



CERTIFICATION

QB Certification Reference System: Fibre-Cement Slates



Identification no.: QB 17
Revision No.: 04
Effective date: 02/04/2021



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This certification reference system was approved by the CSTB Technical Department on 02/04/2021.

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 meet appropriate requirements with regard to the quality of the products, their suitability for use and their durability.

This certification reference system may therefore be revised, in whole or in part, by CSTB, after the interested parties have been consulted.

MODIFICATION HISTORY

Modified Part	Revision No.	Effective date	Modification made
The whole document	00	March 2013	Creation of Specific Requirements
§ 5.3	01	September 2014	Inspection upon receipt – Length of the audit
The whole document	02	June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating of the certification reference system structure including the QB mark. - Removal of the transition period between the CERTIFIE CSTB CERTIFIED mark and the QB mark on product packaging, products' accompanying documents and communication media or commercial documents. - Inclusion of Regulation (EU) no. 305/2011 of the European Parliament and Council of 9 March 2011. - Approach to the assessment of the complementary requirement in Standard ISO 9001 version 2015 compared to Standard ISO 9001 version 2008.
§ 2.4	03	27 05 2020	Previously in §2.2, the table of continuous inspections, the inspection procedures and the environmental declarations were included in this paragraph.
§ 3.4			Clarification on sampling procedures for slates being audited, for corroboration tests and retests.
§ 3.5			Previously in §2.2, the admission/extension tests table was included in this paragraph.
§ 2.4.2 point 1	04	02 04 2021	Removal of the raw material inspection table.

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Modified Part	Revision No.	Effective date	Modification made
§ 3.4.2	04	02 04 2021	Addition of the deadline for sending samples to the mark laboratory (15 days).
§ 3.4.3			Addition of the decision-making by CSTB regarding non-conformities as part of retesting in the mark laboratory.
§ 3.5.2			Explanation of test procedures for follow-up audits.
Part 4			Updating of the name of the Direction Enveloppe du Bâtiment [Building Envelope Division].



Part 1

Application

1.1 Scope

This certification reference system currently concerns fibre-cement slates that comply with the below standards.

The QB mark strives to inspect:

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

Certified fibre-cement slates benefit from a positive assessment of their suitability for use, in reference to the NF DTU 40.13 specifications, a Technical Appraisal or any other positive technical assessment of a construction system including the fibre-cement slate and compatible with the other systems with which this system is combined to build a structure.

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

The certified characteristics are identified in § 1.2 below.

This certification does not cover fibre-cement accessories.

1.2 Certification added value

Certification is recognition from a third party that the characteristics are compliant, demonstrating the added value of the fibre-cement slates.

The certified characteristics of the fibre-cement slates application are the following:

According to Standard EN 492 in force:

- Composition (NT)
- Geometric characteristics
- Bending moment



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

	Admission	Continued monitoring
<p>Production audit carried out by a qualified technical auditor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verification that the production inspections and records have been carried out: raw materials, manufacturing, finished products, etc. - Verification of the quality command provisions: metrology, packaging, storage, traceability, product marking, processing of non-conformities and customer complaints. - Supervision of certified characteristics tests carried out by the applicant, where applicable. 	Yes	<p>Yes</p> <p>Frequency: 2 annual audit s) (*)</p>
<p>Tests carried out by a laboratory recognised by the certifying body (independent and competent):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Samples taken by the certifying body and carried out on the applicant/holder's site and/or on the market. 	Yes	<p>Yes</p> <p>Frequency: 1 annual test campaign(s)</p>

(*) The audit frequency is 2 annual audits. It may be reduced to 1 annual audit, provided that:

- the holder is ISO 9001-certified by a certifying body recognised by a member of the E.A. (European cooperation for Accreditation) or by a member of the IAF (International Accreditation Forum);
- the results of the previous assessments are very satisfactory.

After reduction, the audit frequency may be increased to 2 annual audit(s) when critical non-conformities are observed.



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 included within the scope of application defined above and capable of complying with the technical specifications described in Part 2 of this document,

may request the right to use the QB mark Fibre-Cement Slates.

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 concerned. It is the applicants' responsibility to make sure that the regulations applicable to their product are respected.

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

Note: When an applicant has subcontracted production

Applicants may subcontract part of the manufacturing process for the 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 skills 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' files.



Part 2

The Certification Scheme

The certification scheme for the Fibre-Cement Slates 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 referred to in § 2.2.1,
- the additional technical specifications referred to in § 2.2.2.

This certification reference system falls under the framework of the certification of non-food-related products and services, as provided for in the French Consumer Code (articles R-433-1 to R 433-2 and L 433-3 to L 433-11). It specifies the conditions for applying the General 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 in no way substitutes CSTB's responsibility for the legal responsibility on the company holding 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.

