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# **General Rules for Product Certification by the co-operation of certification bodies (GRPC)**

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# **1 The Cooperation of Certification Bodies (CCB)**

## **1.1 General**

CCB was established with the purpose of implementing certification in a co-operation between European certification bodies (CB) according to Annex A, Table 1.

The intention is to implement product certification on basis of European standards dealing with plastic piping systems in the fields of drinking water in combination with hygienic requirements of the European member-states notified to the European Commission.

The co-operation is based on these General Rules of Product Certification (GRPC) wherein the mutual recognition of surveillance reports from accredited inspection bodies as well as the acceptance of test reports of accredited test laboratories is specified.

## **1.2 Procedure**

Each certification body (CB) will grant certificates with the own quality mark and therefore shall follow the certification procedures as agreed with the national Accreditation body (according to EN ISO/IEC 17065), see Annex A, Table 2.

## **1.3 CCB certification documents**

The certification bodies of the CCB agree to the following documents:

- *“General Rules for Product Certification by the co-operation of certification bodies”*. (GRPC).
- Product Evaluation Guidelines according to Annex B

## **1.4 Certification activities**

For gaining and maintenance of the CB's certificate, the executed activities as described below will follow the accredited certification system of the CB:

- a) Initial factory inspection
- b) Test reports for initial factory inspection
- c) Test reports for type testing
- d) Control surveillance of 3rd party
- e) Test reports of audits (Factory Production Control, FPC)

## **2 Principles**

### **2.1 Certification bodies (CB) procedures**

Each CB shall grant and maintain the own certificate, the own certification rules shall be followed (see Annex A, Table 2);

### **2.2 Rules for the applicant:**

- each CB application procedure shall be followed separately (application form, etc.);
- the technical and quality requirements of the product to be certified are described by the relevant Product Evaluation Guideline (PEG), see Annex B.

### **2.3 Auditing and testing**

Activities under point 1.4 are recognized by all CCB members, if:

- The activities a) and d) are executed by auditors qualified according to the requirements defined in point 3.2
- the activities b), c), and e) are executed by an accredited testing lab according to the requirements defined in point 3.2

### **2.4 Suspension**

Suspension of the certificate is the responsibility of each CB according to their own certification rules (see Annex A, Table 2).

### **2.5 Availability of information**

All relevant documents are available at the internet sites of the CCB members.

As there are:

- this GRPC;
- the product certification guideline
- the documents of Annex A, Table 2;
- all relevant application forms;
- any other information for the applicant.

### **2.6 Communication**

Any agreed change in procedures (see point 3) or requirements will be communicated in an agreed timeframe prior to this change.

### **3 CCB platform**

Parallel to the own accredited certification system, the CCB will have a platform where the following activities will be agreed on:

#### **3.1 Requirements and procedures**

- BoS revises the GRPC when BoS considers this to be necessary;
- BoS or an expert group in behalf of BoS. revises the product evaluation guidelines (PEGs) when CCB in agreement with the BoS considers this to be necessary;

#### **3.2 Internal quality aspects**

BoS will decide about the acceptance of new CCB members;

- Test laboratories shall be accredited according EN ISO/IEC 17025 for all conducted testing by a European approved accreditation body (EA-MLA).
- Auditors have to be qualified by the CCB according to the requirements in Annex C. Under the rules of EN ISO/IEC 17065, it is the responsibility of each CB separately to qualify the auditors.  
The evaluation of the qualification shall be recognized by all CB's.

Frequently the CCB will evaluate all activities in relation to the cooperation, as there are:

- Suspensions;
- Quality of reporting;
- Quality of testing;
- Internal communication;
- Quality of requirements;
- Quality of external communication;
- Complaints of stakeholders;
- Inspection frequency
- Etc.

#### **3.3 Inspection frequency**

Inspection will be twice a year by one of the qualified auditors (see point 3.2).

#### **3.4 Language**

All reports shall be in English.

