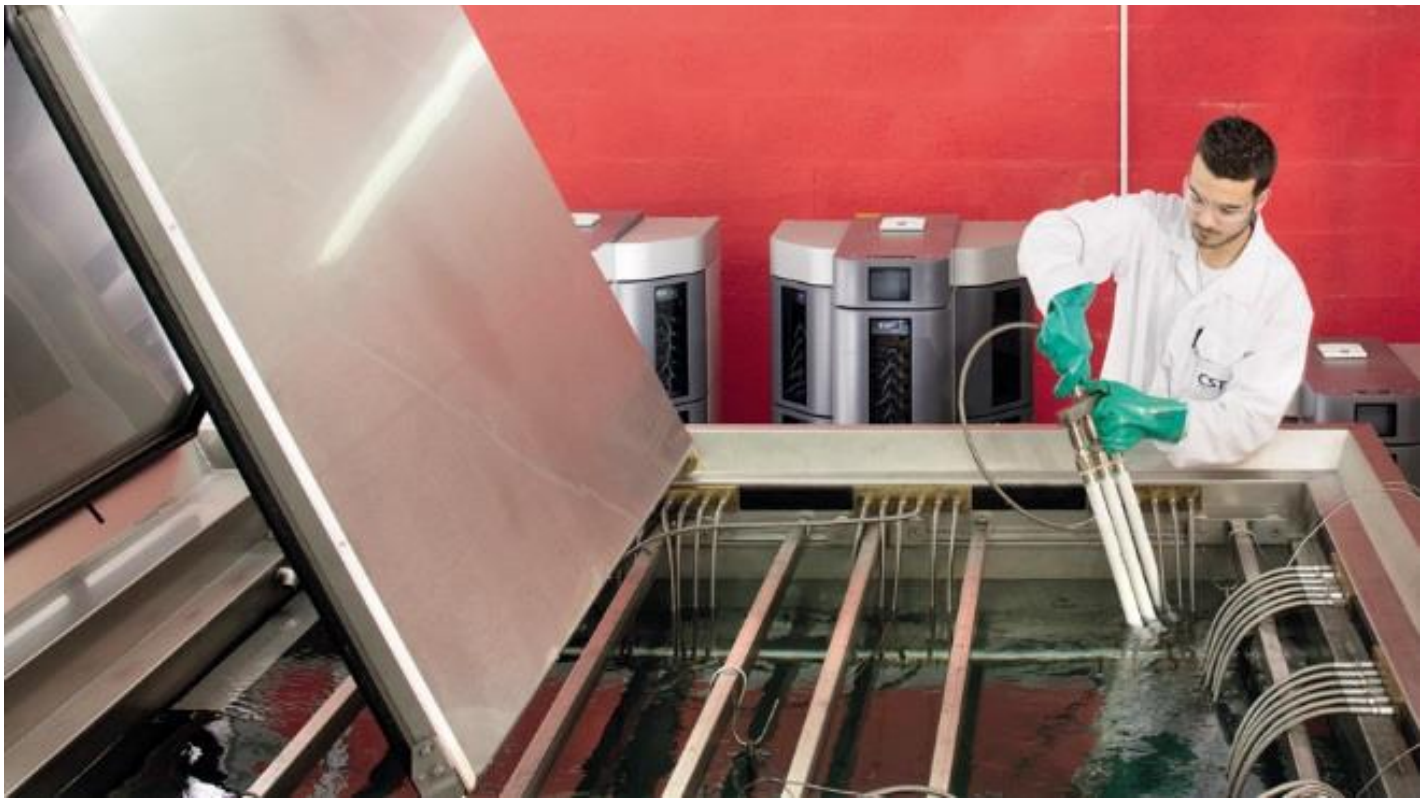
CERTIFICATION

QB Certification Reference System: Water distribution or drainage pipes



Identification No.: QB 08
Revision No.: No. 01
Effective date: 01/07/2020
The English version is provided for information. In case of doubt or dispute, the French version only is valid.

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This certification reference system was approved by the CSTB Technical Department on 16/11/2018.

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 ensure appropriate requirements for product quality, suitability for use and durability.

This certification reference system may therefore be revised, in whole or in part, by CSTB, after consulting the parties involved.

MODIFICATION HISTORY

Modified Part	Revision No.	Effective date	Modification made
RT15-1	11	10/03/2016	Complete revision of certification reference system RT 15-1
Parts 2.5 and 2.8	11	02/08/2016	Addendum: Procedures for transition to the QB 08 mark
QB 08	00	16/11/2018	-Creation of QB 08 certification reference system after transition period and integration of products transferred to the traditional domain under product standards-based certification. Cancels and replaces QB 08-1 rev. 11 and QB 08-2 rev. 09
QB 08	01	01/07/2020	-Integration additive n ° 1 to the QB 08 rev00 standard: Addition of the traditional "the corrugated sheaths" product in the scope of the standard - DT "08-06 Traditional": the heating and / or sanitary distribution pipes and / or the chilled water distribution pipes: Sheaths, self-supporting certification process Addition of two Technical Documents in the additional technical requirements: - - DT "08-06 Traditional": the heating and / or sanitary distribution pipes and / or the chilled water distribution pipes: corrugated sheaths, self-supporting certification process - - DT "08-07": the heating and / or sanitary distribution pipes and / or the chilled water distribution pipes: Pictograms, Reference to the possibility of using pictograms in accordance with the provisions of DT 08-07

Modified Part	Revision No.	Effective date	Modification made
			-§2.4 Line 9.3: Applicable management review -§4.4 Sampling: obligation of the holder to keep a minimum stock during manufacturing

Part 1.
Application

1.1 Scope of application

This certification reference system is special in that it certifies products according to 2 certification processes:

1- **Non-traditional products, subject to assessment, certified according to a non-product standards-based certification process linked to Technical Appraisals (ATEC),**
2- **Traditional products, subject to European standards, certified according to a product standards-based certification process.**

This certification reference system currently concerns:

1- Non-traditional products, subject to assessment, certified according to a non-product standards-based certification process linked to Technical Appraisals

- TD "08-1 Non-traditional": water supply piping, **certification process linked to ATEC assessments,**

-TD "08-2 Non-traditional": pipes for heating and/or domestic distribution and/or distribution of chilled water, **certification process linked to ATECs,**

-TD "08-3 Non-traditional": drainage pipes for gravity flow (including gutters and their accessories), **certification process linked to ATECs,**

-TD "08-4 Non-traditional": drainage pipes for siphonic systems, **certification process linked to ATECs,**

-TD "08-5 Non-traditional": renovation procedures for water distribution networks, **certification process linked to ATECs,**

2 - Traditional products subject to European standards, certified according to a product standards-based certification process

- TD "08-1 Traditional": pipes for heating and/or domestic distribution and/or distribution of chilled water: PEX piping, **product standards-based certification process,**

-TD "08-2 Traditional": pipes for heating and/or domestic distribution and/or distribution of chilled water: PB piping, **product standards-based certification process,**

-TD "08-3 Traditional": pipes for heating and/or domestic distribution and/or distribution of chilled water: Fittings for PEX/PB tubes, **product standards-based certification process,**

-TD "08-4 Traditional": pipes for heating and/or domestic distribution and/or distribution of chilled water: multilayer piping systems and associated fittings, **product standards-based certification process,**

-TD "08-5 Traditional": Polyethylene pipe systems for water drainage, **product standards-based certification process.**

- DT «08-06 Traditionnel » : les canalisations de chauffage et/ou de distribution sanitaire et/ou les canalisations de distribution d'eau glacée : Fourreaux**, processus de certification autoportante,**

The definitions are below:

- component: component part of a network or installation: (pipe, connector, accessory, etc.),
- system: set of elements (including tools) used to construct a network or installation,
- procedure: measure, incorporating an implementation part, for which the assessment principles differ from the principles used to assess traditional systems.

