CERTIFIÉ PAR CSTB
NF
ASSAINISSEMENT GRAVITAIRE
EN MATERIAUX THERMOPLASTIQUES

CERTIFICATION

NF Certification Reference System:

GRAVITY DRAINAGE SYSTEMS MADE OF THERMOPLASTIC MATERIALS

Identification No.: 442
Revision No.: Draft Revision rev03
Effective date: 21/12/2018

CENTRE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DU BATIMENT
CERTIFYING BODY MANDATED BY AFNOR CERTIFICATION
84 avenue Jean Jaurès – Champs-sur-Marne – 77447 Marne-la-Vallée Cedex 2
Tel.: +33 (0)1 64 68 82 82 – Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 89 94 – www.cstb.fr
MARNE-LA-VALLÉE / PARIS / GRENOBLE / NANTES / SOPHIA-ANTIPOLIS

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

It cancels and replaces all previous versions.

As a certifying body accredited by the COFRAC under number 5-0010, scope of accreditation available at www.cofrac.fr, CSTB undertakes to draft certification reference systems that guarantee an appropriate level of requirements for the quality of 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. The revision of the certification reference system is approved by the AFNOR Certification Managing Director.

MODIFICATION HISTORY

Creation of the NF mark: 18/02/2011

Modified section	Revision no.	Date brought into application	Modification made
The whole document	0	18/02/2011	First issue of the certification reference system
The whole document	01	30/08/2013	Revision of the certification reference system: revision of all technical documents, integration of a subcontracting procedure for manufactured components, updates to standards and test operating procedures
The whole document	02	01/03/2017	Revision of the certification reference system: revision of all technical documents, integration of simplified sampling for a range of the same group manufactured on several sites and removal of TD 442-08. Modification of the document's structure.
The whole document	03	21/12/2018	Revision of the certification reference system: Modification of the structure of the NF certification system and of the technical documents Addition of the technical document No. DT 442-08 "Admission of a stand-by plant" Integration of the "heat reversion" addendum into technical document No. 442/01

Partie 1
Application

1.1 Scope

This certification reference system currently concerns piping systems (pipes, fittings, manholes, inspection chambers, ancillary fittings, etc.) for gravity drainage systems made of thermoplastic materials, divided into 6 groups of products. :

- Structured-wall piping with smooth external surface group (Type A),
- Structured-wall piping with profiled external and smooth internal surface group (Type B),
- Ancillary fittings and inspection chambers group,
- Manholes and inspection chambers in vehicular and pedestrian areas and deeply buried systems group,
- Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group,
- PP piping systems group,

Table 1 explains the categories of products covered by each group.

All rights to use the NF mark are granted to a manufacturer based on conformity to one or more standards and, if applicable, the complementary specifications for a product or range of products from a designated manufacturer and manufacturing unit.

Table 1: Categories of products covered per Technical Document

TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS	CATEGORIES
Structured-wall piping with smooth external surface (Type A)	- Pipes for seal ring assembly - Shaped fittings for seal ring assembly
Structured-wall piping with profiled external and smooth internal surface (Type B)	- Pipes for seal ring assembly - Injected fittings for seal ring assembly - Shaped fittings for seal ring assembly - Rotomoulded fittings for seal ring assembly
Ancillary fittings and inspection chambers	- Ancillary fittings - Connection chambers (closed to traffic) - Inspection chambers (closed to traffic)
Manholes and inspection chambers in vehicular and pedestrian areas and deeply buried systems	- Manholes - Connection chambers - Inspection chambers
Solid-wall PVC-U piping	- Pipes for solvent welding assembly - Pipes for seal ring assembly - Fittings for seal ring assembly
PP piping	- Pipes for seal ring assembly - Fittings for seal ring assembly

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

1.2 Certification added value

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

The certified characteristics of the gravity drainage systems made of thermoplastic materials application are defined in technical documents no. 442-02 to 442-07.

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

	Admission	Continued monitoring
Production audit carried out by a qualified technical auditor: - Verification that the production inspections and records have been carried out: raw materials, manufacturing, finished products, - Verification of the quality management 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:*** ***2 annual audit(s) (*)***
Tests carried out by a laboratory recognised by the certifying body (independent and competent): - Samples are taken by the certifying body on the site of the applicant/holder.	***Yes***	***Yes*** ***Frequency:*** ***1 annual test campaign***

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

In the case of the yearly regime:

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

Heightened review inspection

Any critical deviation, whether or not it is accompanied by a sanction, may justify a return to the twice-yearly regime, at the initiative of CSTB, possibly after the Specific Committee gives its recommendation, for a defined period of time, with or without additional heightened inspections.

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,

can apply to receive a right to use the NF mark – Gravity drainage systems made of thermoplastic materials.

Such a request is referred to as an "application"; the entity making the request 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 processes 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 withdraw from its commitments, for any reason whatsoever, by sending a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt to the certifying body.

The Certification contract is composed of the completed and signed application letter, possibly accompanied by the estimate; it is governed by all the documents referenced by 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 NF certification, with no further legal formality, for all or some of its 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 of the NF certification, with no further legal formality, for one of the reasons defined above.

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

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 a competent jurisdiction acting in summary proceedings.

If the Parties are unable to resolve their disagreement within three (3) months from the date it occurred, the dispute will be brought by the most diligent Party before the competent French courts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Similarly, if CSTB announces the suspension of a certificate following a penalty, the holder loses the right to use the NF mark until CSTB lifts this suspension. By lifting the suspension, it is assumed that the holder has supplied CSTB with evidence deemed satisfactory demonstrating that curative and corrective actions have been brought in following the suspension decision, bringing the product, service or person into strict and sustainable compliance with all the Certification requirements

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

A force majeure event1 could result in the halting of a production line for a long period of time with a significant and detrimental impact on a holder with a certified plant.

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

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

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

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

All of the following conditions to be met for an admission application and the way of handling this case are dealt with in Technical Document no. 442-08.

1.4 Applicant's commitment

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

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

The applicant undertakes:

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

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

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

3. to not submit any counterfeited products for certification;

4. to take the necessary measures:

- to conduct the audit, including the supply of elements to be examined such as documentation and records, access to the relevant equipment, locations, production areas, staff and subcontractors of the client concerned,
- for the participation or non-participation of third-party observers during the audit, where appropriate,
- for the participation or non-participation of third-party observers during the audit (COFRAC auditor, CSTB certified auditor or CSTB staff); the presence of this observer is systematically communicated to the applicant by CSTB prior to the audit. The applicant may decline an observer on the basis of justifying a potential conflict of interest.

5. to examine and record all complaints:

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

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

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

8. to immediately inform the certifying body of any modification to the basic file submitted during the application for the right to use the NF mark under the conditions set down in this certification reference system (in particular any modification to the product(s) related to the application);

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Specific case of production subcontracting by an applicant:

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

In this case, it commits to respecting the requirements defined in paragraph 3.3.1.5 of this certification reference system

Failure to comply with all of these commitments may lead to examination of the applicant's application being interrupted or suspended.

Publication

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

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

Partie 2
The certification programme

The certification programme for the Gravity drainage systems made of thermoplastic materials application contains 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 and the complementary specifications defined in Technical Document No. 1;
- the additional technical requirements: Technical Documents No. 442-02 à 442-07.

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

2.1 Regulations

The granting of the right to use the NF mark can in no way substitute CSTB's responsibility for the legal responsibility on the company holding 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 its product with the regulatory requirements.

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

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

The certifying body’s tasks do not lie in proving conformity of a product with 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.

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 PRODUCT STANDARDS

The products about which these rules are concerned, must meet the requirements set down in the standards cited in the technical documents defined in paragraph 2.2.2.

List of standards cited by product group:

Structured-wall piping with smooth external surface group (Type A):

NF EN 13476-1 (September 2007) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Structured-wall piping systems of unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) - Part 1: General requirements and performance characteristics.

NF EN 13476-2 (September 2007) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Structured-wall piping systems of unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) - Part 2: Specifications for pipes and fittings with smooth internal and external surface and the system, Type A.

NF EN ISO 3126 (September 2005) – Plastics piping systems – Plastics components – Determination of dimensions.

Structured-wall piping with profiled external and smooth internal surface group (Type B):

NF EN 13476-1 (September 2007) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Structured-wall piping systems of unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) - Part 1: General requirements and performance characteristics.

NF EN 13476-3 (March 2009) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Structured-wall piping systems of unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) - Part 3: Specifications for pipes and fittings with smooth internal and profiled external surface and the system, Type B.

Ancillary fittings and inspection chambers group:

NF EN 13598-1 (April 2011) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) - Part 1: Specifications for ancillary fittings including inspection chambers.

Manholes and inspection chambers in vehicular and pedestrian areas and deeply buried systems group:

NF EN 13598-2 (March 2009) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Unplasticised poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC-U), polypropylene (PP) and polyethylene (PE) - Part 2: Specifications relating to manholes and inspection chambers in vehicular and pedestrian areas and deeply buried systems.

Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group:

NF EN 1401-1 (April 2009) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Part 1: Specifications for pipes, fittings and the system.

PP piping systems group:

NF EN 1852-1 (May 2009) Plastics piping systems for non-pressure underground drainage and sewerage - Polypropylene (PP) - Part 1: Specifications for pipes, fittings and the system.

The standards are supplemented by complementary specifications (defined in paragraph 2.2.2 below).

2.2.2 COMPLEMENTARY SPECIFICATIONS

In addition to the requirements set down in the previous paragraphs, the products shall meet the complementary specifications defined in the following technical documents:

- **Technical Document No. 442-01**: Specifications applicable to all groups.
- **Technical Document No. 442-02:** Structured-wall piping with smooth external surface group (Type A).
- **Technical Document No. 442-03:** Structured-wall piping with profiled external and smooth internal surface group (Type B).
- **Technical Document No. 442-04:** Ancillary fittings and inspection chambers group.
- **Technical Document No. 442-05:** Manholes and inspection chambers in vehicular and pedestrian areas and deeply buried systems group.
- **Technical Document No. 442-06:** Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group.
- **Technical Document No. 442-07:** PP piping systems group.
- **Technical Document No. 442-08:** Admission of a “stand-by” plant.

2.3 Declaration of modifications

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

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

– modification concerning the use of externally recycled or reclaimed materials.

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 call the certification into question and whether it is necessary to carry out an additional inspection.

Depending on 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 its company or any modification to the company name.

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

A new admission application may be submitted and its examination may be simplified 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 of 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 inspection visit can be simplified or even eliminated when the new production unit is already well known to CSTB.

The assessment and renewal decision procedures for 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); they inform CSTB of this.

2.3.3 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE PRODUCTION UNIT'S QUALITY ORGANISATION

The holder must notify CSTB about any change to its quality organisation that could have an influence on production compliance with the requirements of this certification reference system (modifications concerning its facilities, quality plans, etc.).

In particular, it shall declare any modification in the certification of its quality management system.

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, which must inform CSTB of this.

The 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 of the certified product in relation to the application dossier, the accepted model and rules set out in these rules that could have an effect on the conformity of the product with the requirements of this certification reference system, shall be declared in writing to CSTB.

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

2.3.5 TEMPORARY OR DEFINITIVE HALT IN PRODUCTION

Any definitive or temporary halt in the manufacture of the certified product (or range or products) or any abandonment of a right to use the NF mark shall be declared in writing to CSTB, specifying the time necessary to sell off the inventory of the NF-labelled products. Upon expiration of the time frame indicated by the holder, the suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF Mark is communicated by CSTB.