The documentary evidence must be communicated to CSTB as part of the examination of the admission/extension file.

If the product has been modified, the documentary evidence must be presented to the auditor as part of the monitoring audit, by any appropriate means.

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

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

The main regulations that apply to launching products on the French market, and for which the applicants/holders shall submit to the certifying body a document attesting to their products' compliance with the regulations, are listed below.

The QB mark only does not apply to NT type products, due to decree no. 96-1133 of 24 December 1996 banning asbestos.

Regulations	Documentary evidence required
<p>Article L121-2 of the Consumer Code: “Trade practice is regarded as deceptive if it is done in either of the following circumstances: 2° “When it is based on allegations, information or presentations that are false or likely to mislead and that cover at least one of the following elements: ...b) The essential characteristics of the goods or services, namely: their substantial qualities, their composition, accessories, origin and quantity, the manufacturing method and manufacturing date, the conditions of use and their suitability for use, their properties and the results expected from their use, as well as the results and main characteristics related to the tests and inspection carried out on those goods and services.’</p>	<p>Trade name of the product Commercial presentation of the product (brochures, website, etc.)</p>
<p>Regulation (EU) no. 305/2011 of the European Parliament and Council of 9 March 2011.</p>	<p>Declaration of performances.</p>
<p>Decree 2013-1264 of 23 December 2013 regarding the environmental declaration of certain construction products intended for use in building work.</p>	<p>Verified individual or collective Environmental Declaration(s) in the case of an environmental claim on French soil.</p>

2.2 The standards and additional specifications

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

2.2.1 APPLICABLE STANDARDS

- NF EN 492 and NF DTU 40.13 in force.

2.2.2 COMPLEMENTARY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

In addition to the requirements set out above, the products shall comply with the complementary specifications laid down in the following documents: not applicable for QB 17.



2.3 Modification declaration

This paragraph specifies the information that the holder 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 unit;
- the quality organisation of the manufacturing unit;
- 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 the cases not provided for earlier, CSTB determines whether the modifications bring the certification into question and if it is necessary to carry out a complementary quality assurance operation.

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

2.3.1 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE HOLDER

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

In case of merger, liquidation or absorption of the holder, all rights to use the QB mark from which they might benefit shall 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 (in whole or in part) 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, as the case may be, have tests carried out.

The visit may be simplified or even cancelled when the new manufacturing unit is already familiar 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), and must inform CSTB of this.

2.3.3 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE MANUFACTURING UNIT'S QUALITY ORGANISATION

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



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

Any temporary halt in internal quality assurance operations for a certified product entails an immediate halt in the 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 duration following which, if the right of use cannot be re-established, this holder's right to use the QB mark will be withdrawn.

2.3.4 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT

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

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

In addition, any modification made to the certified product in the environmental declarations shall be declared, at least during the follow-up audit.

2.3.5 TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT HALT IN PRODUCTION

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

Any temporary halt in the manufacture of the certified product (or range of products) must be the subject of a suspension of the right to use the QB mark for a maximum period of 6 months, renewable only once, if applicable. 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 an audit.

2.3.6 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE DISTRIBUTION CIRCUIT

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

The distributor 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 the 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.

2.3.7 MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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



2.4 The quality management provisions: audit reference system

2.4.1 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.

Applicants/holders shall implement all the necessary ways and means to permanently guarantee the product's conformity with this certification reference system. In addition, they must manage their external service providers using all means to assess every component element of the product or external service(s) for which they are the applicant or holder of the right to use the certification mark.

This section sets the minimum measures that the applicant/holder shall implement in terms of quality management to ensure that the products are manufactured respecting the certification reference system at all times.

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

2.4.2 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- Applicants/holders shall have implemented the ways and means that they possess, the existence and effectiveness of which are assessed based on the requirements of standard NF EN ISO 9001, version 2015.

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

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

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

Possible simplification:

If the manufacturing unit has a certified quality management system that conforms to standard NF EN ISO 9001, the audits may be 'reduced'. 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 for the applicant/holder is forwarded to CSTB prior to the audit or examined during the audit.