### **4 Board of Stakeholders (BoS)**

The BoS was established with the purpose of implementing certification in co-operation between certification bodies.

Parallel to the own accredited certification system, the CCB will be part of a platform: The Board of Stakeholders (BoS) will advise the CBs concerning all relevant quality matters.

Note:

The BoS includes representatives of the suppliers of the products and representatives of the participating CB's.

## Annex A

### Certification bodies of the CCB

Table 1 show the certification bodies of the CCB including an indication about the conformity mark an applicant can apply for in dependence on the design pressure of the piping system. (The common national design pressure groups are shown in the table).

Table 1: - Certification bodies of the CCB

Certification body	Design Pressures
<p><b>KIWA N. V.</b>                      Sir Winston Churchilllaan 273                      Postbus 70                      2280 AB RIJSWIJK                      The Netherlands</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@kiwa.nl">info@kiwa.nl</a>  <a href="http://www.1kiwa.com">www.1kiwa.com</a></p>	<p><b>KIWA conformity mark:</b>  <b>10 bar (MPa)</b>  <b>8 bar (MPa)</b></p>
<p><b>DVGW CERT GmbH</b>                      Josef-Wirmer-Straße 1- 3                      D-53123 Bonn                      Germany</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@dvgw-cert.com">info@dvgw-cert.com</a>  <a href="http://www.dvgw-cert.com">www.dvgw-cert.com</a></p>	<p><b>DVGW CERT conformity mark</b>  <b>10 bar (MPa)</b></p>

Pipes with higher design pressure can used for installation systems with lower design pressure level.

Table 2: - certification procedures

CB	CB will certify according to <sup>1)</sup>	Conformity mark
Kiwa N.V.	The KIWA regulation for certification, version 15-10-2017	See Guideline BRL-K536 K
DVGW CERT GmbH	DVGW Rules of procedure, 2017	See ZP 8803

Remark: These documents are publicly available and can be found on the internet site of the CB.

## ANNEX B

### Reference to Product Evaluation Guidelines (PEG)

The document refers to the following Product Evaluation Guidelines:

**W001** “for the *certification of multilayer piping systems of PE-X/Al, PE-RT/Al, PP-R/Al, and PP-RCT/Al intended for the transport of hot and cold drinking water inside buildings*”,

## ANNEX C

### Qualification of Auditors

#### Basis qualification SAS and WAS

Basic competence criteria	Evaluation method	Evidence
Knowledge of ISO/IEC 17065, Certification, testing, CI policies and internal procedures	<b>SAS, WAS:</b> Exam ISO/IEC 17065 (positive result) (An approved training on internal quality control for products)	Exam dd. XX + results
Knowledge of business processes, Skills to make professional judgments <sup>[1]</sup>	<i>Relevant working experience:</i> <b>SAS</b> : 1 year <b>WAS:</b> 2 year	CV + Motivation
	<i>Relevant technical thinking and working level comparing to<sup>[2]</sup>:</i> <b>SAS, WAS:</b> vocational education (MBO)	Diploma dd. XX(or motivation)
Site assessment skills <sup>[3]</sup>		
	<b>SAS, WAS:</b> 4 site assessments including 1 independent under supervision. 1 Witness of independent site assessment	Assessment report dd. XX Assessment report dd. XX Witness report dd. XX Motivation
Knowledge for performing witness audits	<b>WAS:</b> Lead Auditor Course (ISO 9001)	Diploma dd. XX

**SAS** = Site assessor (auditor)

**WAS** = Witness Assessor (witness auditor for qualification of the SAS)

CV = Curriculum vitae

[1] For hired site assessors working for and qualified by another accredited product certification body, this criteria is not applicable;

[2] A lower level of education is possible if someone has 5 years of working experience regarding quality management.