Any temporary halt in the manufacture of the certified product (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, if applicable. The total duration of the suspension of the right to use the NF mark for these products must not exceed a duration equivalent to the length of time between 2 audits (maximum of 15 months) and, after consultation with the Specific Committee, will lead to a suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the mark for these products. The lifting of the suspension may only be announced following one or more assessments.

2.3.6 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The distributor who's right to use the NF mark has been maintained shall commit to informing CSTB of any modifications in its 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 USE OF EXTERNALLY RECYCLED OR RECLAIMED MATERIALS

The holder of the right of use must commit to informing CSTB when it decides to use externally recycled or reclaimed materials. The right to use the mark cannot be maintained unless the holder's procedure is compliant with the requirements defined in Technical Document No. 442-03 Table 1 and Appendix 1 "Externally recycled or reclaimed materials specifications". This modification must be the subject of an extension application for the right of use, which will be processed during follow-up, extension or admission audits in the context of the NF 442 mark and will be the subject of a notification after consultation with the Specific Committee.

2.4 Quality management provisions: audit reference system

2.4.1 PURPOSE

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

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

This paragraph sets the minimum 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 complementary specifications, if applicable. These provisions are described in paragraphs Option 1 and Option 2 below:

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

Option 1: "Quality Management"

The "Quality management" option relies on certification of the compliance of the holder's system with the ISO 9001 quality management model.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The applicant or holder putting in place a system consistent with the option chosen.

Various third-party quality assurance procedures.

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

Possible simplification:

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

This simplification is possible as long as:

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

Option 2: "Quality control"

The "Quality control" option relies in part on the establishment by the holder of a set of organisational measures ensuring conformity of delivered products with standards and complementary specifications, in the absence of certification of conformity of the quality assurance system by an accredited certifying body. These provisions are described in Paragraphs 2.4.2 and 2.4.3.

As part of an audit, all the necessary requirements identified on the shaded lines in Table 2 below shall be audited, including the customer complaint record. All other requirements pertaining to quality management shall be audited over a period of 3 years.

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

2.4.2 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Table 2 (Applicable requirements)

§ ISO 9001: 2008	§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE
5. Leadership				
5.5.1 / 5.5.2.	5.3.	Organizational roles, responsibilities and authorities	* Organization chart * Description of responsibilities and authorities (examples: organization chart, job sheets, etc.) * Person appointed to be responsible	For individuals in charge of inspection or having a direct impact on the critical points in terms of product creation and production

			for organizing and efficiently implementing the production system	All the items except: * ISO 9001 V15: §5.3 c,d
7. Support				
6.4.	7.1.4.	Environment for the operation of processes	Evidence of maintenance of the work environment. Examples: storage of a product and its components to protect them from bad weather, suitable ambient conditions, etc.	For processes related to production of products/services
7.6.	7.1.5.	Monitoring and measuring resources	* List of the inspection, measuring and test equipment used on the product/service production site and/or in the laboratory, * Identification of the equipment used to determine its validity, * Planning for the verification or calibration of the equipment having an impact on the validity of the results (in particular the equipment used to perform tests on certified characteristics), * Evidence of the verification and/or calibration operations (ex: equipment data sheet, verification or calibration report, etc.), * Evidence of connection to national or international standards (where possible), * Validation of software used to monitor and measure the specified requirements, where appropriate.	For processes related to production of products/services
6.2.	7.2.	Competence	* Compliance with test methods and inspection provisions. * Actions planned to acquire the necessary skills (training, tutoring, etc.), where appropriate.	For individuals in charge of inspection or having a direct impact on the critical points in terms of product creation and production
4.2.	7.5.	Documented information	* List of the internal and external documented information. Examples: Procedures, operating methods, test methods, inspection instructions, quality records * Evidence of control of internal and external documents Example: Availability of the applicable version of the test method, the reference system, the inspection provisions, etc.	For the processes related to completion of the products All the items except: * ISO 9001 v08: § 4.2.1., 4.2.2 Note: Quality manuals are no longer required.
8. Operation				
7.4.	8.4.	Control of externally provided processes, products and services	* List of the service providers * Contract/order defining the requirements of the applicant/holder of the certification * Evidence of the verification of raw	For raw materials, purchased components and external services affecting the quality of the product/service > External providers: * supplier of raw materials, components, services integrated into the

			materials, components ***(1)***, services purchased * Evidence of the verification of subcontracting conditions: transport, handling, tests ***(2)***, etc.	product/service * subcontractor of external services (ex: tests, handling, transport, etc.) (*) Specific case of applicants/holders subcontracting part of their production The CSTB audits the subcontractors (as provided for in the certification reference system) All the items except: * ISO 9001 v08: § 7.4.1. * ISO 9001 v15: § 8.4.1.
§ ISO 9001: 2008	**§ ISO 9001: 2015**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED**	**APPLICABLE**
7.5.1 / 7.5.2.	8.5.1.	Control of production and service provision	* Information defining the characteristics of products and services. Examples: product plan / description of the service, etc. * Information defining the activities to be carried out and the results to be obtained. Examples: operating method(s), working instruction(s), test method(s), certification reference system (expected performance) * Monitoring and measurement activities Examples: Monitoring plan, inspection procedures and instruction(s), test method(s), etc. * Conservation of documented information proving the conformity of products/services with the acceptance criteria *(Same as § 8.2.4. ISO 9001 v08 and § 8.6.ISO 9001 v14)*	■
7.5.3.	8.5.2.	Identification and traceability	* Identification/Marking of the product in accordance with the requirements in the Certification reference system, *Marking of commercial documents in compliance with this certification reference system.	For identification and traceability
7.5.5.	8.5.4.	Preservation	Verification that the product is preserved throughout the production line (identification, handling, storage, packaging, transport, etc.)	■
-	8.5.6.	Control of changes *(in production / service provision)*	* Evidence of the control of the modifications in the manufacturing process / service provision, in particular, the impact of modifications on the product's performance ***(3)***: - reviewing the modifications, - person authorising modifications and all necessary related actions.	■
8.2.4.	8.6.	Release of products and services	* Provisions for the control of products; records of the results of inspections and conformity with the acceptance criteria ***(4)***	■

			* Name of the individuals responsible for releasing the finished products / services	

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

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

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

2.4.3 REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE PRODUCTS

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

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

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

(1) Inspection of product components

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

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

- incoming checks enabling the delivery to be accepted;

- quality assurance operations, making it possible to assess the compliance and/or the regularity of the product's components when compared with the expected characteristics.

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

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

(2) Subcontracting tests

The applicant may outsource the completion of tests to an external laboratory, on the condition that a contract is put in place. Subcontracting is only possible if the following conditions are met:

- Subcontracting the tests does not result in a disruption to the production process (due to wait time for results, for example);
- The conditions for subcontracting tests must be formalised in the holder's quality plans or in the contract and must, moreover, define the testing frequency, the requested wait times for results, the notification of results in writing, the procedure in the case of non-compliant results and the type of equipment used;
- The subcontractors' laboratory where the test is carried out is accredited according to standard NF EN ISO/CEI 17025, otherwise the party requesting the test (the holder of the NF mark) ensures that the equipment used is compliant (calibration, test configuration, etc.).

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

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

(3) Approach to the assessment of the additional requirement in standard ISO 9001 version 2015 compared to Standard ISO 9001 version 2008

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

If the applicant/holder does not comply with this requirement, the auditor shall communicate a deviation (if the assessment occurred after to 15/09/18).

(4) Inspection during production and on finished products

The applicant/holder shall possess the necessary ways and means for the inspections and tests defined by the standards, reference documents and complementary specifications mentioned in Paragraph 2.2 of this reference system. The applicant/holder commits to carrying out reliable and regular verification of its production.

During production

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

The inspection results shall be recorded upon each inspection.

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

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

Measuring the various characteristics verified is done according to the operating procedures defined in the reference standards referred to in Paragraph 2.2 of this certification reference system and in the technical documents relative to each group and product group.

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

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

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

NOTE: A type test is a test carried out once on a new product or upon each major modification to a product, such as a change in formulation.

On finished products

Applicants/holders are required to verify the characteristics of the finished products before delivery and are responsible for organising this inspection. The inspections 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 inspected characteristics are measured using the operating procedures specified in the reference standards mentioned in Paragraph 2.2 of this certification reference system.

The inspections of finished products are carried out by the applicants/holders themselves in their own manufacturing unit.

Applicants/holders shall take random samples at the end of the production line and carry out the inspections 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 holder's quality plan and must not be left to the sole discretion of the operator.

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.

Utilising the results

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

Applicants/holders shall record the results of the previous inspections. Should the results of the usual inspections prove to be insufficient, the latter shall be heightened and the causes of failure shall be detected in order to remedy this by supplementing the manufacturing inspections, where appropriate.

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

(5) 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 inspection,
- 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.

(6) Customer complaints

The customer complaint record is audited; to do this, 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 when the complaints have revealed a production 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.

2.5 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 misuse 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 expose 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 description 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.

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 THE MARKING PROCEDURES

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

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

1. the NF-certified product;
2. the packaging of the NF-certified product;
3. documentation and websites.

The marking procedures are defined in each technical document.

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

CERTIFIÉ PAR CSTB
NF
ASSAINISSEMENT GRAVITAIRE
EN MATERIAUX THERMOPLASTIQUES

www.marque-NF.com

or http://evaluation.cstb.fr

Certified characteristics: these are defined in each Technical Document, No. 2 to 7.

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

2.5.2.1 Identification 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).

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

2.5.2.2 Marking on the packaging of the certified product or on the product's accompanying document (if applicable)

All packaging for certified products or accompanying documents must include all the marking components defined in Paragraph 2.7.2: logo of the mark, name of the application, reference to the website and, if possible, the list of the certified characteristics.

Affixing the logo to the packaging of certified products is one of the ways to promote the NF mark. Such marking, if it exists, must comply with the graphic charter and the conditions defined in Part 2 of the technical documents relating to the various groups.

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

Reproducing the logo on documentation must occur in accordance with the graphic charter attached and comply with the conditions defined in Part 2 of the technical documents relating to the various groups.

The holder shall not use the NF mark on any document except to single out certified products, without there being any risk of confusion whatsoever.

Reproducing the NF mark on the letterhead of the holder's correspondence is prohibited unless the holder has received NF mark certification for all of its products.

The holder cannot market an NF-certified product and a non NF-certified product under the same trade reference:

- If there are 2 interchangeable products, one being NF 442-certified and the other not NF 442-certified, the applicant/holder must report the 2 trade names to the certifying body.

- If there are 2 interchangeable products, one being NF 442-certified and the other not NF 442-certified, the indications "**NF-Certified**" and "**Not NF-Certified**" must be clearly written in the holder's sales literature using a font size identical to that of the rest of the text.

- To prevent any confusion between these interchangeable NF 442-certified products and non-NF 442-certified products, the applicant/holder must ensure that the trade names used are not too similar. Differentiation between 2 trade names of certified and non-certified products must meet the following requirements:
  - the differentiation may not be done by adding a term separated by a non-alphabetical character to the 1st name,
  - there may be no more than 4 consecutive shared characters and the number of differentiating characters must be greater than or equal to the number of shared characters.

- The holder may not include in its documentation any characteristics different from those mentioned on the NF 442 certificates (field of application, performances, CCSigma, burial depth, etc.).

For the French market, this information must be provided in French (Law No. 94-665 of August 4, 1994, relating 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 non-compliant, the product and its packaging shall not be marked with the NF logo or the logo must be crossed out or concealed to prevent any risk of confusion.

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

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

→ <u>CSTB is responsible for:</u>
- ❖ Defining the means for checking removal of the mark (customer commitment, etc.)
- ❖ Estimating the risks of improper use of the mark, for example:
  - certification for proof of compliance or failure to comply with the regulations,
  - certification on products/services at risk,
  - very competitive market with "self-monitoring";

- ❖ Based on these risks, possible triggering of an on-site inspection (company or shop) or informing the public authorities;
- ❖ Commitment of the holder to take corrective actions and/or on-site inspection before the possible withdrawal decision is made.

2.7 Fraud and falsification

2.7.1 PREAMBLE

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

In case fraud 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 Fraud for enforcement in compliance with the Law.

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

- to give the same trade name to certified products and to non-certified products;
- to cite or provide information from sales manuals, 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 been granted yet.

By registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, CSTB communicates all wrongful use to the holder, which 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 that consider themselves to have incurred prejudice shall also be free, for their own account, to seek appropriate redress.

Partie 3
Certification Process

3.1 General

– Definition of the applicant (see part 5);

– Definitions of different types of applications (admission application / complementary admission application / extension application / maintenance application, a new admission application for a product (or product range) after a sanction of withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark):

- An initial admission application: it is made by a manufacturer that does not have the right to use the NF mark for the application in question. It corresponds to a product (or a range of products) coming from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a trade reference specific to the product submitted and technical characteristics; it must also prove that its quality assurance system has been in operation for more than three months.

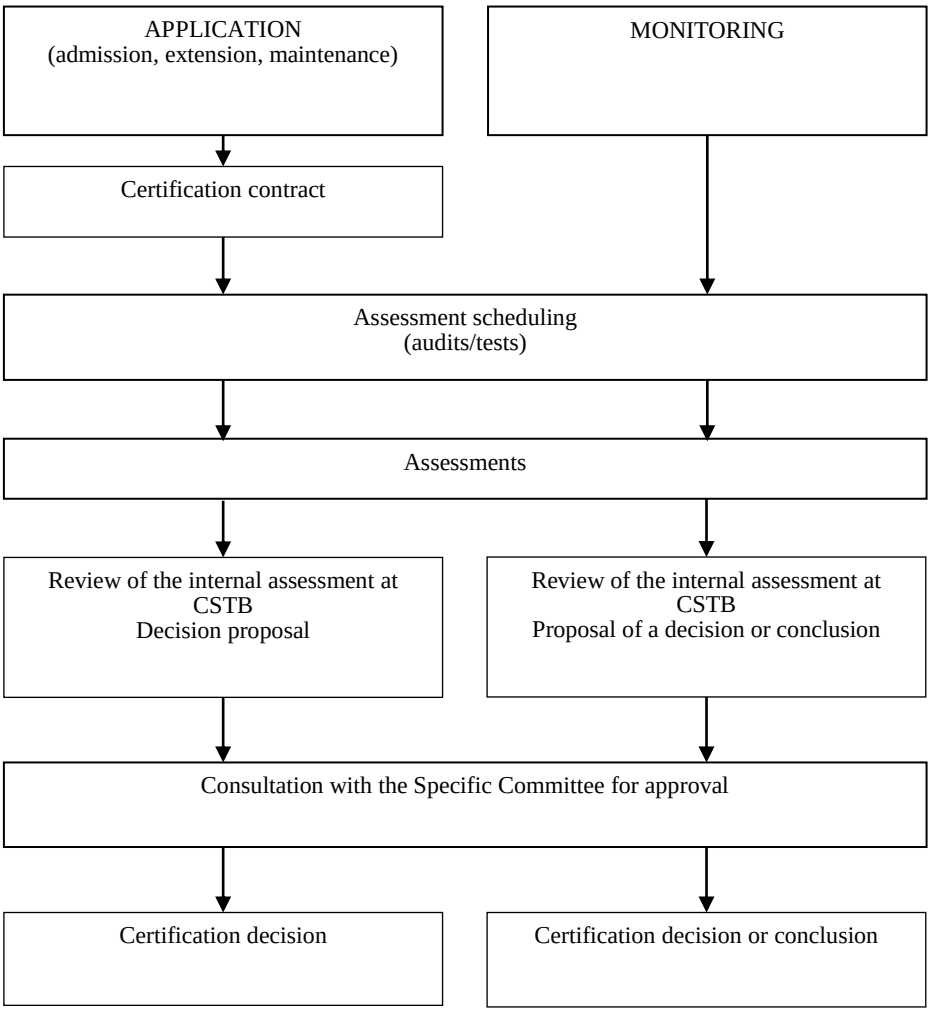
- A complementary admission application: it is sent by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new Group or a new manufacturing unit;

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

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

- A new application for admission for a product (or a range of products) following the withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark as a result of a sanction in the event of deceptive marketing practices in application of Articles L 121-2 to L121-5 of the Consumer Code and the sanctions provided for in articles L 132-1 to L 132-9.

3.2 Certification application handling process



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

3.2.1 SUBMISSION OF THE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION DOSSIER

Before submitting the application, the applicant shall make sure that, at the moment of the application, it meets the conditions set down in this reference system and particularly, in Part 2, concerning its product and the sites concerned. It shall commit to meeting the same conditions during the whole duration of use of the NF mark.

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

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

- The admissibility of the dossier;

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

3.2.2 ASSESSING THE ADMISSIBILITY OF THE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

The application can only be admitted if:

- All the documents requested are included with the application.
- The products covered by the application comply with the technical specifications set down in Part 2 of these rules.
- The quality assurance system has operated for more than three months.

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

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

Note: Given the development of technical solutions put forward by manufacturers, if there is difficulty interpreting the reference system, the opinion of the Specific Committee will be requested prior to examination of the application dossier.

3.2.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCEDURES

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

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

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 Technical Documents no. 2 to 7.

This entails checking, before admission, the existence and effectiveness of the measures taken by the applicant in terms of quality as well as product quality assurance operations. 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 necessary for testing from inventory and the factory. It is possible to take, as samples, products eliminated for minor appearance defects for certain destructive tests. The samples are identified by the auditor using a distinctive symbol and sent by and under the responsibility of the manufacturer to the laboratories of the mark assigned to carry out the tests within a period of time set during sampling, unless the auditor decides to assume responsibility. A sheet stating what sampling was performed shall be drawn up on the site and handed over to the manufacturer. In case it is impossible to take the samples, as a special exception due to force majeure, the manufacturer sends the samples requested by CSTB to the laboratory of the mark, within the prescribed time span.

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 given to the applicant when the audit is complete.

3.3.1.1 Case of an initial admission application

The application shall be submitted in conformity with the conditions and models given in this certification reference system's administrative management appendix.

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

1 - the type of audit: Admission or Extension;

2- the number of Groups to certify;

3- the range of products admitted or to admit.

The maximum duration of an audit is 5 days.

This duration can be adjusted according to the risk: level of development or control of the quality system, organisation of the company (process, laboratory, etc.).

If an audit is combined with another application, the common inspections provided in the General Requirements of the certification reference systems, being audited only once (Responsibility, Document Control, Inspection Operations, Staff, Installations and Equipment, Processing Non-Compliant Products, Traceability and Complaints), the duration can be combined. The duration of the audit will be equal to the sum of the duration of the 2 audits less 0.5 days.

If a holder outsources part of its manufacturing, the audit is conducted in accordance with paragraph 3.3.1.5.

3.3.1.2 Case of a complementary admission application

The application shall be submitted in conformity with the conditions and models given in this certification reference system's administrative management appendix.

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

A complementary admission involves a new type or manufacturing process. There are two distinct situations depending on the holder's prior history:

- for a history of more than 6 audits: 2 audits during the year following the complementary admission, then back to 1 yearly audit if no major disparities were detected in the product group being considered,

- for a history of fewer than 6 audits: 2 audits per year for 3 years following the complementary admission (or 6 audits).

3.3.1.3 Case of an extension application

The application shall be submitted in conformity with the conditions and models given in this certification reference system's administrative management appendix.

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

- in the context of an extension request 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;
- in the case of a new product: the audit can be adapted or accompanied by a follow-up audit;
- for extension applications involving a modified certified product, the tests are defined depending upon the planned modification; the audit can be adapted or accompanied by a follow-up audit.

There are 3 types of extensions:

- (1) Mandatory submission to the Specific Committee:
  - Production transfer,
  - TD 442-04&442-05: adding one or more inspection chambers or manholes.
- (2) Consultation with the members of the Committee by email between official sessions:
  - Seal change,
  - Formulation change,
  - TD 442-04&442-05: angle change.
- (3) Specific case of expanding a range:
  - For TD – pipes, review between sessions if the expansion is less than or equal to 3 pipes and mandatory committee review for adding more than 3 pipes;
  - For TD – fittings, review between sessions if the expansion is less than or equal to 10 fittings and mandatory committee review for adding more than 10 fittings.

3.3.1.4 Maintenance application

The application shall be submitted in conformity with the conditions and models given in this certification reference system's administrative management appendix.

For distribution under other trademarks, it is acceptable to make certain presentation modifications to the products in question that have no functional effect. In this case, the holder must specify in the maintenance application the list of modifications made to the products in question. The CSTB then makes sure that these modifications have no effect of a functional type.

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

The company distributing the NF-certified products must provide CSTB with all the sales documents (catalogues, brochures, etc.) that refer to these products and send updated documents as appropriate.

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

applications made by a non-distributor certified manufacturer that holds the certificate for the original product.

Sales documents (catalogues, websites, etc.) from maintenance applications for certified distributors only will be systematically checked: mainly for consistency between the certified product offer stated on these sales documents and the right of use certificates.

3.3.1.5 Subcontracted certified product components

If a holder subcontracts one or more components of the finished product, this subcontracting must be the subject of a procedure defined by the holder and include the following requirements at the minimum:

1- Declaration of a main unit audited once a year: When subcontracting is taking place, the holder commits to declare a site (Main unit);

2- Implementation of a subcontracting procedure between the holder and the subcontractor(s);

3- Verification of the following points during the audit by the mandated body in the main unit:

A: The procedure for accepting these components, including verification of the subcontractors' quality assurance system and controls,

B: The procedure or specifications established between the holder and its subcontractors,

C: The checks and self-inspections carried out by the subcontractor,

D: The audits carried out by the holder at a frequency defined in its procedure or any equivalent procedure,

E: The documentation (catalogues, website, etc.) must be verified,

F: The inspections and tests provided for in the relevant TD (dimensional, impacts, etc.).

4- Specific case according to the TDs:

See the specific case of dividing slabs in TD 442-05.

5- Completion of initial audits by CSTB at the main unit and at the sites of all subcontractors. The purpose of these audits is to confirm that the technical clauses set out in the NF 442 certification reference system are known and verified and that the quality assurance system of the subcontractor complies with this reference system.

6- Follow-up audits will be conducted by the mandated body at the sites of the subcontractors at a frequency of 1 audit every 3 years according to the following terms (Table 3):

Table 3: Audit procedures in secondary units

Case	Type of audit	Entity audited
Case no. 1: The holder in addition to the main unit uses 1 subcontractor.	Admission	Main Unit and Subcontractor 1
	Follow-up 1	Main Unit
	Follow-up 2	Main Unit
	Follow-up 3	Main Unit and Subcontractor 1
Case no. 2: The holder in addition to the main unit uses 2 subcontractors.	Admission	Main Unit and Subcontractors 1 - 2
	Follow-up 1	Main Unit
	Follow-up 2	Main Unit and Subcontractor 1
	Follow-up 3	Main Unit and Subcontractor 2
Case no. 3: The holder in addition to the main unit uses 3 subcontractors.	Admission	Main Unit and Subcontractors 1 - 2 - 3
	Follow-up 1	Main Unit and Subcontractor 1
	Follow-up 2	Main Unit and Subcontractor 2
	Follow-up 3	Main Unit and Subcontractor 3
Case no. 4: The holder in addition to the main unit uses 4 or more subcontractors.	Admission	Main Unit and Subcontractors 1 - 2 - 3 - 4
	Follow-up 1	Main Unit and Subcontractors 1 - 4
	Follow-up 2	Main Unit and Subcontractor 2
	Follow-up 3	Main Unit and Subcontractor 3

3.3.2 FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

The 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.

Inspection operations

The follow-up conditions depend upon the following:

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

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

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

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;
- the 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 which are sampled for mark laboratory tests;
- verification of the sales documents;
- verification of the changes in the characteristics of the certified products.

The duration of an audit is at least 1 day; however, this duration may vary depending on:

1 - the number of certified Groups.

2 - the range of products admitted.

The maximum duration of an audit is 3 days.

If an audit is combined with another application, the common inspections provided in the General Requirements of the certification reference systems, being audited only once (Responsibility, Document Control, Inspection Operations, Staff, Installations and Equipment, Processing Non-Compliant Products, Traceability and Complaints), the duration can be combined. The duration of the audit will be equal to the sum of the duration of the 2 audits less 0.5 days.

If a holder outsources part of its manufacturing, the audit is conducted in accordance with paragraph 3.3.1.5.

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

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

Normal observation of the manufacturing units

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

In the case of the yearly regime:

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

Heightened review inspection

In the event of a failure to adhere to the requirements of 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.

In addition, any critical deviation observed during an audit, whether or not combined with a sanction, may justify a transition to heightened monitoring. This will be triggered on CSTB's initiative, possibly after receiving the opinion of the Specific Committee, for a given period of time, with or without heightened inspections of the holder and samples taken for tests.

3.4 Sampling

The auditor takes the samples necessary for testing from inventory and the factory. It is possible to take, as samples, products eliminated for minor appearance defects for certain destructive tests. The samples are identified by the auditor using a distinctive symbol and sent by and under the responsibility of the manufacturer to the laboratories of the mark assigned to carry out the tests within a period of time set during sampling, unless the auditor decides to assume responsibility. A sheet stating what sampling was performed shall be drawn up on the site and handed over to the manufacturer. In case it is impossible to take the samples, as a special exception due to force majeure, the manufacturer sends the samples requested by CSTB to the laboratory of the mark, within the prescribed time span.

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

3.5 Inspections in retail sites

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

Inspections in retail sites may be performed once a year on products marketed by distributors who's right to use the NF mark has been maintained.

The CSTB carries out checks on those products in terms of marking, appearance and dimensions. The CSTB reserves the right to sample these products, as needed, for testing in the laboratory of the mark.

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

3.6 Tests

3.6.1 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 and technical documents No. 442-02 to 442-07.

One or more test reports are prepared and remitted to the applicant.

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

3.6.2 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 documents No. 442-02 to 442-07.

One or more test reports are prepared and remitted to the holder.

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

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

The frequency of the testing in the laboratories of the Mark is set out in Part 4 of each Technical Document.

Specific case: range produced at multiple sites of the same holder:

When a holder manufactures a product range at multiple sites (not including subcontracting) using the same process, raw material and quality assurance system, samples for mark laboratory tests are taken at a frequency of twice every 3 years at each site.

In this case, the frequency of audits remains the same as set out in paragraph 1.2.

If it is temporarily impossible (2 per year) for the laboratories of the mark to complete a test, this test can be conducted in an external laboratory under the following conditions:

1- The external laboratory must be accredited according to standard NF EN ISO 17025 by an accreditation body that is a member of the EA or IAF;

2- The tests outsourced to this laboratory must be the subject of a subcontracting or recognition agreement with CSTB.

Partie 4
The stakeholders

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 this application of the NF mark to the following body, referred to as the mandated body:

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)
Direction Opérationnelle Hydraulique et Équipements Sanitaires (HES)
Division Canalisations
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
CHAMPS SUR MARNE
F-77447 MARNE LA VALLEE CEDEX 2
Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 82 81
Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

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

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)
Direction Opérationnelle Hydraulique et Équipements Sanitaires (HES)
Division Canalisations
84, Avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02
Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 82 81
Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

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

Within the framework of a subcontracting agreement that CSTB has signed with it, the following body may conduct audits at CSTB's request; specific conditions or restrictions can be defined by the application committee.

Being external auditors, the following requirements must be met:

1 – External auditors are submitted to the application committee for assessment; acceptance of these external auditors may be subject to annual revalidation.

2 – The specific conditions related to the auditor must be set on a case by case basis by the application committee and recorded in the minutes of this application committee; these conditions must be reviewed each year within the framework of the application committee.

3 - External auditors are subject to the same qualification procedure as internal auditors.

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 Opérationnelle Hydraulique et Équipements Sanitaires (HES)
Division Canalisations
84, Avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
77447 MARNE LA VALLÉE CEDEX 02
Tel: +33 (0)1 64 68 82 81
Fax: +33 (0)1 64 68 84 44

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)
Direction Opérationnelle Climatologie, Aérodynamique, Pollution, Epuration (CAPE)
11, rue Henri Picherit
BP 82341
44323 NANTES Cedex 3

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

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

4.4 Specific Committee

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

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

- the initial draft certification reference system or the draft revised version, as specified in the Consumer Code,
- the preparation of advertising and promotional activities that fall within its competence,
- the selection of bodies participating in the certification process and the examination and implementation of recognition agreements.