Nature of the products

The field of application of this certification potentially covers, for each family, the components and systems listed in the tables below:

Families of traditional products

NATURE OF THE COMPONENT OR SYSTEM	FAMILIES					
	TD "08-1 Traditional"	TD2 "08-2 Traditional"	TD "08-3 Traditional"	TD "08-4 Traditional"	TD "08-5 Traditional"	DT « 08-6 Traditional »
	PEX piping	PB piping	Fittings for PEX/PB pipes	Multilayer piping systems and associated fittings	PE drainage	corrugated sheaths
PE-X pipes	X					X
PB pipes		X				X
Metal core multilayer pipe system and fittings				X		X
Metallic fittings for PEX/PB pipes			X			X
Fittings made of synthetic materials for PEX/PB pipes			X			X
PE pipes and fittings					X	

This list will be regularly updated to include any new components or systems.

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

Families of non-traditional products from Technical Appraisals (ATECs)

NATURE OF THE COMPONENT OR SYSTEM	FAMILIES				
	TD "08-1 Non-traditional"	TD "08-2 Non-traditional"	TD "08-3 Non-traditional"	TD "08-4 Non-traditional"	TD "08-5 Non-traditional"
	Water Supply	Heating and/or domestic distribution and/or distribution of chilled water*	Gravity drainage	Siphon drainage	Renovation procedures for water distribution systems **
PE-X pipe system and fittings		X			
PB pipe system and fittings		X			
PP-R or PP-B pipe system and fittings		X			
PE-RT pipe system and fittings		X			
Pipe system and PVC-C fittings		X	X		
PE pipe system and fittings	X				
Metal core multilayer pipe system and fittings		X			
Metal fittings for synthetic pipes		X			
Metal fittings for metal pipes		X			
Pre-insulated system using synthetic pipes		X			
Pre-insulated system using copper pipes		X			
System using sheathed copper pipes		X			
Cast iron pipe system and fittings	X				
System using PP pipes and fittings			X		
Single chute system using PVC pipes and fittings			X		
System using PVC/PVC or PVC/PVCC composite pipes and fittings			X		
Systems using PVC, modified PVC or TPHP pipes and fittings		X		X	
PVC gutters - straight elements and connectors			X		
PP-M pipes and fittings			X		
PP-M or PVC multi-connector			X		
PEHD gravity flow drainage system			X		

*: The detailed fields of application according to the nature of the component or system are defined in each specific Technical Appraisal.

**: The field of application of this certification for the DT2 "08-5 Non-traditional" family currently covers network renovation procedures using PE tubing.

This list will be regularly updated to include any new components or systems.

1.2 Added value of certification

Certification is recognition by a third party of the conformity of the characteristics demonstrating the added value of the product,
The certified characteristics of the Water Distribution or Drainage Pipes application are defined in technical documents “08-1 Non-traditional” to “08-5 Non-traditional” for products certified according to a certification process linked to ATECs, and in technical documents “08-1 Traditional” to “08-5 Traditional” for products certified according to a product standards-based certification process.

For products certified according to a product standards-based certification process (traditional products), the certified characteristics are:

- durability and functionality characteristics defined in a basic offer, ***in*** compliance with the European reference standard,
- characteristics offered optionally: defined in the basic offer and complementary to the optional certified DURABILITY and FUNCTIONALITY characteristics:
    - “D” for improved Durability features,
    - “F” for improved Functionality features,
    - “DF” for improved Durability and Functionality features.

These “D”, “F” and “DF” options are specified in section 2.5 of this certification reference system and in technical documents “08-1 Traditional” to “08-4 Traditional”.

These options are realised by specific marking on certified products and commercial documents and are highlighted on certificates.

The details of these provisions are specified in section 2.5 of this certification reference system and in technical documents “08-1 Traditional” to “08-4 Traditional”.

These certified characteristics are assessed under the responsibility of CSTB, with the inspection resources specified in the aforementioned technical documents.

1.3 Applying for certification

Any legal entity:

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

may request the right to use the QB mark – Water Distribution or Drainage Pipes.

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

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

They shall commit themselves to meeting the same conditions during the whole duration of use of the QB mark.

Note: When an applicant has subcontracted production

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

If so, they undertake to:

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

Failure to comply with all of the commitments may lead to a halt to or suspension of the examination of applicants' dossiers.

Part 2.
Certification Scheme

The certification scheme for the Water Distribution or Drainage Pipes application consists of this certification reference system, which references:

- the QB mark General Requirements, which set the organisation and conditions for use of the mark;
- the standards and the additional specifications;
- the additional technical requirements (technical documents "08-1 Non-traditional" to "08-5 Non-traditional", for products certified according to a certification process linked to ATECs, and technical documents "08-1 Traditional" to "08-5 Traditional", for products certified according to a product standards-based certification process).

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

2.1 Regulations

The granting of the right to use the QB mark can in no way substitute CSTB's responsibility for the legal responsibility on the company that holds the QB mark usage right.

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

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

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

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

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

Regulations	Documentary evidence required
Decree of 29 May 1997 relating to the materials and objects used in fixed installations for the production, treatment and distribution of water intended for human consumption, as modified by the Decrees of 24 June 1998 and 22 August 2002.	The ACS (Attestation of sanitary conformity) materials or accessories, as defined in the circular DGS/SDA 2002 n° 571 of 25/11/02, is proof of compliance with the regulation.
Decree 2013-1264 of 23 December 2013 regarding the environmental declaration of certain	Verified individual or collective Environmental Declaration(s) in the case of an environmental claim on French territory

construction products intended for use in building work.	

Fire safety regulations

Depending on the type of building involved (residential buildings, public-access buildings, high-rise buildings, offices, classified facilities), the fire safety regulations may feature specifications governing the pipework (pipes and fittings) and pipework installation.

In particular, it may require products to fall under a fire-reaction classification category.

This certification does not cover monitoring of this classification.