[3] Adequate language skills, skills in report writing, presentation skills, interview skills. For hired site assessors working for and qualified by another accredited product certification body a witness executed by this certification body is also valid;

## Expert Qualification for PEG W 001

General competence	Site assessor (SAS + WAS)
General education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate technical vocational education</li> </ul>
Knowledge of company processes Competence for professional evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 years work experience</li> <li>Audit training</li> </ul>
Technical competence	
Knowledge of the PEG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Witness inspection</li> <li>Knowledge of the chapters of the PEG, which relate to the quality system and the tests.</li> </ul>
Relevant knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The technology involved with producing the products to be inspected, the execution of processes and the provisioning of services.</li> <li>The way products are used, processes are applied and services are rendered;</li> <li>Any deficiency that can occur during use of the product, any mistake that can be made during the use of a product and any imperfection in the rendering of services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intermediate technical vocational education work and intellectual level.</li> <li>At least 1 year of experience in production, testing, inspection and or in the installation trade, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3x inspections under supervision</li> <li>1x independent inspection</li> </ul> </li> <li>Or internal training course including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3x inspections under supervision</li> <li>1x independent inspection</li> </ul> </li> <li>Or 3 -5 years employee in test laboratory               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3x inspections under supervision</li> <li>1x independent inspection</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**ANNEX D**  
**Application form PEG W001:**

for certification of multilayer piping systems of PE-X/Al, PE-RT/Al, PP-R/Al, and PP-RCT/Al intended  
for the transport of hot and cold drinking water inside buildings

General data (conform Chamber of commerce)	
Name organisation	
Contact person	Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.
Position	
addressee :	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>DVGW CERT GmbH</b>
send to	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Kiwa Nederland B.V.</b>
please indicate on form	<a href="mailto:wohlgemuth@dvgw-cert.com">wohlgemuth@dvgw-cert.com</a>
E-mail	<a href="mailto:rob.goutier@kiwa.nl">rob.goutier@kiwa.nl</a> and/or <a href="mailto:UnitPlasticPipingSystems@kiwa.nl">UnitPlasticPipingSystems@kiwa.nl</a>
Address	
Zip code and city	
Mailing address (if different)	
Telephone / Fax	
E-mail	
Website	
Chamber of commerce nr.	
VAT nr.	
External consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Organisation..... Name consultant.....

Specific product information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial certification (First application for system)	<input type="checkbox"/> Extension (of existing certificate)
	Take over <input type="checkbox"/> From Kiwa Nederland B.V. for DVGW CERT GmbH <input type="checkbox"/> From DVGW CERT GmbH for Kiwa Nederland B.V.
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> remarks: (in additional annex if necessary)

Other
Construction drawings pipes, fittings Possible Test reports from ISO 17025 accredited laboratories

Planning	
In which period would you like the initial audit to take place?	

**General:**

Application For:	Desired approval:	Field of application:
Piping System:	<input type="checkbox"/> Kiwa	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 / 8 bar
Commercial name	<input type="checkbox"/> DVGW CERT GmbH	<input type="checkbox"/> Class 2 /10 bar

Certificate language in:

- English  
 German  
 Dutch

Dimensions:

Diameter (mm)	Wall thickness (mm)

**Pipes:**

Pipe construction	Material (type material / supplier)	Producer	DVGW/Kiwa certificate number.
Multilayer M-pipe (Al)	Inner layer: Inner adhesive: Aluminum layer: Outer Adhesive: Outer layer:		

Production location (if different from producer):

**Fittings:**

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<b>Joining technique</b>	<b>Material</b> (type material / supplier)	<b>Producer</b>	<b>DVGW/ Kiwa certificate number</b>
Compression	Body:  Compression ring:  Nut:  Rubber O-ring:		
Press Press profile: .....	Body:  Press sleeve:  Rubber O-ring:		
Push	Body:  Compression ring:  Nut:  Rubber O-ring:		
Sliding Sleeve	Body:  Compression ring:  Sliding sleeve:  Rubber O-ring:		

Production location (if different from producer):

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Any other remark: