant/holder. This applies to the product in its intermediate states at the main production stages, as well as compliance with the setting instructions for the production tools (production machines, equipment).

Control instructions shall be formalized and made available to the operators. The results of the controls are recorded at each control. If the results of the controls indicate that the product does not meet the requirements of this Certification Reference System, the necessary corrective actions must be implemented immediately.

On finished products

Applicants/holders are required to verify the characteristics of the finished products before delivery and are responsible for putting this control in place. The controls and tests of finished products manufactured by the applicant/holder are carried out according to the standards and additional specifications mentioned in this certification reference system.

The various controlled characteristics are measured using the operating procedures specified in the reference standards mentioned in Paragraph 2.2 of this certification reference system.

Inspections on finished products are carried out by the applicants/holders themselves in their own manufacturing plants.

Applicants/holders shall take random samples at the end of the production line and carry out the controls and tests on these samples. The samples taken must be representative of the dimensions of the products covered by this certification reference system.

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

Applicants/holders shall record the results of the previous inspections. If the results of the standard controls are inconclusive, the controls must be reinforced and the causes of the malfunction must be identified so that corrections can be made by carrying out, if necessary, production controls.

(4) Provisions for processing non-conformities

These notably include:

- An analysis for identifying the cause of the anomaly,
- An analysis to determine the impact of the anomaly on production since the previous control,
- Management ensuring that the implementation of the corrective actions is effective,

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.

(5) Customer complaints

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

- a record of all the 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 relating to complaints that involve products covered by this certification reference system.

2.4.3 INSPECTION OF FINISHED PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED CONTINUOUSLY AND SPORADICALLY

Table 2

CHARACTERISTICS	Reference documents	Minimum sample size per control batch	
		Inspection before admission	Routine inspection
Marking	NF EN 494 (in force) + Technical Application Document or NF DTU 40.37 + The applicant/holder's data sheet	9	3
No corrugation		9	1
Depth of corrugations		9	1
Length		9	3
Width		9	3
Thickness		9	3
Out-of-square		9	3
Position and nature of reinforcements		9	3
Height of edge h_{od} (descending corrugation)		9	3
Height of edge h_{om} (ascending corrugation)		9	3
Edge straightness		9	1
Impermeability		1 ^(*)	1 ^(**)
Density		9	3 ^(****)
Breaking load	9	3 ^(****)	
Bending moment	9	3 ^(****)	
Impact test	NF EN 15057 (in force)	3 ^(***)	3 ^(****)

^(*) Sheet per month and per machine

^(**) Sheet per quarter and per machine

^(***) 3 test specimens per month and per machine, or 6 long sheets (≥ 1.525 m) or 9 short sheets (< 1.525 m)

^(****) 3 test specimens per month and per machine, or 6 long sheets (≥ 1.525 m) or 9 short sheets (< 1.525 m)

^(*****) 3 sheets (or 1 per shift) per production day number

Note: Freeze/thaw tests for sporadic production are only done on admission.

2.5 Marking – General provisions

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 better protection for users and enables the users to be defended against abusive usage and counterfeits.

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

In addition, the statement of the main certified characteristics is intended to make transparent for consumers and users the technical characteristics to which the NF mark relates. It therefore adds value to 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 below is to guide the holder in complying with the regulation requirements and the certification requirements. The General Rules of the NF mark specify the guidelines for usage, the guidelines for validity and the procedures for penalties 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.

2.5.1 THE NF LOGO

The NF logo shall 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.

The NF-certified product must have a distinct designation and identification from non-certified products.

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.

To avoid any confusion between certified products and non-certified products, the applicant/holder will ensure that they do not use trade names that are identical or similar (for example: "Prod+" for a certified product and "Prod" for an uncertified product).

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

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

2.5.2 TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MARKING

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

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



<http://evaluation.cstb.fr>

composition (NT),
category,
breaking load class,
bending moment class,
large soft body impact resistance.


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

The COFRAC accreditation mark can only be reproduced with prior written consent from CSTB and shall be formulated as follows: "Certification issued by CSTB, covered by a COFRAC Certification of Products and Services accreditation, No. 5-0010, the list of sites and scope being available at www.cofrac.fr"

2.5.2.1 Marking of the certified products

All certified products, manufactured after the date indicated on the approval of the right to use the NF mark (via an admission or extension procedure) and which comply with the requirements of this certification reference system, must be at least marked with the logo of the mark (unless it is technically impossible).

Marking shall be carried out in a permanent, legible and indelible way on the Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets according to the debossing, direct inkjet printing or affixed label marking method, and include the following information:


- the factory number (given to the factory by CSTB)
- the affiliation number of the Technical Application Document (*given to the factory by CSTB*) for half-round tile support sheets
- the logo 
- the machine number (*two characters*)
- the statement "NT"
- the year of manufacture (*two characters*)
- the production work station reference (*one character*)
- the production day number (*three characters*)
- the category and class (*C1X*)

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EXAMPLE:

01	99		02	97	Z	160	C1X
factory no.	For half-round tile support sheets, affiliation number of the Technical Application Document	NF logo	Machine no.	Year of manufacture	Work station reference	Production day number	

NB: If there is a code for identifying the product, the code must be given to CSTB.

2.5.2.2 *Marking on the packaging of the certified product or on the product's accompanying document(s) (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.


Example of marking: if the marking on the packaging allows for methods further to those defined, indicate the anticipated type of marking.

Note: If the product is already marked, marking on the packaging of certified products must be recommended, given that this is one of the ways to promote the mark.

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Example of the sheet's appearance on packaging:

 NF MARK FIBRE-CEMENT PROFILED SHEETS	<p>This mark guarantees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - respect of certification reference system NF 249 - the values of stated characteristics through continuous monitoring undertaken by CSTB 	
Name and address of the holder	Name: Address: Country: Code: Town/City:.....	
Name and address of the representative in France (if applicable)	Name: Address: Code: Town/City:	
Model designation: (trademark, trade reference)	
Factory number		
Affiliation code of the Technical Application Document*		
* This Appraisal for half-round tile support sheets specifies in particular the impact resistance class for roof coverings, based on the installation conditions		
ESSENTIAL CERTIFIED CHARACTERISTICS		
Reference system	Designation	Value/Criterion
NF EN 494	Composition	NT = asbestos-free
NF EN 494	Category: nominal profile height	C = 40 to 80 mm
NF EN 494	Breaking load for category C sheets: class 1	min. 4,250 N/m
NF EN 494	Bending load for category C sheets: class X	min. 55 Nm/m
NF EN 15057 NF P 33-303-2	Determination of soft body impact resistance	bag held Classification X
CSTB 84 avenue Jean Jaurès – CHAMPS-SUR-MARNE 77447 MARNE-LA-VALLE CEDEX 02 www.cstb.fr		

For the French market, this information must be provided in French (Law of 4 August 1994). If necessary, the information can also be given in one or more other languages.

2.5.2.3 Marking on the 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.

Regarding the French market, this information shall necessarily be provided in French (Law no. 94-665 of 4 August 1994 relative to 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 should be advised to submit to CSTB in advance all documentation where the certification mark is expected to be used.

2.6 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.

Any suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark results in the prohibition to use this mark and make reference to it. Therefore, in these cases, the NF mark must no longer appear on the products, their packaging, documentation, advertisements or any other of the holder's materials.

Accidentally non-compliant products must have marking removed. The holder must set up a system enabling full traceability of these products to be ensured: batch number, quantity, order number.

Those that will be packaged as "sacrificial sheets" must be rendered unusable:

- by making holes or cutting the edges. The message "do not use", "packing sheet" or any other similar message must then be included on the sheets,
- or they can be cut to a length shorter than or equal to 600 mm.

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

- The manufacturer is responsible for:
 - Partie 2 Immediately informing the CSTB
 - Partie 3 Validating the qualities/batch numbers/lead times, etc. involved
 - Partie 4 Planning retroactive declassification and possibly withdrawal from shops
- The CSTB is responsible for:
 - Partie 5 Defining the means to check declassification (customer commitment, etc.);
 - Partie 6 Estimating the risks of improper use of the mark, in particular in the event that certification applies to products/services at risk:
 - Partie 7 Depending on those risks, possibly triggering an on-site inspection (company or shop) or informing the public authorities;

Partie 8 Undertaking from the holder to perform corrective action and/or an on-site inspection; where appropriate, declaring the suspension or withdrawal of the certification. >

2.7 Frauds and falsifications

2.7.1 PREAMBLE

For the Certification of Products or Services, any frauds or falsifications are subject to the sanctions specified in Articles L. 121-2 to L 121-5 of the Consumer Code.

In case frauds or falsifications relating to the use of the NF mark are detected, AFNOR Certification or CSTB reserves the right to institute legal proceedings before the Department of Competition, Consumption and Repression of Frauds 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.

By registered letter with return receipt, CSTB communicates all wrongful use to the holder who shall immediately take all necessary steps to eliminate such wrongful use.

2.7.2 LEGAL ACTION

Other than the above-mentioned actions, AFNOR Certification or CSTB reserves the right to institute any legal action which it deems necessary, and all third parties which consider themselves to have incurred prejudice, shall also be free, for their own account, to seek appropriate redress.

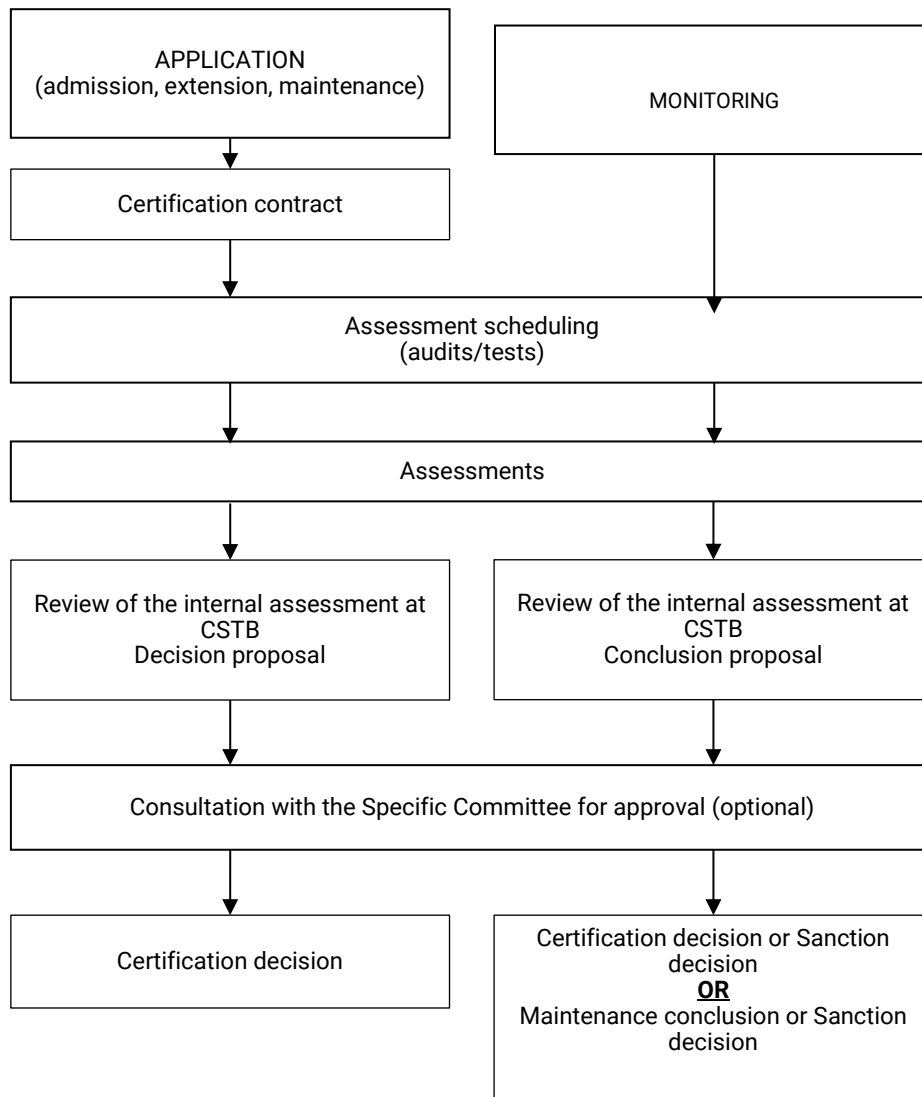
Part 3

Certification Process

3.1 General points

- Definition of the applicant (see Part 5);
- Definitions of the various types of application (admission application/complementary admission application/extension application/maintenance application):
 - An application for admission is made by an applicant not having the right to use the NF mark for the Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets application. It corresponds to a product (or a range of products) coming from a specific design process and/or manufacturing unit and/or a specific sales location, defined by a trademark and/or with a specific reference to the product submitted and the technical characteristics;
 - A complementary admission application is made by a holder and concerns a new product;
 - An application for extension is made by a holder and applies to a modified product on the same manufacturing site;
 - A maintenance application is made by a holder and applies to an NF-certified product intended to be sold under another trademark and/or with a specific reference to the product without any modification to 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 is made in the event of deceptive marketing practices in application of Articles L 121-2 to L121-5 of the Consumer Code.

3.2 Certification application processing procedure



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

3.3 Audits

3.3.1 ADMISSION AUDITS

The purpose of audits is to make sure 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 the technical application document in force.

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 its production, CSTB reserves the right to carry out an audit on the premises of the subcontractor(s) based on this certification 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 needed for testing and potential retesting 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 marked with a distinctive sign by the auditor and are sent by and under the responsibility of the applicant to the laboratory of the mark responsible for carrying out the tests within a time period set during the sampling, unless the auditor decides to take them from the applicant. If the sampling is impossible, the applicant may send the samples requested by CSTB to the laboratory of the mark within the prescribed time limits.

^(*) In the context of an admission application:

- the production quality requirements provided in chapter 2.4 have been satisfied for at least 1 month for products covered in the request,
- the applicant proves the minimum production of at least 5 machine-days, each including at least 1,000 sheets.

In the event of any dangerous situation in relation to the certifying body's safety requirements, the auditor reserves the right to withdraw.

An audit report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

Special case of a mock audit:

Prior to an admission audit, a mock audit may be suggested in order to review the situation. It complies with the requirements in doctrine no. 05 of CERT REF 04 of COFRAC. A mock audit shall in no way include advisory activities.

Mock audits may only be tolerated under the following conditions:

- A mock audit shall be limited to one single intervention per site prior to an admission audit;
- The sole purpose of a mock audit is to make a factual assessment of an entity's state of readiness with regard to the certification criteria, by identifying any possible deviations without recommending any solutions;
- A mock audit shall not constitute a comprehensive assessment of the applicant's quality system;
- A mock audit shall be set out in a written audit report addressed to the applicant. Should a deviation be identified, the audit report shall not be supplemented by deviation sheets. The administrator shall not make any pronouncement on the relevance of the corrective actions;

-
- The duration of a mock audit shall be far shorter than the scheduled duration of an admission audit. It is equivalent to 1 day;
 - A mock audit may not be considered comparable to an admission audit. Later on, if certification is requested, an admission audit will be conducted in full.

Later on, if certification is requested, an admission audit will be conducted in full.

3.3.1.1 Case of an initial admission application

For all fibre-cement profiled sheets, a declaration of performance (DoP) with CE marking is requested from the applicant when preparing the application and the technical file.

The application for the right to use the NF mark, prepared in French, shall be sent to the secretariat of the NF mark:

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)
Division Façades, Couvertures et Toitures

In the event that the product comes from a manufacturing unit located outside the European Union, the applicant shall designate a representative in France as a joint signatory to the application. This representative must be listed on the trade register.

An application concerning one or more products benefiting from a foreign conformity mark or from a test report from a foreign laboratory is processed taking into account, if applicable, any existing recognition agreements, in accordance with Article 8 of the General Rules of the NF mark.

The audit normally lasts at least 3 days 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.).

Checking verifications:

The auditor/inspector examines the results recorded in the recording(s) of the applicant (or holder) and verifies, on the one hand, that those verifications have been regularly carried out for more than 3 months and that the specified tests have been carried out, and on the other hand, that the frequency of the verifications is respected, and finally, that the results of those verifications are satisfactory or, when this is not the case, they enquire about the ways and means implemented by the manufacturer to eliminate the off-specification products and to rectify their manufacturing.

3.3.1.2 Case of a complementary admission application

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

3.3.1.3 Case of an extension application

The steps described in Paragraph 3.3.1 above apply with the following specifics:

- in the context of an extension application for a modified certified product, the tests are defined according to the planned modification;
- the audit can be adapted or accompanied by a follow-up audit;
- the manufacturer or holder of the NF mark is a holder of the NF mark – Fibre-Cement Profiled Sheets for at least one range;

-
- the product covered by the application respects the specifications and requirements defined in Part 2 of this reference system;
 - the production quality requirements provided in chapter 2.3 have been satisfied for at least 1 month for products covered in the request;
 - the technical file complies with the requirements demanded (only modified documents must be sent);
 - the manufacturer proves the minimum production of at least 1 machine-day, including at least 1000 sheets.

3.3.2 FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

Follow-up audits are intended to check, following admission, that the provisions defined are still being maintained.

All of the provisions described in Paragraph 3.3.1 apply.

Follow-up audits are intended to check, following admission, that the provisions defined are still being maintained and meet the requirements of Part 2 of this reference system.

All of the provisions described in Paragraph 3.3.1 apply.

Inspections operations

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

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

An audit report is prepared and addressed to the holder.

The audit normally lasts 1.5 days 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).

Normal monitoring:

The normal frequency is 3 audits every 24 months per manufacturing unit benefits from a right to use the NF mark.

Heightened monitoring:

In the event of breach of the requirements in this certification reference system, or if the Specific Committee makes a reasoned request, a heightened monitoring procedure can be initiated for a given period. This monitoring can be adjusted up to double the normal frequency of audits, with or without heightened monitoring of the applicant and sampling for test purposes in the manufacturing unit and/or in the distribution network. For heightened monitoring, the audit frequency is 1 audit every 6 months.

In addition, any critical deviation observed during an audit, whether or not combined with a sanction, may justify a transition to heightened monitoring. The latter will be initiated by

CSTB, possibly after recommendation from the Specific Committee, for a set period including or not stricter holder's inspection and sampling for testing.

Reduced monitoring:

If the manufacturing unit has not been the subject of any non-conformity, critical deviation, warning or sanction over the last 3 years, reduced monitoring may then be applied. Moreover, the factory has to be NF certified more than 5 years already.

The audit frequency is reduced to 1 audit per year.

3.4 Sampling

From stock intended for sale, the auditor takes the samples (less than 1 year old) needed to conduct tests for each product range:

- for a first admission: 3 machine-productions (3 x 1,000 sheets min.),
- for an extension: 1 machine-production (1,000 sheets min.),
- for periodic verification: Three (3) distinct batches of at least 40 sheets each from the same model and the same day of manufacture; at least one (1) of the three (3) batches shall come from the last production of the range under consideration, at least one (1) month old.

Products intended for admission or extension tests and retesting can be collected by an auditor during a previous visit.

Tables 1 and 2 below define the number of products collected for an admission, extension or periodic verification.

For the periodic verification, the auditor collects the products (these samples must match (*)).

(*) To do this, amass the three populations simultaneously: from each sample collection point, take three consecutive sheets and place one of the three in each of the populations. Carry on until each of the populations contains the number of sheets specified in Table 1 below.

The auditor indicates the products intended as test specimens provided to the mark's laboratories. These test specimens are sent by the applicant/holder, at the expense and under the responsibility of the latter, such that they arrive at the recipient laboratory within one month.

For the samplings to be sent to the mark laboratory, the samples are marked with a specific sign by the auditor; they are sent by and under the responsibility of the applicant/holder to the mark laboratory which role is to do tests in a determined time, unless the auditor decides to take care of the sampling transport himself.

The auditor prepares a sampling report and leaves a copy with the holder.

Packaging and transport arrangements must allow for test specimen integrity to be preserved.

If the applicant/holder does not send the samples to the mark laboratory before the due date indicated by the CSTB, actions could be taken against him (sanction or suspension).

3.4.1 NATURE OF THE TESTS

Auditors attend the tests performed in the holder's laboratory (or they may attend the start of the test only if the duration is too long), indicated in the tables below, and they prepare the report, a copy of which is attached to the Closing Meeting Report given to the holder.

The mark laboratory does tests by campaign. The campaign is programmed depending on the quantity of sampled received.

The mark's laboratory then performs the tests within four (4) months, after having been instructed by the audit body. The test report is communicated to the manufacturer by the Audit Body within one (1) month.

3.4.2 INSPECTION METHODS

The inspection method used depends on the characteristic under consideration and whether it is an admission, extension or periodic verification.

Attribute method, double sampling, normal frequency:

The attribute result is given in the following form: (a – b; c – d).

NC corresponds to the number of defective, and therefore non-conforming, test specimens.

- On the first population:
 - if $NC \leq a$: batch accepted,
 - if $NC \geq b$: batch rejected,
 - if $a < NC < b$: the test is performed on the second population.
- On the combination of 2 populations:
 - if $NC \leq c$: batch accepted,
 - if $NC \geq d$: batch rejected.

Measuring method with unknown standard deviation, normal frequency:

If each test gives a result greater than the defined threshold value V_i , the batch is accepted without having to apply the formula of the method for this characteristic.

The formula to apply if using a measuring method, if there are individual non-confirming values, is as follows:

$$\frac{x - V_i}{s} \geq k$$

Where x , the arithmetical average of n results,
 V_i is the threshold value needed during individual verification of tests,
 s is the standard deviation of n results,
 k is the acceptance constant corresponding to a conventional population of 5000.
For admission and extension, it corresponds to the conventional population of 5000 where $k = 1.07$. For periodic verification, it corresponds to reduced inspection for a conventional population of 5,000 where $k = 0.81$.

Method described in Standard NF EN 494 in force:

Depending on the characteristic under consideration for the admission tests, the inspection method may be the one described in Standard NF EN 494.

3.4.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES

3.4.3.1 General points

- Tests marked U. are to be carried out in the manufacturer's laboratory (in absence thereof, then in the mark's laboratory),
- Tests marked M. are to be carried out in the mark's laboratories,

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- Tests marked U.M. are to be carried out in the manufacturer’s laboratory and in the mark’s laboratory.

Note: samples are identified with the letters **U**, **M**. or **U.M**.

In the event of non-conformities with tests in the factory’s laboratory (U) during the admission visit, retesting will be carried out on the second population at the mark’s laboratory. Only dimensional retesting is carried out at the factory’s laboratory. If non-conformities are detected on this second population, the batch is considered non-conforming.

Note: If there are non-conformities with tests in the mark’s laboratory (U), the mandated body may request performance of additional tests.

Note: Remember that once a year, sheets are collected for corroboration tests in the mark’s laboratory, according to the conditions of §3.4.2.

For some destructive testing, it is possible to take samples of products eliminated due to minor defects in terms of appearance that do not entail non-conformity of the certified products.

The samples taken are marked with a distinctive symbol by the auditor and are sent by and under the responsibility of the applicant to the laboratory of the mark responsible for carrying out the tests within the deadline set during sampling, unless the auditor decides to take charge of them.

An information sheet recording the sampling carried out is prepared on site and handed over to the applicant/holder.

A copy of this sampling information sheet is automatically sent to the laboratory in charge of carrying out the tests.

If the holder does not send the samples to the mark laboratory within the time required by CSTB, penalties may be applied (sanction, suspension).

3.4.3.2 Admissions and extensions

For admissions or extensions, the inspection operations to carry out are those from *Table 1*.

Table 1 - Number of sheets and conformity criteria

Characteristics checked	Reference documents	Total number of sheets	Site	Method	Acceptance criteria
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APPEARANCE AND FINISH	Standard NF EN 494	13 ⁽²⁾ + 13 ⁽³⁾	U	-	0 NC
MARKING	Certification Reference System - Chapter 2.5.	13 ⁽²⁾ + 13 ⁽³⁾	U	-	0 NC
GEOMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS - Length - Width - Thickness - Height of edge h _{od} (descending corrugation) - Height of edge h _{om} (ascending corrugation) - Corrugation depth - No corrugation - Out-of-square - Straightness	Standard NF EN 494 and the product's Technical Application Document (DTA) or NF DTU 40.37 + Manufacturer's technical sheet	13 ⁽²⁾ + 13 ⁽³⁾	U	attribute	(a - b; c - d) (0 - 3; 3 - 4)
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS - Density - Breaking load - Deformation - Bending moment - Impermeability ⁽⁴⁾ - Hot water ⁽⁴⁾ - Wet-dry ⁽⁴⁾	Standard NF EN 494 and the product's Technical Application Document (DTA) or NF DTU 40.37 + Manufacturer's technical sheet	10 10 10 10 3 20 20	U UM M UM M M M	measurement measurement measurement measurement - - attribute	[(x - d _{min})/s] ≥ k [(x - 4250)/s] ≥ k EN 494 [(x - 55)/s] ≥ k NF EN 494 NF EN 494 NF EN 494
- Impact test	Standard NF EN 15057 NF P 33-303-2 (height of the drop according to the classification)	8 ⁽²⁾ + 8 ⁽³⁾	UM	attribute	(0 - 2; 1 - 2)
- Characteristic resistance of the assembly ⁽⁴⁾	Standard NF P30-311	12	U	measurement	Avg.-2 stand. dev. ≥ 170 daN
CLIMATIC PERFORMANCES - Freeze-thaw ⁽⁴⁾ - Heat-rain ⁽⁴⁾	Standard NF EN 494	20 9 (or 12) ⁽¹⁾	M UM	- -	NF EN 494 NF EN 494

Remember **K = 1.07**.

- (1): Depending on the width of the sheets (12 for sheets shorter than or equal to 0.9 m and 9 for longer sheets).
- (2): Total number of tests divided evenly among the 3 batches selected.
- (3): Total number of tests divided evenly among the 3 batches selected in case of non-conformities (second population).
- (4): These tests can be done in the manufacturer's laboratory under the condition that a complementary audit is favourable regarding these tests.

3.4.3.3 Periodic verifications

Systematic periodic verifications are carried out in the manufacturer's laboratory, by double sampling. The sheets are sampled in this manner:

- 3 sheets (one per batch) is sampled for dimensional controls;
- 3 sheets (one per batch) for breaking load, mass volume and bending moment, following the method described in the norm NF EN 494 that is applicable;
- 10 to 15 sheets (depending on the length) for the impact test following the method described in the norm NF EN 15057 that is applicable.

They cover the characteristics listed in Table 2 below.

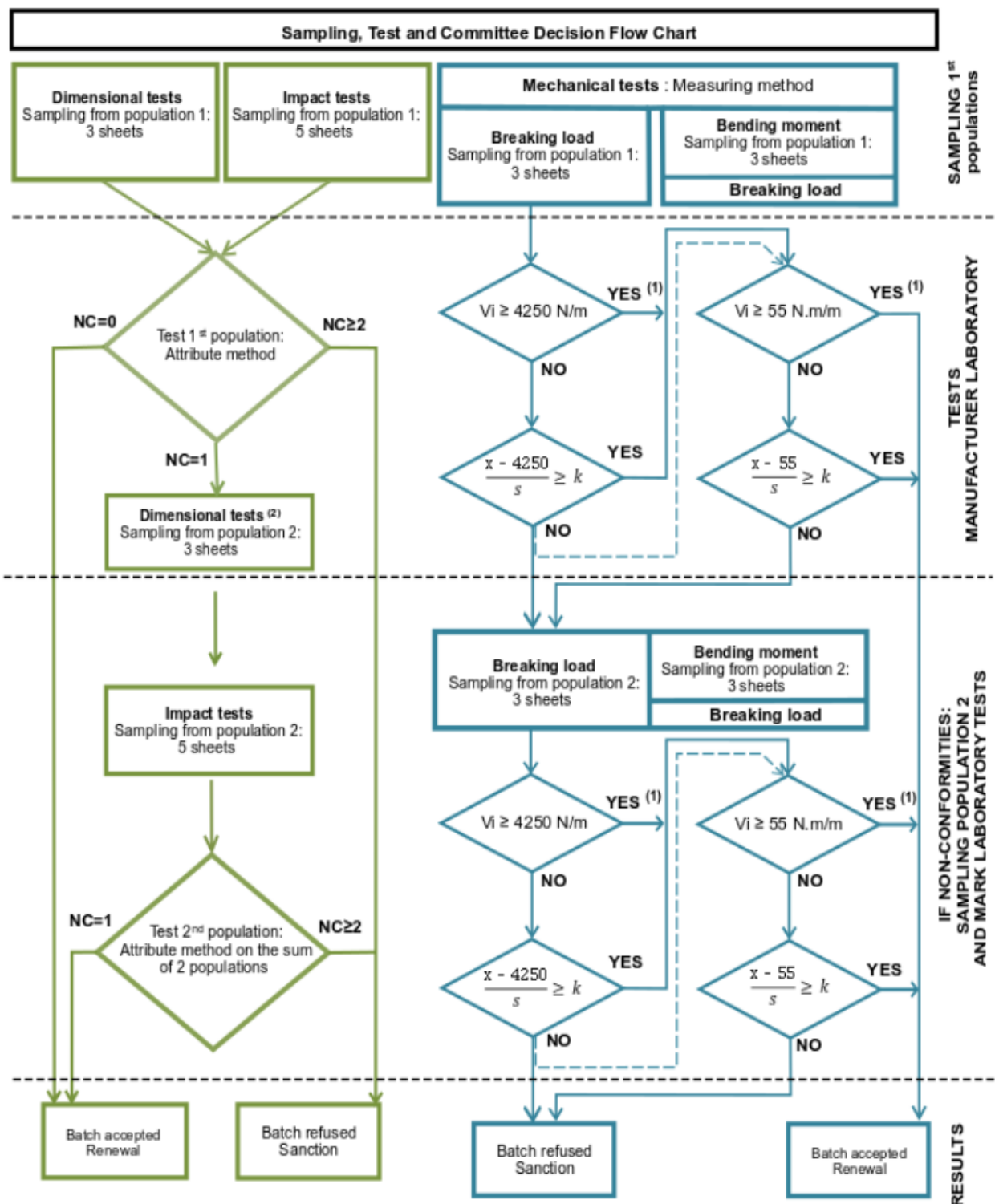
Table 2 – Number of controls and conformity criteria for periodic monitoring

Characteristics checked	Reference documents	Number of sheets tested	Site	Method	Acceptance criteria (a - b; c - d)
Dimensions	NF EN 494 + AT	3 ⁽²⁾ + 3 ⁽³⁾	U ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	attribute	(0 - 2; 1 - 2)
Breaking load ⁽¹⁾	NF EN 494 + AT	3 ⁽²⁾ + 3 ⁽³⁾	U ⁽²⁾ +M ⁽³⁾	measurement	$[(x - 4250)/s] \geq k$
Bending moment ⁽¹⁾	NF EN 494 + AT	3 ⁽²⁾ + 3 ⁽³⁾	U ⁽²⁾ +M ⁽³⁾	measurement	$[(x - 55)/s] \geq k$
Impact test ⁽¹⁾	NF EN 15057 NF P 33-303-2 (height of the drop according to the classification)	5 ⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾ + 5 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	U ⁽²⁾ +M ⁽³⁾	attribute	(0 - 2; 1 - 2)

Remember **K = 0.81**.

Regarding tests performed during periodic monitoring audits, the principle for decision-making is indicated in the flowchart on the next page.

- (1): If there are water content non-conformities of impact-tested sheets, a sample collected by CSTB during the audit will be sent (by the factory) to the mark's laboratory (M) for retesting.
- (2): 1st sampling : Total number of tests divided evenly among the 3 batches selected.
- (3): 2nd sampling : Total number of tests divided evenly among the 3 batches selected in case of non-conformities during the audit. Samples are sent to the mark laboratory when the 1st sampling is not in conformity. Except dimensional tests which can be done in the factory's laboratory.
- (4): 1 or 2 more sheets are to be sampled for the impact test to complete the test assembly.



(1) Testing declared conform even if the acceptance constant k is below 0,81

(2) Second population, only dimensional tests are done in the factory's laboratory and not in the mark laboratory

\dashrightarrow Not required step. If the breaking load test is not in conformity, the batch is refused anyway.

3.4.4 TESTING FREQUENCY FOR NF CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

The first verifications are completed no later than 6 months after admission or extension.

The frequency of periodic verifications is then the same as that of audits and therefore depends on the nature of the monitoring performed, as defined in article 3.4 sampling.

3.4.5 VALIDATION TESTS

The above-mentioned tests (conducted according to the conditions of Table 1 §3.4.3.2) allow CSTB, as part of an admission or extension, to compare the results obtained in the manufacturer's laboratory with those obtained in the mark's laboratory:

- breaking load,
- bending moment,
- impact test (large soft body impact).

3.4.6 CORROBORATION TEST

Once a year, the auditor collects samples from 3 different batches at the holder/applicant's site or the shop:

- 3 sheets (one per batch) for the breaking load and density corroboration test, in accordance with the operating procedure described in Standard NF EN 494 in force,
- 6 to 9 sheets (depending on the length of the sheets, 1 specimen per batch) for the impact resistance corroboration test, in accordance with the operating procedure described in Standard NF EN 15057 in force.

If there is inconsistency between the two series of tests (at the manufacturer's and the mark's laboratory), the Specific Committee and CSTB assess the results. CSTB may wish to conduct additional investigations aimed at understanding these differences.

The samples destined to be tested in the mark laboratory (not applicable to other laboratories) are pre-cut following these prescriptions:

Regarding follow-up sampling:

When modifications declared as minor(*), for example, have been made to the products or when changes also identified as minor during the follow-up audit have been made to the product production process and the holder cannot prove that these changes do not affect the certified characteristics (composition, categories, breaking load, bending moment, large soft body impact resistance) samples are systematically taken and tests are performed in the mark's laboratory, in particular to check the characteristics involved.

In the event of an additional audit, the tests generated by the non-conformity detected are conducted by the mark's laboratory.

(*): new suppliers of a known raw material.

3.4.7 COUNTER-TESTS IN CASE OF NON-CONFORMITIES FOR TESTS DONE IN THE MARK LABORATORY

In the case of non-conformity for tests done in the mark laboratory, the auditor does the sampling by distance or during the 2nd semester audit, from 3 different batches:

- 3 sheets (one per batch) for breaking load, mass volume and bending moment, following the method described in the norm NF EN 494 that is applicable;
- 10 to 15 sheets (depending on the length) for the impact test following the method described in the norm NF EN 15057 that is applicable.

In case of non-conformity during the counter-tests (in the mark laboratory), a critical deviation will be noted.

3.5 Testing

3.5.1 IMPACT TEST

The impact test can be done at the height above 1,20 m (600 J) For the calculation of the impact resistance based on the height of the drop, refer to §7.6.1 of the NF EN 15057 norm. The classification of the certified impact energy is the following (§ 3 of the NF P 33-303-2 norm):

Classification	Height (m)	Choc energy (J)
1	1,20	600
2	1,80	900
3	2,40	1200

Nota: This classification is conventional at the initial state. It can be maintained or not after the conventional accelerated alteration, but it will not be the guarantee of the upkeep of the impact resistance in time.

The manufacturer will have to adapt its production control according to the classification. The tests done at the mark laboratory will be performed at the designated height.

3.5.2 ADMISSION TESTS

The tests are carried out in accordance with the standards and complementary specifications set out in Part 2 of this certification reference system.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

The tests are carried out under the responsibility of the mark laboratory.

3.5.3 TESTS ON THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT (FOLLOW-UP)

The tests are carried out in accordance with the standards and complementary specifications set out in Part 2 of the certification reference system and Technical Document.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the holder.

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

Tests on the certified characteristics are carried out in the laboratory at the manufacturing plant under the auditor's supervision. This laboratory shall have equipment that is appropriate to perform tests under the conditions required by the standard (or the reference test method).

In the event of an additional audit, the tests generated by the non-conformity detected are conducted by the mark's laboratory.

Part 4

The 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.

4.1 The certifying body

In conformity with the General Rules of the NF mark, AFNOR Certification assigns the performance of the various functions necessary for the management of the NF mark to the following 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 82 74

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

CSTB is responsible to AFNOR Certification for the operations with which it is entrusted and which are the subject of a contract.

4.2 Audit 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)

Direction Enveloppe Du Bâtiment
Division Certification et Evaluation de l'Enveloppe du Bâtiment
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
F-77447 Marne La Vallée Cedex 2

☎ : +33 (0)1 64 68 82 74

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

The auditors have the inspection right on the premises of any applicant or holder within the framework of their missions.

4.3 Test bodies

Whenever the quality assurance operations carried out within the framework of NF mark usage include tests on products, such tests are carried out at CSTB's request by the following laboratory, referred to as the laboratory of the mark:

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Direction Enveloppe Du Bâtiment
Division Façades, Couvertures et toitures (FaCeT)
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
F-77447 Marne La Vallée Cedex 2
☎ : +33 (0)1 64 68 82 74

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

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

11 rue Henri-Picherit BP 82341
FR-44323 Nantes cedex 3
☎ : +33 (0)2 40 37 20 00

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

4.4 Subcontracting

The different functions described in Paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 may be carried out, after opinion from the Specific Committee, where appropriate, by other audit bodies or recognised laboratories with which CSTB has established a sub-contracting contract or accepted outside laboratory's tests.

4.5 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 French 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.

Its composition is as follows:

-
- A Chairperson chosen from the members of the colleges defined below;
 - A Vice President: one representative of CSTB.
 - Manufacturers College (Holders): from 2 to 5 representatives;
 - Users'/Specifiers' college: from 2 to 5 representatives;
 - Technical and Administrative Bodies' College: from 2 to 5 representatives.

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

The composition of the Committee is balanced when:

- Number of members of the "Manufacturers/Holders" college \leq total of the number of members of the "Users/Specifiers" and "Technical and Administrative Bodies" colleges;
- Number of members of the "Users/Specifiers" college \leq total of the number of members of the "Manufacturers/Holders" and "Technical and Administrative Bodies" colleges;
- Number of members of the "Technical and administrative bodies college" \leq total of the number of members of the "Manufacturers/Holders" and "Users/Specifiers" colleges.

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 shall be precluded from receiving any remuneration for the functions entrusted to them. Members are appointed for a term of 3 years. This appointment is renewable by tacit agreement. The Specific Committee's President can change every year.

The members of the Specific Committee formally commit themselves to keep confidential all information, particularly of individual character, which is communicated to them.

The Specific Committee may, where appropriate, decide to set up working groups or subcommittees and define their missions and responsibilities. The composition of these working groups is to be validated by the Specific Committee, these working groups being composed of at least one representative of the "Manufacturers" College, one representative of the "Users/Specifiers" College and one CSTB representative. 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:

- Effective representation of the College that represents applicants or holders on the one hand, and the College that represents users and specifiers on the other hand (not representative 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 is either written consultation or a new meeting.

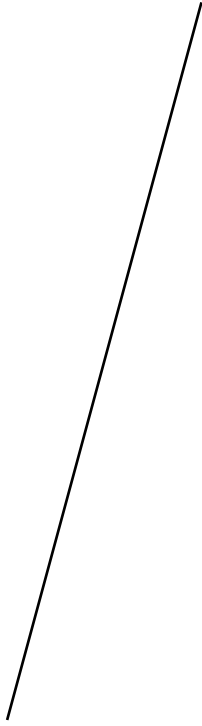
Part 5

Glossary

Admission:	Application by which applicants request for the first time the right to use the NF mark for a product; they declare that they understand this certification reference system and undertake to respect it.
Applicant/Holder:	<p>Legal entity that controls and/or is responsible for respecting all the requirements defined in the NF mark certification reference system. These requirements cover at least the following steps: design, manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking, packing and market release, and specify the critical points in the different steps.</p> <p>Any person who modifies the container and/or content of the product (for example, packets or loose cement distribution) becomes an applicant and may not be considered as a retailer. Therefore, this person must make a usage right admission application.</p>
Audit:	See Standard NF EN ISO 9001.
Certification Reference System:	Technical document which defines the characteristics that a product, a service or a combination of products and services shall have, and the methods for inspecting the conformity with these characteristics, as well as the methods for communicating on the certification (including the content of the information).
Certification Scheme:	Specific certification system for well-defined products to which the same specified requirements, and specific rules and procedures apply.
Complementary admission:	Application by which a holder wants to benefit from the right to use the NF mark for a new product or a new production entity.
Continuous production:	Production (across all ranges) representing at least 5 machine-days per month on average and for each of the ranges at least 5 consecutive machine-days per year.
Control batch:	Set of sheets from a machine-day obtained in the same production conditions.

Distributor:	<p>Person who distributes the applicant/holder's products and who does not modify the conformity of the product to the requirements of the NF mark.</p> <p>Distributors may be of the following types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- distributors who distribute the product under the holder's trademark. In this case, no action is to be taken as part of the NF mark.- distributors who distribute the product after changing the trademark. The applicant/holder shall make an application for maintenance of right of use. <p>If the distributor does not wish to have explicit reference to the manufacturer, then an application for admission to the NF mark shall be made by the distributor. In that case, the manufacturing plant is not mentioned on the certificate.</p> <p>Depending on the various operations carried out by the applicant/holder or the distributor, the sites audited and the audit duration within the framework of initial certification or monitoring are to be defined case by case.</p>
Environmental Declaration:	<p>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)</p> <p>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).</p> <p><i>Note: Other environmental declarations are deemed equivalent, in particular the "Environmental Product Declaration" (EPD) and the "Product Environmental Profile" (PEP).</i></p>
Extension:	<p>Application by which a holder requests the extension of their right to use the NF mark for a certified product whose characteristics have been modified.</p>
Granting of the right to use the NF mark:	<p>Authorisation granted by AFNOR Certification and communicated by CSTB to an applicant to affix the NF mark on the product for which the application has been made.</p>
Machine-day:	<p>Set of sheets from the same range manufactured on the same machine for a period of 24 hours, including 1, 2 or 3 shifts depending on factory organisation and including the same day number indication.</p>
Maintenance:	<p>Application by which a holder requests the maintenance of their right to use the NF mark for a product intended to be marketed by a distributor under a different brand and/or trade reference, but without modifying the certified characteristics.</p>
Observation:	<p>Remark aiming to draw a holder's attention to a minor non-conformity so as to avoid any propensity that might end up with a warning.</p>

Product:	Element resulting from a process or manufacturing process coming from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark and/or a specific trade reference with specific technical characteristics.
Receivability:	Study of a dossier which enables the application to be examined. The receivability relates to the administrative and technical parts of the dossier.
Renewal:	Application by which the holder requests the renewal of their right to use the NF mark before the validity of their NF certificate ends.
Representative:	<p>Public body or individual based in the EEA who represents the applicant/holder outside the EEA and has a written mandate from them signifying that they may act on their behalf and specifying under which context (missions and associated responsibilities and financial aspects, complaints, contact for the certifying body, among others) in the NF mark certification process according to the provisions in the certification reference system.</p> <p>The representative may be the distributor or importer; their different functions are clearly identified.</p> <p>The representative concept is vital once applicants are outside the EEA. Depending on the markets, the distributor concept may not be relevant.</p>
Sporadic production:	Production that is not included within the previous definition.
Subcontracting:	Company which carries out some of the production steps for the certified products, under the control of the NF mark holder.
Suspension:	<p>Decision communicated by CSTB which cancels the authorisation to use the NF mark temporarily and for a specified period of time. The suspension may be issued as a sanction or in the event that the right to use the NF mark is temporarily abandoned by the holder.</p> <p>Suspension is accompanied by the prohibition on affixing the mark to future production. It shall be for a maximum period of 6 months, renewable once, following which a withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark shall be announced if no action has been initiated by the holder.</p> <p>The sanction notifications which affect the usage right (suspension/withdrawal) are signed by CSTB Management.</p>
Warning:	Non-suspensive penalty notified by CSTB. The product is still marked, but the holder must correct the deviations observed within a defined time period. When a warning is accompanied by an increase in the number of inspections, the actions must be launched within a defined time period. The warning may only be renewed once.
Withdrawal of the usage right:	Decision communicated by CSTB to cancel the right to use the NF mark. A withdrawal may be pronounced as a sanction or in the case of abandonment of the NF mark usage right by the holder.



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