2.2 Additional standards and 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).

Product standards

The references of these standards are given in the Technical Documents for the different product families as defined in Part 1.

Test standards

The references of these standards are given in the Technical Documents for the different product families as defined in Part 1.

The Assessment committee may rule on the use of a previous version of a test standard to that currently valid. In this case, the version and date of issue of this standard will be specified in the relevant technical document.

Additional technical requirements

Technical Documents, no. “08-1 Non-traditional” to “08-5 Non-traditional” for products certified according to a certification process linked to ATECs, and no. “08-1 Traditional” to “08-6 Traditional” for products certified according to a product standards-based certification process.

- Technical Document 08-07 defining the terms of use of the pictograms for all traditional and non-traditional products.

2.3 Declaration of modifications

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

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

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

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

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

I. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE HOLDER

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

In the event of a merger, liquidation or absorption of the holder, all rights to use the QB mark, from which the holder might benefit, automatically stop.

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

II. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT

Any transfer (total or partial) of the manufacturing unit of a certified product to another production site entails an immediate halt in the QB marking by the holder on the relevant products.

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

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

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

III. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT'S QUALITY ORGANISATION

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

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

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

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

IV. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT

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

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

Likewise, any modification to the Environmental and Health Declaration Sheets (FDES) for the certified product must be declared, at least during the follow-up audit.

V. TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT HALT IN PRODUCTION

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

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

VI. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION CIRCUIT

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

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

VII. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

If a standard is removed for safety reasons, CSTB shall provide notification of this removal from the right to use the QB mark, thus requiring the manufacturer to immediately halt production under the QB mark and to withdraw its QB-marked products from the market.

2.4 Quality management provisions: audit reference system

I. PURPOSE

Applicants/holders and their distributors whose right to use the mark has been maintained are all responsible, within their respective roles, for the right to use the QB mark relative to the product in question.

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

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

The quality system depends in part on the establishment by the applicant/holder of a set of organisational measures ensuring conformity of the delivered products with the additional specifications and standards, if applicable. These measures are described in paragraph 2.4.2 below.

II. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

As part of an audit, all the necessary requirements identified on the shaded lines in Table 1 below shall be audited. All other requirements pertaining to quality management shall be audited over a period of 3 years.

Possible reduction:

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

This reduction 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 is examined during the body’s audit.

Table 1 (Applicable Requirements)

§ ISO 9001: 2008	§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
5. Leadership				
5.5.1/5.5.2.	5.3.	Organisational roles, responsibilities and authorities	* Organisation chart * Description of responsibilities and authorities (examples: organisation chart, job sheets, etc.) * Person appointed to be responsible for organising and effectively implementing the production system	■ <To be used for persons responsible for inspection or with a direct impact on critical points in making the product.> All items except: * ISO 9001 V15: §5.3 c,d
7. Support				
6.4.	7.1.4.	Environment for process implementation	Evidence of maintenance of the work environment. Examples: storage of a product and its components to protect them from bad weather, adapted ambient conditions, etc.	■ <To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided>
7.6.	7.1.5.	Resources for monitoring and measuring	* List of the inspection, measuring and test equipment used on the product/service production site and/or in the laboratory, * Identification of equipment used to determine its validity, * Verification or calibration schedule for equipment that has 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 (e.g. 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.	■ <To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided>
6.2.	7.2.	Competencies	* Compliance with test methods and inspection provisions. * Actions planned to acquire the necessary competencies (training, tutoring, etc.), where appropriate.	■ <To be used for persons responsible for inspection or with a direct impact on critical points in making the product.>
4.2.	7.5.	Documented information	* List of internal and external documented information. Examples: Procedures, operating procedures, test methods,	■ <To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided>

			inspection examination, 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.	All items except: * ISO 9001 v08: §4.2.1, 4.2.2 Note: Quality Manuals are no longer required.

§ ISO 9001: 2008	§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
8. Operational activities				
7.4.	8.4.	Control of processes, products and services from external providers	* List of service providers * Contract/order defining the requirements of the applicant/holder of the certification * Evidence of the verification of raw materials, components ***(1)***, services purchased * Evidence of the verification of subcontracting conditions: transport, handling, tests ***(2)***, etc.	■ <To be used for raw materials, bought-in components and external services affecting the quality of the product/service> <u>External providers:</u> * supplier of raw materials, components, services integrated into the product/service * subcontractor of external services (ex: tests, handling, transport, etc.) <u>*(*) Specific case of applicants/holders subcontracting part of their production*</u> *CSTB audits the subcontractors (as provided for in the certification reference system)* All items except: * ISO 9001 v08: §7.4.1. * ISO 9001 v15: §8.4.1.
7.5.1/7.5.2.	8.5.1.	Control of production and provision of services	* Information defining the characteristics of products and services. Examples: product plan / description of the service, etc. * Information defining the activities to be carried out and the results to be obtained. Examples: operating procedure(s), working instructions, test method(s), certification reference system (expected performance) * Monitoring and measurement activities. Examples: monitoring plan, inspection procedures and instructions, 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 accordance with the requirements of this Certification Reference System.	■ <To be considered in all cases for identification (and for traceability, where relevant)>
7.5.5.	8.5.4.	Preservation	Verifying that the product is preserved throughout the production line (identification, handling, storage, packaging, transport, etc.).	■

§ ISO 9001: 2008	§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
-	8.5.6.	Control of changes *(in production/provision of service)*	* Evidence of control of modifications in the manufacturing process/provision of service, in particular the impact of modifications on the product's performance ***(3)***: - review of modifications, - person authorising the modification and all necessary actions.	■
8.2.4.	8.6.	Release of products and services	* Provisions for the inspection of products/services; records of inspection results and of conformity with the acceptance criteria ***(4)*** * Names of the persons having authorised release of the finished products/services	■
8.3.	8.7.	Control of nonconforming outputs	* Provisions for processing non-conformities, including customer complaints, and implementation of those 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	A
10. Improvement				
8.5.2.	10.2.	Non-conformity and corrective action	* Implementation of corrective actions to deal with non-conformities pertaining to the certified product, including customer complaints ***(6)*** * Effectiveness of the actions taken.	■

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

- inspection of product components,
- checks during production,
- verifications and tests carried out on finished products.

(1) Inspection of product components

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

The internal "reception" inspection established by the applicant/holder shall cover:

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

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

(2) Subcontracting tests

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

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

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

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

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

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

(4) Inspection during production and on finished products

<u>During production</u>

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

Inspection instructions shall be formalised and made available to the operators. The results of the inspections are recorded upon each inspection. If the inspection results indicate that the product does not meet the requirements of this Certification Reference System, the necessary corrective actions must be implemented immediately.

On finished products

Applicants/holders are required to verify the characteristics of the finished products before delivery and are responsible for arranging 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 characteristics to be inspected are measured using the operating procedures specified in the reference standards cited in paragraph 2.2 of this certification reference system.