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

The composition of the Specific Committee is set to respect representation between the different parties concerned, which does not lead to any of them dominating and which guarantees their relevance.

It is composed as follows:

- A President chosen from the members of the boards defined below;
- A Vice President: one representative of CSTB.
- Manufacturers College (Holders): from 6 to 9 representatives;
- Users' / Specifiers' College: from 6 to 9 representatives;
- Technical Bodies' and Administrations' College: from 5 to 8 representatives.

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

The representatives of audit bodies and mark laboratories participate as of right 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. The time span for the appointment of the members is 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 the working groups is to be validated by the Specific Committee, those working groups being composed of at least one representative of the "Manufacturers" board, one representative of the "Users/Advisors" board and

one representative of CSTB. It may call upon professionals, external individuals or holders that are not members of the Specific Committee.

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

- effective representation of the board that represents applicants or holders, on the one hand, and the board that represents users and advisors on the other hand (not representative of an interest);
- none of the boards has a majority of the people present or represented (predominance of an interest).

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

Guidance committee

Under NF 442 – Gravity drainage systems made of thermoplastic materials, a guidance committee may be created and the Specific Committee shall decide the frequency of its meetings. At this meeting, CSTB presents a general assessment of the mark's activity and the general changes made to the mark's certification reference system that were set out by the Specific Committee.

The committee, in general terms, provides its opinion on these changes; it does not have the right to review the specific dossiers.

The composition of this guidance committee is approved by the Specific Committee. This guidance committee is composed of at least one representative of the "Manufacturers" board, one representative of the "Users/Advisors" board and one representative of CSTB. It may call upon professionals, external individuals, certified manufacturers that are not members of the Specific Committee, auditors, etc.

Partie 5
Glossary

Admissibility:

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

Admission:

Application by which an applicant requests for the first time the right to use the NF mark for a product; the applicant declares understanding this certification reference system and undertakes to respect it.

Application/Applicant:

Any legal entity:

- Manufacturing products within the scope defined above and that can comply with the technical requirements described in Part 2 of this document;

- Distributing products within the scope defined above for which the holder complies with the technical requirements described in Part 2 of this document.

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

Audit:

See standard NF EN ISO 9000: 2015.

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

Category:

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

Certification Reference System:

Technical document that 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:

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

Distributor:

A person who distributes the applicant's/holder's products and who does not modify the conformity of the product to the requirements of the NF mark.

Distributors may be of the following types:

- Distributors who distribute the product under the holder's trade name. In this case, nothing needs to be done for the NF mark.
- Distributors who distribute the product after changing the trade name. The applicant/holder shall make an application for maintenance of right of use.

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.

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.

Extension:

An extension application is sent by a holder that has a right to use the NF Mark in the application in question for a new product or modified range covered under the same technical document.
Decision communicated by CSTB by which the right to use the NF mark is extended to a holder/manufacturer for a modified product or a modified product range under the same technical document.

Finished product:

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

Fitting type:

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

Granting of the right to use the NF mark:

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

Group:

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

Holder:

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

Main Unit:

Site under the responsibility of the holder where the finished certified product, the specifications of which are approved, is ready to be placed on the market and made available.

Maintenance:

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

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

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

Observation:

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

Product:

Element resulting from a process or manufacturing process coming from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a specific trade reference and technical characteristics.

Product range:

All products belonging to a given group and category (paragraph 1.1 of this reference system) that can be admitted to the NF mark.

Renewal:

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

Representative:

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.

The representative may be the retailer or importer; their different functions are clearly identified.

The delegate concept is vital once applicants are outside the EEA. Depending on the markets, the distributor concept may not be relevant.

Right to use the NF mark:

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

Subcontractor and supplier:

Subcontractor: A factory manufacturing ready-to-assemble components under the supervision of the holder of the NF mark.

For example, the following are considered subcontractors:

- Manufacturers of sleeves enabling pipes to be coupled with spigots,
- Manufacturers of manhole and inspection chamber components: base, riser, taper.

Supplier:
For example, manufacturers of the following are considered suppliers:

- Resins, additives and loads,
- Seals, sealing rings for pipes,
- Seals, sealing rings for manholes and inspection chambers,
- Seals, sealing rings and accessories for mechanical saddle branches,
- Steps and ladders for manholes,
- Pipes and plates made of thermoplastic material used to manufacture fabricated fittings,
- Lengths of pipes or plates made of thermoplastic materials intended to be used for manufacturing manholes and inspection chambers through forming.
- Connecting devices, benching and cunettes for manholes and inspection chambers.
- Dividing slabs.

Suspension:

Decision communicated by CSTB that provisionally and for a given duration cancels the authorisation of the right to use the NF mark. The suspension may be issued as a sanction or in the event that the right to use the mark is temporarily renounced by the holder.

Suspension is accompanied by the prohibition on affixing the mark to future production. It shall be for a maximum 6-month period, renewable once, following which a withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark shall be announced if no action has been launched by the holder.

The sanction notifications that affect the usage right (suspension/withdrawal) are signed by CSTB Management.

The sanction notifications that affect the usage right (suspension/withdrawal) are signed by CSTB Management.

Transfer:

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

Type of pipes:

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

Example:

- 1 type = 200 x 4.9 mm pipe (Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group, seal ring assembly category).

- 1 type = 200 x 5.9 mm pipe (Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group, seal ring assembly category).

Type of fitting:

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

Example:

1 type = group of all diameters of 45° MF elbows (Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group, seal ring assembly category).

1 type = group of all diameters of 15° MF elbows (Solid-wall PVC-U piping systems group, seal ring assembly category).

Warning:

Non-suspensive penalties communicated by CSTB. The product is still marked but the holder must correct observed deviations within a defined time. 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:

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

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