Table 1 (Applicable Requirements)

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



§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
7.1.5.	Monitoring and measuring resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * List of the inspection, measuring and test equipment used on the product production/service performance 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 verification and/or calibration, <i>Examples: equipment data sheet, verification or calibration report, etc.</i> * Evidence of connection to national or international standards (where possible), * Validation of software used to monitor and measure the specified requirements, where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided>
7.1.6.	Organisational knowledge	-	NA
7.2.	Competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Compliance with test methods and inspection provisions, * Actions planned to acquire the necessary competence (training, tutoring, etc.), where appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <To be used for persons responsible for inspection or with a direct impact on critical points in making the product.>
7.3.	Awareness	-	NA
7.5.	Documented information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * List of the internal and external documented information, <i>Examples: Procedures, operating procedures, test methods, inspection instructions, quality records, etc.</i> * Evidence of control of internal and external documents. <i>Example: Availability of the applicable version of the test method, reference system, inspection mechanisms, etc.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <To be considered for processes related to the products/services to be provided> <i>Note: Quality Manuals are no longer required.</i>



§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
8. Operational activities			
8.1.	Operational planning and control	-	NA <i>Note: Operational control: Same as § ISO 9001 v15: 8.5.1.</i>
8.2.2.	Determining requirements for products and services	-	NA
8.3.	Design and development of products and services	-	NA
8.4.	Control of externally provided processes, products and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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. 	<p style="text-align: center;">■</p> <p><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 (e.g. tests, handling, transport, etc.)</p> <p><i>(*) Specific case of applicants/holders subcontracting part of their production</i> CSTB audits the subcontractors (as provided for in the certification reference system)</p> <p>All the items except: * ISO 9001 v15: § 8.4.1.</p>
8.5.1.	Control of production and service provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Information defining the characteristics of products and services. <i>Examples: product plan/description of the service.</i> * Information defining the activities to be carried out and the results to be obtained. <i>Examples: operating method(s), working instruction(s), test method(s), certification reference system (expected performance)</i> * Monitoring and measurement activities. <i>Examples: monitoring plan, inspection procedures and instruction(s), test method(s), etc.</i> * Conservation of documented information proving the conformity of products/services with the acceptance criteria (Same as §8.6.ISO 9001 v15) 	■



§ ISO 9001: 2015	REQUIREMENTS	MINIMUM EVIDENCE EXPECTED	APPLICABLE (NA = not applicable)
8.5.2.	Identification and traceability	* Identification/Marking of the product in accordance with the requirements in this Certification Reference System. * Marking of commercial documents in accordance with the requirements in this Certification Reference System.	■ <To be considered in all cases for identification (and for traceability, where relevant)>
8.5.3.	Property belonging to customers or external providers	-	NA
8.5.4.	Preservation	Verification that the product is preserved throughout the production line (identification, handling, storage, packaging, transport, etc.)	■
8.5.5.	Post-delivery activities	-	NA
8.5.6.	Control of changes (<i>in production/service provision</i>)	* Evidence of control over modifications in the manufacturing process/provision of service, particularly the impact of modifications on the product's performance: - modification review, - person authorising the modification and all the necessary related actions.	■
8.6.	Release of products and services	* Provisions for the control of products/services; records of the results of inspections and the conformity with the acceptance criteria (3) * Names of the persons responsible for releasing the finished products/services	■
8.7.	Control of non-conforming outputs	* Provisions for processing non-conformities, including customer complaints, and implementation of those provisions (4) * No dispensation granted as regards the performance of a certified characteristic	■
9. Performance assessment			
9.1.	Monitoring, measurement, analysis and assessment	-	NA
9.2.	Internal audit	-	NA
9.3.	Management review	Management review report	< NA > or < A > Collect the opinion of the Specific Committee
10. Improvement			
10.1.	General		NA
10.2.	Non-conformity and corrective action	* Implementation of corrective action to deal with non-conformities pertaining to the certified product, including customer complaints (5) * Effectiveness of the actions taken	■
10.3.	Continuous improvement	-	NA



(1) Control of the product components

Applicants/holders 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.

The 'reception' internal quality control operation specified by the applicant/holder shall cover:

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

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

(2) Subcontracting tests

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

- subcontracting the tests does not result in a disruption to the production process (due to waiting time for results, for example);
- the conditions for subcontracting the tests are formalised in the contract or order and must define the applicable test method, testing frequency, requested waiting times for results, notification of results in writing, the procedure in case of non-compliant results and the type of equipment used;
- the subcontractor's 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 settings, etc.) and that the staff carrying out the test have the necessary skills.

(3) Inspection during production and on finished products

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

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

During production

The applicant/holder shall put in place quality assurance operations during production. 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).

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



Quality assurance operations during production	Supplier	Factory
Production self-monitoring: - Dimensions (length width) - Squareness - Cut quality (visual)		4 slates per shift 4 slates per shift continuous
Paint quantity (spread) and surface baking temperatures - Shade (colorimetry or visual) - Surface appearance after colouring - Appearance of packaged packs		4 slates per shift 1 slate per shift Permanent Permanent

On finished products

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

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

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

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

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

Applicants/holders shall record the results of the previous inspections. If the results of the standard inspections are inconclusive, the inspections must be heightened and the causes of the malfunction must be identified in order to correct it by carrying out production quality controls, if necessary.