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

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

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

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

(5) Provisions for processing non-conformities

These include:

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

(6) Customer complaints

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

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

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

2.5 Marking – General provisions

Marking is an integral part of product certification.

Beyond the identification of a certified product and its traceability, the marking of a product with the logo of the collective certification mark ensures optimal protection for users and protects holders from wrongful use and counterfeits.

It is not, under any circumstances, permitted to refer to the QB mark without having obtained the right to use said certification mark or to submit counterfeit products for certification.

The reproduction or use of CSTB logos is only authorised through strict application of the QB graphic charter and with the support of the right of use, authorised by a valid certificate or with the prior consent of CSTB.

Moreover, mentioning the main certified characteristics is intended to make the technical characteristics covered by the mark transparent to consumers and users. It thereby serves to emphasise the certification and its content.

The purpose of the marking rules described below is to guide the holder in complying with Regulatory Requirements and Certification Requirements. The General Requirements of the QB mark define the conditions of use, the conditions of validity of the right to use the QB mark and the procedures for penalties in the case of wrongful use.

Without prejudice to the penalties provided for in the QB mark General Requirements, any incorrect declaration of the certified characteristics and any fraudulent use of the QB logo will result in legal action against the holder for deceptive marketing.

I. THE QB LOGO

The QB logo will ensure the identification of all certified products throughout the transition period and shall assure this identification beyond this transition period.

The holder undertakes to respect the graphic charter of the QB mark. The QB logo and its graphic charter are available from the application administrator.

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

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

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

It is recommended that the holder remit to CSTB, in advance, any marking projects or material 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.

If the product cannot be marked for technical reasons, CSTB must be contacted. QB may be marked alone and in full.

II. MARKING CONDITIONS

This section describes both the terms for affixing the QB logo and the marking of certified characteristics.

The requirements of article R 115-2 of the French Consumer Code stipulate that marking must comply with the provisions outlined in the following paragraphs and, whenever possible, include the following information:

Water distribution or drainage pipes

http://evaluation.cstb.fr

List of certified characteristics defined in paragraph 2.1 of each technical document

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

Marking is an integral part of product certification.

Marking a product with the NF logo not only identifies it as a certified product and ensures its traceability, but also helps in defending the mark and facilitates legal action and penalties for counterfeit products.

1. Marking of certified products

All certified products manufactured after the date indicated on the approval of the right to use the QB mark (via an admission or extension procedure) and which comply with the requirements of this Certification Reference System, must be marked, at a minimum, with the mark logo (unless not possible for technical reasons).

The marking must be permanently present, legible and indelible on the certified products covered by this certification reference system, with the following specifications:

- identification of the manufacturer holder,
- identification of the manufacturing unit,
- trade name and/or reference,
- production batch number,
- the certified characteristics and their level of performance,
- reference of the product standard to be considered,
- the logo of the mark, followed by the “D”, “F” or “DF” option(s) if claimed
- certificate number
- The number of the Technical Appraisal (for products certified according to a certification process linked to ATECs)

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

Specific conditions

The nature and frequency of marking are defined in Technical Documents no. "08-1 Non-traditional" to "08-5 Non-traditional", for products certified according to a certification process linked to ATECs, and in TD "08-1 Traditional" to TD "08-5 Traditional", for products certified according to a product standards-based certification process, for the different product families as defined in Part 1.

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 shall include all the marking components defined in Paragraph 4 of each technical document: logo of the mark, name of the application, reference to the website, and, if possible, the list of the certified characteristics.

If it is not possible to mark the product, the conditions of application on the packaging or on the accompanying documents are defined in each technical document.

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

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

The generic use of the QB mark through its reproduction in the holders' correspondence is forbidden, unless the holder has the right to use the QB mark for all of its products.

References to the QB mark in communication material or documentation must be made in a way that does not allow for any confusion between certified products and other products. They shall include all the marking components defined in paragraph 4 of each technical document: logo of the mark, name of the application, reference to the website and, if possible, the list of the certified characteristics.

Examples of additional indications:

- name and address of the certification body (CSTB, 84 avenue Jean Jaurès - Champs sur Marne - F - 77447 Marne-la-Vallée);
- holder's name and address (name and address of the delegate in the European Economic Area, as the case may be);
- identification of the holder;
- name of the product (trade name);
- essential certified characteristics (designations and values);
- certificate number.
- The number of the Technical Appraisal (for products certified according to a certification process linked to ATECs)

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

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

The pictograms defined in DT 08-07: "Water distribution or drainage pipes: Pictograms" are used to optimize the visual communication of the certified characteristics on all the certificates for the products concerned.

The pictograms can only be used in addition to the QB certification mark, in accordance with the terms defined in Technical Document DT 08-07.

4. Marking of optional certified characteristics

- In order to highlight the DURABILITY and FUNCTIONALITY options “D”, “F” or “DF”, the holder must place “D”, “F” or “DF” marking on products that have received this classification.
- If the “D”, “F” or “DF” options are claimed by the holder of the QB mark, the products must be marked as follows:

Durability option:

QB D

Water distribution or drainage pipes

http://evaluation.cstb.fr

Functionality option:

QB F

Water distribution or drainage pipes

http://evaluation.cstb.fr

Durability and Functionality option:

QB DF

Water distribution or drainage pipes

http://evaluation.cstb.fr

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 QB logo or the logo must be crossed out or concealed to prevent any risk of confusion.

- Plan for retroactive removal of the mark and possible withdrawal from shops;
- Validate these quantities/batch numbers/lead times;
- Define the means for checking removal of the mark (customer commitment, etc.)
- Estimate the risks of improper use of the mark, for example:
  - certification 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, possibly trigger an on-site inspection (company or shop) paid for via the usage right or inform the public authorities.
- Commitment of the holder and/or on-site inspection before the possible withdrawal decision is made.

I. IN CASE OF PENALTY

Any suspension and any withdrawal of the right to use the QB mark entails the prohibition on using the QB mark and making reference to it. In the same way, QB-marked products must have the marking removed. In this case, the logo affixed to the products must no longer be visible.

After consulting the Specific Committee, a suspension of the right of use for an entire product range (group or family of products) may be accompanied by a ban on selling products in the manufacturer’s stock made between the date when the non-compliance(s) were detected and the date of notification of suspension. This ban may be lifted entirely or in part by an audit and/or tests performed in the Mark’s laboratory, the aim being to check compliance of these products in stock with the requirements.

II. IN CASE OF ABANDONMENT

Refer to paragraph 2.4: Temporary or permanent halt in production.

III. IN CASE OF PRODUCT NON-COMPLIANCE

If a product is non-compliant, neither the product nor its packaging shall be marked with the QB logo. If they are, the logo in question must be crossed out or concealed to eliminate any risk of confusion.

The conditions for removing the mark for each product/medium and the quantities/time frames must be recorded.

In cases 1 and 2, in addition to removing the marking on the product itself, removing the QB mark includes removal of any reference to the QB mark on all the media controlled by the manufacturer.

Part 3.
Certification process for traditional products, certified according to a product standards-based certification process

3.1 General

- Definition of the applicant (see Part 5);
- Definitions of the various types of applications (admission application / complementary admission application / extension application / maintenance application):

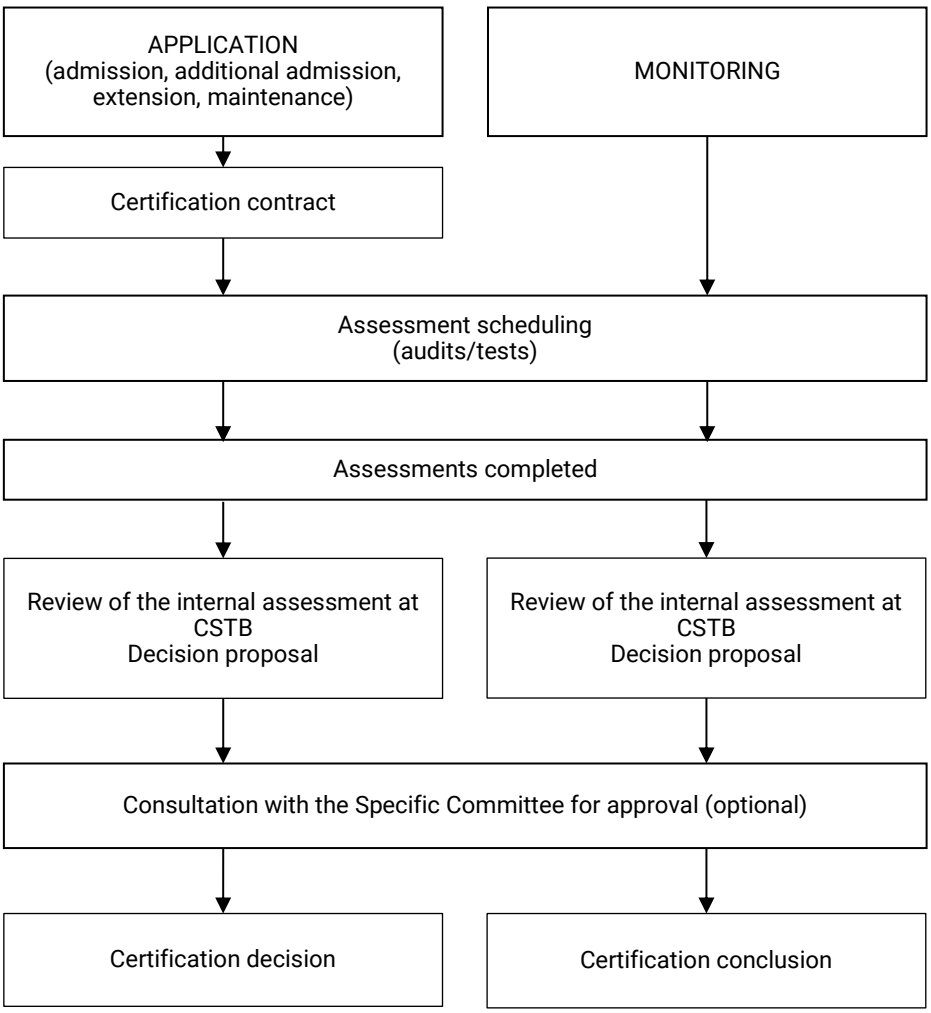
  - An application for admission is made by an applicant not having the right to use the QB mark for the Water Distribution or Drainage Pipes application.
    It corresponds to a product (or a range of products) coming from a specific design process and/or manufacturing unit and/or a specific sales location, defined by a trademark and/or with a specific reference to the product submitted and the technical characteristics;

  - A complementary admission and/or extension application is made by a holder and applies to a new product/modified product at the same manufacturing site or a claim for the “D”, “F” or “DF” options;

  - A maintenance application is made by a holder and applies to a QB-certified product intended to be sold under another trademark and/or with a specific reference to the product without any modification to the certified characteristics;

  - A new application for admission for a product (or a range of products) following the withdrawal of the right to use the QB mark as a result of a penalty in the event of deceptive marketing practices in application of Articles L 121-2 to L 121-5 and subsequent articles of the Consumer Code and of deception in application of Article L 433-9 of the Consumer Code.

3.2 Certification application processing procedure



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

3.3 Audits

I. 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 of technical documents no. 1 Traditional to no. 5 Traditional.

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

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

All the resources (premises, installations, equipment) required by the auditor to carry out their mission shall be placed at their disposal free of charge, along with persons qualified to implement them.

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

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

1. For an initial admission application

The audit normally lasts one day per manufacturing unit.

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

Moreover, if the audit is conducted in common with another application (QB, NF), then since the common verifications provided in the General Requirements of the QB certification reference system are being audited once (Responsibility, Document Management, Control Operations, Personnel, Installations and Equipment, Processing of Non-compliant Products, Traceability and Complaints), the duration can be combined.

This duration may vary based on:

1 - the type of audit: Admission or Extension.

2- the number of Groups to be certified.

3- the range of products admitted or to be admitted.

The maximum duration of an audit is 2 days.

2. For a complementary admission application

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

3. For an extension application

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

- in the context of an extension application for a modified certified product, the tests are defined according to the planned modification;
- the audit can be adapted or accompanied by a follow-up audit.

Three types of extensions are distinguished:

- (1) Mandatory presentation to the Specific Committee:
  - Transfer of production,
- (2 and 3) Intersession consultation with members of the Committee via email:
  - Changes to joint,
  - Changes in formulation,
  - Range extensions

3.3.1.4 For a maintenance application

The application shall be submitted in accordance with the conditions and templates provided in the administrative management appendix to this certification reference system.

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

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

The company distributing the QB-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.) for products that are the subject of a maintenance application may be carried out each year, except for maintenance applications made by a non-distributor manufacturer-holder that holds the certificate for the original product.

For maintenance applications by distributor holders only, sales documents (catalogues, websites, etc.) will always be checked: primarily the consistency between the set of certified products declared in these sales documents and the right-of-use certificates.

II. FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

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

All of the provisions described in Paragraph 3.3.1 apply.

Inspections

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

- verification of the actual application of the corrective measures announced as a result of any observations made during the previous audit;

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

An audit report is prepared and addressed to the holder.

The audit normally lasts 1 day per manufacturing plant.

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

Nature and frequency of verifications

3.4 Sampling

The auditor has the necessary samples taken as required from stock and/or the manufacturing unit for testing. For certain destructive tests, it is possible to take samples from among products that have been eliminated due to minor defects of appearance that do not entail non-conformity of the certified products.

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

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

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

It is agreed that if these samples cannot be taken, the holder will send the sample(s) requested by CSTB to the mark laboratory by the specified deadline. If holders fail to send the sample(s) to the mark's laboratory within the time required by the CSTB, penalties may be applied to them (sanction, suspension).

- In the following cases, sampling on-site during the audit can be replaced by sampling by mail or post:
- simplified half-yearly verification regime for the half-year which is not the subject of an audit,
- if the audit is carried out late in the half year or year,
- for better planning of test campaigns at the CSTB laboratory.

In this case the samples are sent to CSTB by the holder by request of the relevant CSTB manager.

The samples are taken so as to check the entire range on offer by rotation.

The samples taken during an audit must be sent to the Mark laboratory within 1 month as from the date of the audit.

In the event of a stock-out concerning the types or DN selected by the auditor*, of the manager in the case of sampling by mail or post, the manufacturer undertakes to send the samples to CSTB within the time-frame set with the auditor or the manager.

If this deadline is not respected, the manufacture must contact the manager to inform him/her.

Failure to comply with these measures may lead to a penalty and/or additional management fees as provided for in Part 5 of the administrative appendix, 5.7.

**In this case, by request of the auditor, the manufacturer includes a copy of the inspection sheet produced for the batch in question with its dispatch.*

The minimum quantities to be sampled for each product family are specified in the tables in Technical Documents "08-1 Traditional" to "08-5 Traditional" for the different product families as defined in Part 1.

Inspections at retail sites:

For distributors whose right of use has been maintained, verifications may be carried out at CSTB's initiative.

Inspections in retail sites may be performed once per year on products marketed by distributors whose right to use the QB mark has been maintained.

CSTB carries out checks on the marking, appearance and dimensions of such products. CSTB reserves the right to sample those 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.

Components and systems

Three verification regimes are provided for, the conditions of which are specified in the following table.

Verification regime	Number of audits per year	Number of series of tests at the CSBT laboratory per year
Annual	1	1
Simplified Annual	1	0
Half-yearly	2	2
Simplified half-yearly	1	2

For each family and nature of component or system, the corresponding Technical Document defines the verification regime.

In the case of simplified annual or half-yearly regimes:

- CSTB will ensure that the interval between two inspections is not less than 9 months and not more than 15 months,
- The audit normally lasts one day. This duration can be modified according to the risk: level of development or control of the quality assurance system, organisation of the company (process, laboratory, etc.). Moreover, if the audit is conducted in common with another application (QB, NF), then since the common verifications provided in the General Requirements of the QB certification reference system are being audited once (Responsibility, Document Management, Control Operations, Personnel, Installations and Equipment, Processing of Non-compliant Products, Traceability and Complaints), the duration can be combined.

– Any critical deviation, whether or not it is accompanied by a sanction as defined in article 1.2.3 of the general requirements of the QB certificates for building products, may justify a return to the half-yearly regime, at the initiative of CSTB, possibly after the opinion of the Assessment Committee, for a specified period.

3.5 Tests

I. ADMISSION TESTS

The tests are carried out in conformity with the standards and complementary specifications established in Part 2 of this certification reference system and in Technical Documents “08-1 Traditional” to “08-5 Traditional”.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

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

The tests to be performed are specified in each technical document.

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

The tests are carried out in accordance with the additional specifications and standards (DURABILITY and FUNCTIONALITY options “D”, “F” or “DF”) set out in Part 2 of the certification reference system and Technical Documents “08-1 Traditional” to “08-4 Traditional”.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the holder.

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

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

In the event of an additional audit, the tests required by the detected non-conformity shall be conducted by the mark laboratory.

Non-conformity with tests performed as part of follow-up:

For each test, retests are authorised as part of follow-up; when a test is performed in cases involving the “D”, “F” or “DF” options, a retest shall be possible, and if the non-conformity result is confirmed, the option shall be withdrawn and shall no longer appear on the certificate. This retest shall be performed within a period of 2 months.

III. FACTORY TESTS

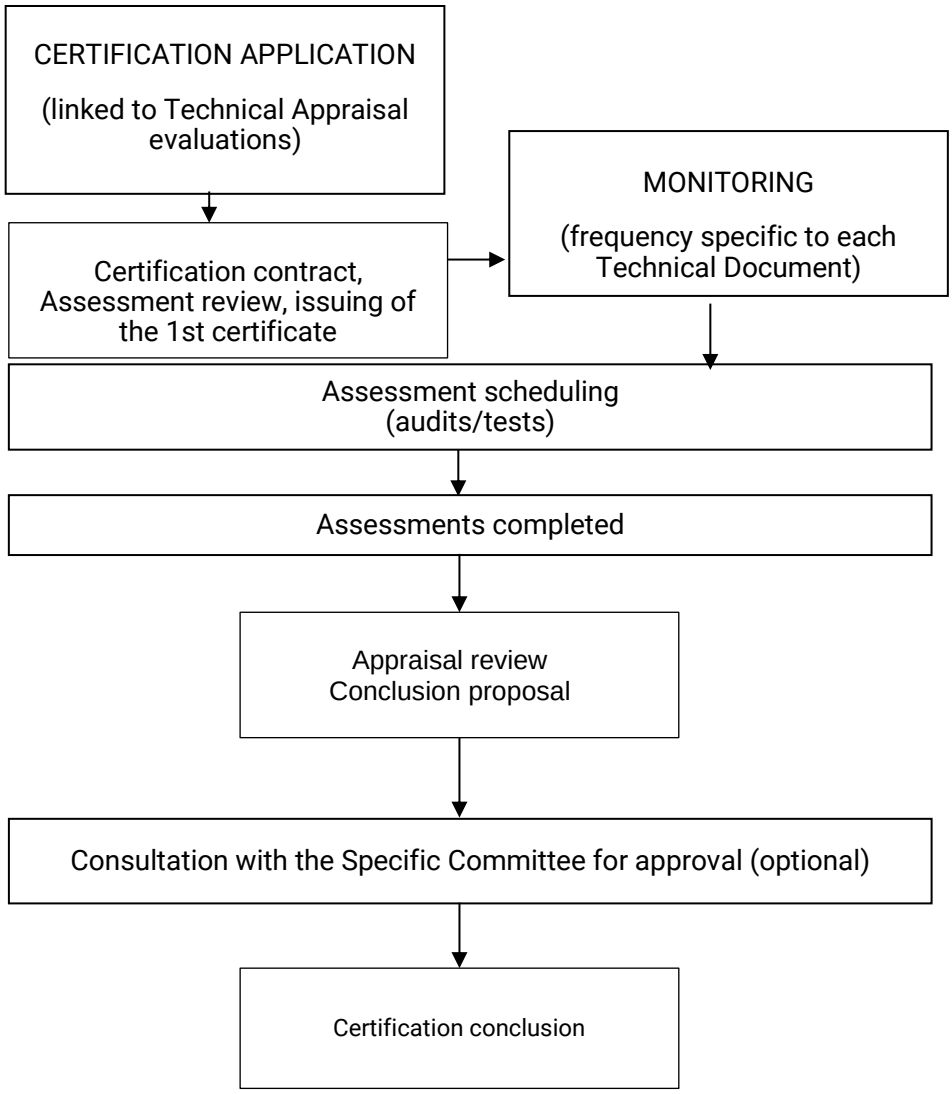
For the purpose of inter-comparison tests between the manufacturer’s laboratory and the CSTB laboratory, the inspector may carry out tests at the factory or have them carried out in his/her presence.