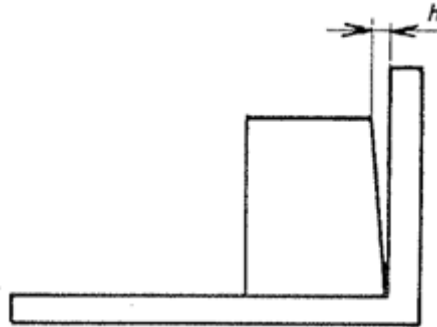
Inspections conducted on finished products	Supplier	Factory
- Density, bending moment - Thickness		8 slates per day

INSPECTION PROCEDURES AND SQUARENESS SPECIFICATIONS FOR FIBRE-CEMENT SLATES

Assessment method:

The squaring fault check is performed using a non-deformable stainless steel square with arms at least as long as the dimensions of the slate. Set the square on a flat surface. Fit the slate fully into the corner between the square's arms. With one side held firmly against the square, measure the maximum distance (he: out of square) separating the slate from the other arm of the square.

Measurements are taken to the nearest 0.5 mm.



Mechanical characteristics for the minimum bending moment per m and minimum thickness

h (mm)	min. e ⁽¹⁾ (mm)	Minimum bending moment, mean of 2 directions (Nm/m)
$h \leq 350$	2.8	30
$350 < h \leq 450$	3.0	40
$450 < h \leq 600$	3.5	45
$600 < h \leq 850$	4	55

⁽¹⁾ e is the arithmetic mean of the four measured values in accordance with chapter 7.2.4 of Standard NF EN 492.

(5) Provisions for handling 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. For this purpose, holders shall keep:

- a record of all complaints and actions relative to the 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 must be able to show the auditor extracts from such records pertaining to complaints involving the products covered by this certification reference system.



2.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE PRODUCTS

The applicant/holder may declare complementary environmental characteristics associated with recycled raw materials during manufacture of fibre-cement slates.

The manufacturer must have an NF EN ISO 14001 environmental management system (or equivalent). The environmental data for the recycled materials shall be included in a quality assurance plan, the details of which are given below, and the certifying body shall monitor inspection records.

NOTE: Environmental characteristics cannot be certified by the certifying body and shall be indicated on the optional QB certificate for information purposes.

Characteristics checked*	Value Unit	Frequency	Method
Water consumption per ton of raw material	m ³ /t	Weekly	Meter report
Ratio of potable water to site water requirements	%	Weekly	Meter report
Quantity of water discharged into the natural environment or plant	m ³ /t	Permanent	Meters
Energy consumption of manufactured slates	kWh/t	Monthly	Meter report
Quantity of recycled fibre-cement waste (scrap in dry state)	%	Monthly	Contract
% of recycled raw materials replacing cellulose	% (weight)	Weekly	Weighing
% of recycling of fibre-cement waste in mixes	% (weight)	Weekly	Weighing

* Examples of chosen characteristics declared and monitored by the applicant/holder.

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 against wrongful use and counterfeits.

Under no circumstances is it possible to make reference to the QB mark before the right to use this mark is obtained or to present 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.

Furthermore, the purpose of mentioning the main certified characteristics is to ensure that the technical characteristics covered by the certification, which is formalised by the QB mark, are transparent for consumers and users. It thus enhances the certification and its content.

The purpose of the marking rules described hereafter is to guide the holder in complying with regulatory requirements and certification requirements. The QB mark General Requirements



define the conditions of use, the conditions of validity of the right to use the QB mark and the procedures for sanctions in the case of wrongful use.

Without prejudice to the sanctions 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.

2.5.1 THE QB LOGO

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

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

The certified product must have a description and identification distinguishing it 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.

2.5.2 TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MARKING

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

The requirements of article R 433-2 of the Consumer Code stipulate that marking must comply with the provisions outlined in the following sections and, whenever possible, include the following information:

Fibre-Cement Slates



<http://evaluation.cstb.fr>

Certificate number

Bending moment

Geometric characteristics

NT composition

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

COFRAC accreditation marking can only be used with the prior written authorisation of CSTB and under the conditions expressed in the following formulation: *'Certification delivered by*



CSTB, benefiting from COFRAC Certification of Products and Services accreditation no. 5-0010, list of locations and scope available at www.cofrac.fr.

2.5.2.1 Marking of the certified products

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

Marking must be carried out in a permanent, legible and indelible way on at least 15% of the Fibre-Cement Slate products, with the following specifications:

- QB logo;
- identification of the manufacturer holder;
- production batch number;
- NT reference.

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

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

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

Example of marking: The packaging shall include the following information:

- identification of the manufacturer holder
- identification of the manufacturing unit
- trade name and/or reference, format
- production batch number
- reference of the product standard to be considered
- name and address of the certifying body (CSTB, 84 avenue Jean Jaurès - Champs sur Marne - F - 77447 Marne-la-Vallée)
- mark logo, name of the application, reference to the website
- certificate number
- if possible, the certified characteristics and their level of performance

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.

2.5.2.3 Marking on the 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 their products.

References to the QB mark in communication materials 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 section 2.5.2: logo of the mark, name of the application, reference to the website and, if possible, the list of certified characteristics.



With the following complementary information:

- 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.

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

For the proper interpretation of this section, 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.

2.6 Conditions for terminating marking or for removing the mark in the case of suspension, withdrawal or abandonment

If any product is accidentally not in conformity with the requirements, 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.

The manufacturer shall establish the conditions for removal of the mark by product/medium listed in part 2: destruction, conditional sell-off and in each case quantity/time

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

→ The industrialist is responsible for:

- ❖ Immediately informing CSTB;
- ❖ Confirming the qualities/batch numbers/lead times, etc. involved;
- ❖ Planning retroactive removal of the mark and possible withdrawal from the market.

→ CSTB is responsible for:

- ❖ Defining the means for checking removal of the mark (customer commitment, etc.);
- ❖ Estimating the risks of improper use of the mark, for example:
 - certification 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;
- ❖ Committing the holder to taking corrective actions and/or completing on-site inspections before the possible withdrawal decision is made.

In the event of a sanction: any suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the mark results in a ban on using the mark logo or referring to it on any medium (product, packaging, documents, website, etc.).

If abandoned, see §2.3.5.



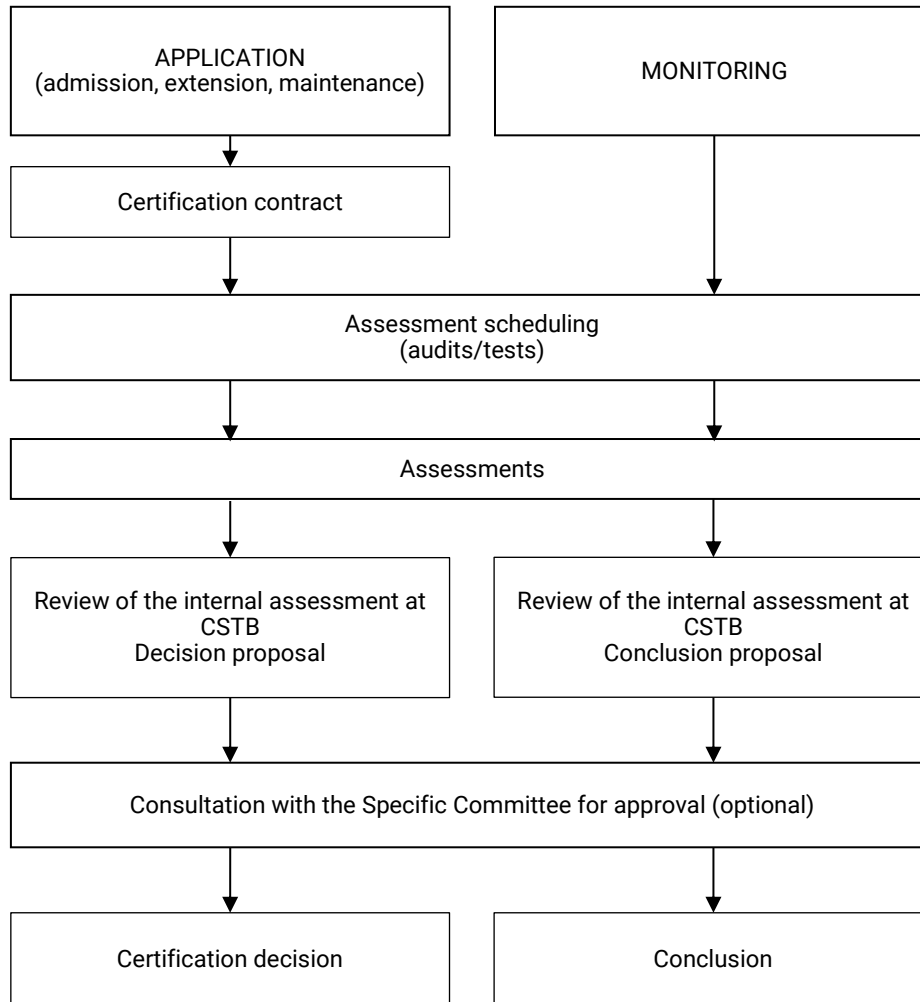
Part 3

Certification Process

3.1 General

- Definition of the applicant (see part 5);
- Definitions of the various types of application (admission application / complementary admission application / extension application/maintenance application):
 - An application for admission is made by an applicant not having the right to use the QB mark for the Fibre-Cement Slates application. It corresponds to a product (or a range of products) coming from a specific design process and/or manufacturing unit and/or a specific sales location, defined by a trademark and/or with a specific reference to the product submitted and the technical characteristics;
 - A complementary admission application is made by a holder and concerns a new product;
 - An application for extension is made by a holder and applies to a modified product on the same manufacturing site;
 - A maintenance application is made by a holder and applies to 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 sanction in the event of deceptive marketing practices in application of Articles L 121-2 to L 121-5 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 a certification and the certification follow-up procedure are described in Parts 1 and 2 of the Appendix to this certification reference system.



3.3 Audits

3.3.1 ADMISSION AUDITS

The purpose of the audits is to make sure that the measures defined and implemented by the applicant in the manufacturing unit satisfy the requirements of Part 2 of this certification reference system.

This entails checking, before admission, the existence and effectiveness of the quality-related measures that have been taken, as well as the product inspections performed 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 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.

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 addressed to the applicant.

Special case of a mock audit:

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

The conditions for intervention are as follows:

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

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

3.3.1.1 Case of an initial admission application

The audit normally lasts 1 day per manufacturing unit.

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



3.3.1.2 Case of a complementary admission application

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

3.3.1.3 Case of an extension application

The steps described in paragraph 3.3.1 above apply with the following specific considerations:

- 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.

3.3.2 FOLLOW-UP AUDITS

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

All of the measures described in section 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 the last checks and any remarks made by the Specific Committee:

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

An audit report is prepared and addressed to the holder.

The audit normally lasts 1 day per manufacturing unit.

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

Normal monitoring:

The normal frequency is 2 annual audits per manufacturing unit benefiting from the right to use the QB mark.

If the holder has a certified quality management system in compliance with standard NF EN ISO 9001, the reduced monitoring procedure is set in motion.

Heightened monitoring:

In the event of breach of the requirements in this certification reference system or if the Specific Committee makes a reasoned request, a heightened monitoring procedure can be initiated for a given period. This monitoring can be adjusted up to double the normal frequency of audits (1 audit every 6 months), with or without heightened monitoring of the holder and sampling for testing purposes in the production 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. The latter will be initiated by CSTB, possibly after recommendation from the Specific Committee, for a set period with or without stricter holder inspections and sampling for testing.

Simplified monitoring:

If the production unit has not been the subject of any non-conformity, warning or sanction over the last 3 years, reduced monitoring may then be applied.

If the holder has a valid ISO 9001 certificate, the CSTB can also apply reduced surveillance in accordance with part 1.

The audit frequency is reduced to 1 audit(s) per year.

If an ISO 9001 certificate has been withdrawn or if the plant has been the subject of a sanction, the audit frequency shall then automatically be brought back to normal monitoring (2 audits every 12 months), for a minimum period of 2 years.

3.4 Sampling

3.4.1 CASE OF IN-PLANT VERIFICATION TESTS

The auditor has samples of coated finished products taken from stock and/or in the production unit as required for testing. For some destructive testing, it is possible to take samples of products eliminated due to minor defects in terms of appearance that do not entail non-conformity of the certified products.

In-plant sampling is performed according to the following table:

Characteristics checked	Reference documents	Number of slates tested	Site	Method	Acceptance criteria
Geometric characteristics	NF EN 492	3 + 3 ⁽²⁾	U	Attribute	(0-2; 1-2) ⁽¹⁾
Bending moment	NF EN 492	3 + 3 ⁽²⁾	UM	Attribute	(0-2; 1-2) ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Decision and actions to take, by characteristic

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

- On the first population:
 - if number of defective specimens ≤ a, batch accepted,
 - if number of defective specimens ≥ b, batch rejected,
 - if a < number of defective specimens < b: the test is performed on the second population.
- On the combination of 2 populations:
 - if number of defective specimens ≤ c, batch accepted,
 - if number of defective specimens ≥ d, batch rejected.

⁽²⁾ Systematic periodic verifications are carried out in the manufacturer’s laboratory, by double sampling. Sampling is divided evenly among the batches selected. Tests marked U are to be carried out in the manufacturer’s laboratory (in absence thereof, then in the mark laboratory). If there is a non-conformity, tests marked M are to be carried out in the mark laboratories.



3.4.2 CASE OF SAMPLING FOR CORROBORATION TESTS

For corroboration tests, 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 within the deadline set during sampling, unless the auditor decides to assume responsibility for them. Samples are to be sent within 15 days of the audit date. The following number of slate samples is taken:

- 6 slates for the bending check, according to the operating procedure described in Standard NF EN 492 in force.

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

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

If holders fail to send the sample(s) to the mark laboratory within the time required by CSTB, penalties may be applied to them (sanction, suspension).

When modifications declared as minor have been made to the products or when changes also declared as minor (*) have been made to the production process for the products and the holder cannot prove that these changes do not affect the certified characteristics, samples are systematically taken and tests are performed in the mark laboratory to check the characteristics involved.

In the case of an additional audit, the tests generated by the non-conformity observed are conducted by the mark laboratory.

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

3.4.3 CASE OF SAMPLING FOR RETESTING WHEN NON-CONFORMITIES ARE OBSERVED IN THE MARK LABORATORY

If non-conformities are observed during testing at the mark laboratory, the auditor collects samples remotely or at the applicant/holder's site during the audit scheduled in the second half of the year:

- 6 slates for the bending retest according to the operating procedure described in Standard NF EN 492 in force.

If non-conformities are observed during retesting (at the mark laboratory), CSTB shall decide on the type of sanction to apply to the holder.

3.5 Testing

3.5.1 ADMISSION OR EXTENSION APPLICATION TESTS

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

A test report is prepared and remitted to the applicant.

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

NOTE: Type testing refers to tests conducted once on a new product or each time a significant modification is made (*) to the product, which may result in one or more changes to the certified specifications.

(*) Example: addition of a new raw material.

These tests are set out in the table below:

Characteristics checked	Requirement	Assessment method	Site	Number of samples	Compliance criteria
GEOMETRIC CHARACTERISTICS					
- Length - Width - Thickness	NF EN 492 (variations in dimensions)	Attribute	U	13 + 13 ⁽²⁾	(0-3; 3-4) ⁽¹⁾
- Squareness (he)	Equal to 2 mm max.	Attribute	U	13 + 13 ⁽²⁾	(0-3; 3-4) ⁽¹⁾
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS					
- Density - Bending moment - Impermeability ⁽³⁾	NF EN 492 NF EN 492 NF EN 492	Attribute Attribute -	UM UM UM	13 + 13 ⁽²⁾ 13 + 13 ⁽²⁾ 3	(0-3; 3-4) ⁽¹⁾ (0-3; 3-4) ⁽¹⁾ NF EN 492
CLIMATIC PERFORMANCES					
- Freeze-thaw ⁽³⁾ - Heat-rain ⁽³⁾ - Warm water ⁽³⁾ - Soak/dry ⁽³⁾	NF EN 492	NF EN 492	UM U UM UM	10 10 10 10	NF EN 492

⁽¹⁾ Decision and actions to take, by characteristic.

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

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

⁽²⁾ Systematic periodic verifications are carried out in the manufacturer's laboratory, by double sampling. Whenever samples are collected, they are always divided evenly from among the batches selected for the inspection.

Tests marked U are performed in the manufacturer's laboratory (in absence thereof, in an authorised laboratory that is a member of the EA European Cooperation for Accreditation) – see signatories on the COFRAC website (www.cofrac.fr).

Tests marked M are to be carried out in the mark laboratories.

Samples are to be taken from 3 different production days.

⁽³⁾ Tests may be conducted in the manufacturer's laboratory subject to a favourable additional audit.



3.5.2 TESTS ON THE CERTIFIED PRODUCT (FOLLOW-UP)

Tests are performed in accordance with the standards and additional specifications set out in Part 2 of the certification reference system.

Follow-up tests are arranged based on dual verification on slate with the same day number:

- 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).
- Tests on certified characteristics are carried out in a mark laboratory. A test report is prepared and remitted to the holder.

In the case of an additional audit, the tests generated by the non-conformity observed are conducted by the mark laboratory.



Part 4

The 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.

4.1 The certifying body

The QB mark is the property of 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)

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

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

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 body(-ies), designated the audit body(-ies):

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Direction Enveloppe Du Bâtiment
Division Façades, Couvertures et Toitures (FaCeT)
84, avenue Jean Jaurès
Champs sur Marne
F-77447 Marne La Vallée Cedex 2

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

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

4.3 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:

Centre Scientifique et Technique du Bâtiment (CSTB)

Direction Energie et Environnement
Division Enveloppe et matériaux Innovants
24, rue Joseph Fourier
F-39300 GRENOBLE

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

4.4 Subcontracting

The different functions described in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 may be carried out, after opinion from the Specific Committee, where appropriate, by other audit bodies or recognised laboratories with which CSTB has established a sub-contracting or testing recognition agreement.

4.5 Specific Committee

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

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

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

It can be consulted about any other question pertaining to the application concerned and, in particular, about any interpretation of the certification reference system with a view to 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.

Its composition is as follows:

- A President chosen from the members of the colleges defined below;
- A Vice Chairperson: a representative of CSTB;
- Manufacturers College (Holders): from 2 to 4 representatives;
- Users/Specifiers college: from 2 to 4 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 Committee.

The Specific Committee issues decision notifications and its members shall be precluded from receiving any remuneration for the functions entrusted to them.

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

The members of the Specific Committee formally undertake to keep confidential all information, particularly of an individual nature, 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' College, one representative of the 'Users/Specifiers' College and one representative of CSTB. It may call upon professionals, external individuals or holders that are not members of the Specific Committee.



Part 5 Glossary

Admissibility:	Study of a dossier which enables the application to be examined. The admissibility relates to the administrative and technical parts of the dossier.
Admission:	Application by 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 respect it.
Applicant/Holder:	<p>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.</p> <p>Any person who modifies the container and/or content of the product (for example, packets or loose cement distribution) becomes an applicant and may not be considered as a retailer. Therefore, this person must apply for the right of use.</p>
Audit:	See Standard NF EN ISO 9001.
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:	Application by which a holder wants to benefit from the right to use the QB mark for a new product or a new production entity.



Distributor:	<p>Body that distributes the applicant/holder's products and that does not modify the conformity of the product to the requirements of the QB mark.</p> <p>Distributors may be of the following types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- distributors who distribute the product under the holder's trademark. In this case, no action is to be taken as part of the QB mark.- distributors who distribute the product after changing the trademark. The applicant/holder shall apply to maintain the right of use. <p>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.</p> <p>Depending on the various operations carried out by the applicant/holder or the distributor, the sites audited and the audit duration within the framework of initial certification or monitoring are to be defined case by case.</p>
Environmental Declaration:	<p>Data based on the analysis of the product's life cycle, used for computing the environmental impacts of works into which the product subject to the Environmental Declaration is likely to be integrated (see also www.inies.fr)</p> <p>This Environmental Declaration is to be drawn up under the responsibility of an applicant/holder (individual data sheet) or of an association (common data sheet).</p> <p><i>Note: Other environmental declarations are regarded as equivalent, in particular, the 'Environmental Product Declaration' (EPD) and the 'Product Environmental Profile' (PEP).</i></p>
Extension:	<p>Application by which a holder requests the extension of their right to use the QB mark for a certified product with characteristics that have been modified.</p>
Granting of the right to use the QB mark:	<p>Authorisation granted by CSTB to an applicant to affix the QB mark on the product for which the application has been submitted.</p>
Maintenance:	<p>Application by which a holder requests the maintenance of their right to use the QB mark for a product intended to be marketed by a distributor under a different brand and/or trade reference, but without modifying the certified characteristics.</p>
Product:	<p>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.</p>
Renewal:	<p>Application by which the holder requests the renewal of their right to use the QB mark before the validity of their QB certificate ends.</p>



Representative [EEA]:	<p>Public body or individual based in the EEA who represents the applicant/holder 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.</p> <p>The representative may be the distributor or importer; their different functions are clearly identified.</p> <p>The representative concept is vital when applicants are outside the EEA. Depending on the markets, the distributor concept may not be relevant.</p>
Shift:	<p>8 consecutive hours of production by the same production team.</p>
Subcontracting:	<p>A company carries out some of the production steps for the certified products, under the control of the QB mark holder.</p>
Suspension:	<p>Decision communicated by CSTB which cancels the authorisation to use the QB mark temporarily and for a specified period of time. The suspension may be issued as a sanction or in the event that the right to use the QB mark is temporarily abandoned by the holder.</p> <p>Suspension is accompanied by a ban on using the mark on future products. It shall be for a maximum period of 6 months, renewable once, following which a withdrawal of the right to use the QB mark shall be announced if no action has been initiated by the holder.</p> <p>The sanction notifications which affect the usage right (suspension/withdrawal) are signed by CSTB Management.</p>
Warning:	<p>Non-suspensive sanction notified by CSTB. The product is still marked, but the holder must correct the deviations observed within a defined time period. When a warning is accompanied by an increase in the number of inspections, the actions must be launched within a defined time period. The warning may only be renewed once.</p>
Withdrawal of the usage right:	<p>Decision communicated by CSTB to cancel the right to use the QB mark. A withdrawal may be pronounced as a sanction or in the case of abandonment of the QB mark usage right by the holder.</p>