Part 4.
Certification process for non-traditional products, certified according to a certification process linked to Technical Appraisals

4.1 General

- The requirements in this certification reference system are audited for admission during the Technical Appraisal examination audit.
- Definition of the applicant (see Part 5);

4.2 Certification application processing procedure



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

4.3 Audits

I. ADMISSION AUDITS

Admission audits are performed as part of the Technical Appraisal examination audit.

II. FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

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

All of the provisions described in Paragraph 3.3.1 apply.

Inspections

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

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

An audit report is prepared and addressed to the holder.

The audit normally lasts 1 day per manufacturing plant.

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

Nature and frequency of verifications

Components and systems

Four verification regimes are provided for, the conditions of which are given in the following table.

Verification regime	Number of audits per year	Number of series of tests at the CSBT laboratory per year
Simplified annual	1	0
Annual	1	1
Half-yearly	2	2
Simplified half-yearly	1	2

For each family and nature of component or system, the corresponding Technical Document defines the verification regime.

In the case of simplified annual or half-yearly regimes:

- CSTB will ensure that the interval between two inspections is not less than 9 months and not more than 15 months,
- The audit normally lasts one day. This duration can be modified according to the risk: level of development or control of the quality assurance system, organisation of the company (process, laboratory, etc.). Moreover, if the audit is conducted in common with another application (QB, NF), then since the common verifications provided in the General Requirements of the QB certification reference system are being audited once (Responsibility, Document Management, Control Operations, Personnel, Installations and Equipment, Processing of Non-compliant Products, Traceability and Complaints), the duration can be combined.
- Any critical deviation, whether or not it is accompanied by a sanction as defined in article 1.2.3 of the general requirements of the QB certificates for building products, may justify a return to the half-yearly regime, at the initiative of CSTB, possibly after the opinion of the Assessment Committee, for a specified period.

Production site audit - Renovation worksite visit

During the audit of the production site or the visit to the renovation worksite (in the case of a procedure), the following verifications and inspections are carried out:

Verification of the technical file

The information in the technical file are examined and verified.

4.4 Sampling

The auditor has the necessary samples taken as required from stock and/or the manufacturing unit for testing. For certain destructive tests, it is possible to take samples from among products that have been eliminated due to minor defects of appearance that do not entail non-conformity of the certified products.

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

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

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

It is agreed that if these samples cannot be taken, the holder will send the sample(s) requested by CSTB to the mark laboratory by the specified deadline. If holders fail to send the sample(s) to the mark's laboratory within the time required by the CSTB, penalties may be applied to them (sanction, suspension).

In the following cases, sampling on-site during the audit can be replaced by sampling by mail or post:

- simplified half-yearly verification regime for the half-year which is not the subject of an audit,
- if the audit is carried out late in the half year or year,
- for better planning of test campaigns at the CSTB laboratory.

In this case the samples are sent to CSTB by the holder by request of the relevant CSTB manager.

The samples are taken so as to check the entire range on offer by rotation.

The samples taken during an audit must be sent to the Mark laboratory within 1 month as from the date of the audit.

In the event of a stock-out concerning the types or DN selected by the auditor*, of the manager in the case of sampling by mail or post, the manufacturer undertakes to send the samples to CSTB within the time-frame set with the auditor or the manager.

If this deadline is not respected, the manufacture must contact the manager to inform him/her.

Failure to comply with these measures may lead to a penalty and/or additional management fees as provided for in Part 3 of the administrative appendix, 3.7.

**In this case, by request of the auditor, the manufacturer includes a copy of the inspection sheet produced for the batch in question with its dispatch.*

The holder is obliged to keep a minimum of stock during manufacturing to meet the above sampling rules.

In the event that there is no stock at the time of the audit, CSTB will check the manufacturing records and check whether this requirement has been met.

If this requirement is not met, a suspension will be declared. The lifting of the suspension is subject to an audit during which the absent DN will be checked.

The minimum quantities to be sampled for each product family are specified in the tables in Technical Documents “08-1 Non-traditional” to “08-5 Non-traditional” for the different product families as defined in Part 1.

Inspections at retail sites:

For distributors whose right of use has been maintained, verifications may be carried out at CSTB’s initiative.

Inspections in retail sites may be performed once per year on products marketed by distributors whose right to use the QB mark has been maintained.

CSTB carries out checks on the marking, appearance and dimensions of such products. CSTB reserves the right to sample those 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.

4.5 Tests

I. ADMISSION TESTS

The tests to be conducted are defined as part of the Technical Appraisal examination and are the subject of an official letter supplemented by a detailed test schedule and a purchase order serving as a contract.

In the case of a transfer of production, or a change in manufacturing (revision, modification or addendum to a Technical Appraisal) the application manager will decide with the rapporteur on the need to perform all or part of these tests. The possibility of carrying out annual follow-up tests will be examined.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

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

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

The tests are conducted in accordance with the additional specifications and standards established in the Technical Appraisal and used to certify the characteristics specified in Technical Documents “08-1 Non-traditional” to “08-5 Non-traditional” for the different product families as defined in Part 1 of the certification reference system.

Samples are taken by the auditor in order to perform the specified tests at the CSTB laboratory.

A test report is prepared and remitted to the holder.

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

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

In the event of an additional audit, the tests required by the detected non-conformity shall be conducted by the mark laboratory.

III. FACTORY TESTS

For the purpose of inter-comparison tests between the manufacturer’s laboratory and the CSTB laboratory, the inspector may carry out tests at the factory or have them carried out in his/her presence.

Part 5.
Stakeholders

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

5.1 The certifying body

The QB mark is the property of the CSTB, which is a certifying body. CSTB specifies the governance rules and the operating conditions applicable to the marks. Furthermore, it takes responsibility for the application of the reference system and the decisions made in this context.

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

http://evaluation.cstb.fr/

5.2 Auditing bodies

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

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)
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The auditors have the right of inspection on the premises of any applicant or holder in the context of their mandate.

5.3 Test bodies

Whenever the quality assurance operations carried out within the framework of QB 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:

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5.4 Subcontracting

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

SUBCONTRACTED AUDIT BODIES (specific measures)

The following requirements must be satisfied for subcontracted audit bodies:

- - External auditors are subject to the same qualification procedure as CSTB internal auditors.
- - Subcontracted audits must not exceed 25% of the total volume of audits carried out in the context of this certification.
- - Only sites certified for the mark for 3 complete years may be audited by the body subcontracted by CSTB.
- - The measures concerning the audit body subcontracted by CSTB may be reconsidered each year and ruled on in the assessment committee report.
- - An audit cannot be carried out more than 3 times in succession by the subcontracted audit body.

5.5 Specific Committee

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

The "Water Cycle" Specific Committee common to the various QB applications related to the conveyance of water in the building has been set up. The applications covered by this Committee are:

"WATER DISTRIBUTION OR DRAINAGE PIPES" -

QB 08

"CONNECTION HOSES" - QB 10

For this QB mark, 2 Specific Committees are set up:

1- **One committee for non-traditional products**

2- **One committee for traditional products**

The composition of these Specific Committees is set in such a way as to ensure fair representation between the different parties concerned, which does not lead to any of them dominating and which guarantees their relevance.

The Specific Committees are requested to give their opinion on the following:

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

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

The composition of these Specific Committees is set in such a way as to ensure fair representation between the different parties concerned, which does not lead to any of them dominating and which guarantees their relevance.

They are composed as shown below:

- A Chairperson chosen from the members of the colleges defined below;
- A Vice Chairperson: a representative of CSTB;
- Manufacturers College (Holders): from 4 to 7 representatives;
- Users'/Advisors' college: from 3 to 6 representatives;
- Technical and Administrative Bodies' College: from 2 to 4 representatives.

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

The Specific Committees issue decision notifications, and its members may not receive any remuneration for the functions entrusted to them.

Members are appointed for a term of 3 years. This appointment is renewable by tacit agreement. The Specific Committee's Chairperson can change every year.

The members of the Specific Committees formally undertake to keep confidential all information, particularly of an individual nature, which is communicated to them.

The Specific Committees may, where appropriate, decide to set up working groups or subcommittees and define their missions and responsibilities. The composition of these working groups is validated by the Specific Committee. These working groups being composed of at least one representative of the "Manufacturers" College, one representative of the "Users / Specifiers" College and one representative of CSTB. Professionals, external individuals or holders who are not members of the Assessment Committee can also be nominated.

If a vote is held, the Specific Committees make decisions based on a simple majority of their present or represented members, subject to the following two-fold condition:

- effective representation of the College that represents applicants or holders, on the one hand, and the College that represents users and specifiers on the other hand (failure to represent an interest);
- none of the Colleges has a majority of the people present or represented (predominance of an interest).

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

Part 6.
Glossary

Admissibility: Study of a dossier enabling the application to be examined. Admissibility relates to the administrative and technical parts of the dossier.

Admission: Application through which applicants request, for the first time, the right to use the QB mark for a product; they declare that they understand this certification reference system and undertake to comply with it.

Applicant/Holder: Legal entity that controls and/or is responsible for respecting all the requirements defined in the QB mark certification reference system. These requirements cover at least the following steps: design, manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking, packing and market release and specify the critical points in the different steps.

Any person who modifies the container and/or content of the product (for example, packets or loose cement distribution) becomes an applicant and may not be considered as a retailer. Therefore, this person must make a usage right admission application.

Audit: See Standard NF EN ISO 9001.

Certification reference system: Technical document defining the characteristics that a product, a service or a combination of products and services shall have and the methods for verifying compliance with these characteristics, as well as the methods for communicating about the certification (including the content of the information).

Certification scheme: Specific certification system for a defined category of products to which the same specified requirements and specific rules and procedures apply.

Complementary admission: Application through which a holder wants to benefit from the right to use the QB mark for a new product or a new production entity.

Distributor: Person who distributes the applicant/holder's products and who does not take any action on the product to modify its compliance with the requirements of the NF mark.

Distributors may be of the following types:

- distributors who distribute the product under the holder's trademark. In that case, no action is to be taken for the QB mark.
- distributors who distribute the product after changing the trademark. 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 QB 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.

Environmental Declaration:	Data based on the analysis of the product's life cycle, used for computing the environmental impacts of works into which the product subject to the Environmental Declaration is likely to be integrated (see also www.inies.fr) This Environmental Declaration is to be drawn up under the responsibility of an applicant/holder (individual data sheet) or of an association (common data sheet). *Note: Other environmental declarations are deemed equivalent, in particular the "Environmental Product Declaration" (EPD) and the "Product Environmental Profile" (PEP).*
Extension:	Application through which holders request the extension of their right to use the QB mark for a certified product, the characteristics of which have been modified.
Granting of the right to use the QB mark:	Authorisation granted by CSTB to an applicant to affix the QB mark on the product for which the application has been submitted.
Holder:	Legal entity which controls and/or is responsible for respecting all the requirements defined in the QB mark certification rules (reference system) for Water distribution or drainage pipes These requirements cover at least the following steps: design, manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking, packing and market release and specify the critical points of the different steps.
Maintenance:	Application through which holders request the maintenance of their right to use the QB mark for a product intended to be marketed by a distributor under a different mark and/or trade reference, but without modifying the certified characteristics.
Observation:	A comment drawing a holder's attention to a minor non-conformity in order to prevent a deviation that would lead to a warning.
Product:	Element resulting from a process or manufacturing process coming from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark and/or a specific trade reference with specific technical characteristics.
Renewal:	Application through which the holders request the renewal of their right to use the QB mark before the end of validity of their QB certificate.
Representative:	Legal Entity or individual based in the EEA who represents the applicants/holders outside the EEA and has a written mandate from the latter signifying that the former may act on the latter's behalf and specifying under which context (missions and associated responsibilities and financial aspects, complaints, contact for the certifying body, among others) in the QB mark certification process according to the provisions in the certification reference system. The representative may be the distributor or importer; their different functions are clearly identified. The concept of a representative is indispensable for all applicants outside the EEA. For certain markets, the concept of a distributor may not be relevant.
Subcontracting:	Company that carries out some of the production steps for the certified products, under the control of the QB mark holder.

Suspension:	Decision communicated by CSTB that temporarily and for a set period of time cancels the authorisation to use the QB mark. The suspension may be issued as a sanction or in the event that the right to use the mark is temporarily abandoned by the holder. Suspension is accompanied by a prohibition on affixing the mark to future productions. It shall be for a maximum 6-month period, renewable once, following which a withdrawal of the right to use the QB mark shall be announced if no action has been taken by the holder. Sanction notifications which affect the right of use (suspension/withdrawal) are signed by CSTB Management.
Warning:	Non-suspensive sanction declared by CSTB. The product is still marked, but the holder must correct the observed deviations within a defined time period. When a warning is accompanied by an increase in the number of inspections, the actions must be initiated within a specified time period. The warning may only be renewed once.
Withdrawal of the right of use:	Decision communicated by the CSTB to cancel the right to use the QB mark. A withdrawal may be decided on as a sanction or in the case of abandonment of the QB mark usage right by the holder.