





The Role of Certification Body in the Product Certification Process


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23 November 2011





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What is Product Certification?

Product certification

An activity by which a third party gives written assurance that a product (including process and service) complies with specified standards and other normative documents (e.g. product certification scheme).



What is Product Certification?

Five essential elements of product certification

- Product
- Product certification scheme
- Manufacturer (Applicant for product certification)
- Accreditation body
- Certification body




What is Product Certification?

Product certification scheme (Cl. 3.2 of ISO/IEC Guide 67)

Product certification system related to specific products to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply

Example: QSPSC for ready mixed concrete in Hong Kong



What is Product Certification?


The certification body (CB)

- operates a third-party product certification system (i.e. Type 1b, 2, 3, 4 or 5 as described in ISO/IEC Guide 67: 2004) for specific types of product
- is in conformity with all relevant standards / regulations, e.g. ISO/ IEC Guide 65 1996
- implements an effective quality management system which is in conformity with the requirements of accreditation criteria of an Accreditation Body e.g. **HKAS in Hong Kong**
- is conformity with all relevant standards / regulations, e.g. ISO/ IEC Guide 65 1996

What is Product Certification?

Importance of Obtaining Accreditation

It means that the certification body has been assessed against internationally recognised standards to demonstrate its competence, impartiality and performance capability.



System 5 Product Certification System

Elements ^a of product certification system	Product certification systems ^{b, c, d}					
	1a	1b	2	3	4	5
1) Selection ^a (sampling), as applicable	x	x	x	x	x	x
2) Determination ^a of characteristics, as applicable, by:	x	x	x	x	x	x
a) testing (ISO/IEC 17025)						
b) inspection (ISO/IEC 17020)						
c) design appraisal						
d) assessment of services						
3) Review ^a (evaluation)	x	x	x	x	x	x
4) Decision on certification Granting, maintaining, extending, suspending, withdrawing certification	x	x	x	x	x	x
5) Licensing (attestation) Granting, maintaining, extending, suspending, withdrawing the right to use certificates or marks		x	x	x	x	x
6) Surveillance, as applicable by:						
a) testing or inspection of samples from the open market			x		x	x
b) testing or inspection of samples from the factory				x	x	x
c) quality system audits combined with random tests or inspections						x
d) assessment of the production process or service				x	x	x

System 5 Product Certification System

(ISO/IEC Guide 67):

- a) Samples requested by CB
 - CB will arrange the selection of representative product samples for audit testing.
- b) Determination of characteristics by testing
 - CB will arrange audit testing to determine products' conformity to requirements in certification scheme/ standard, and

System 5 Product Certification System

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- c) Initial assessment of the production process and the quality system
 - CB will conduct document review and audits to applicant's office and plant - i.e. Stage 1 and Stage 2 Initial Audit .
- d) Evaluation (Review) of the test and assessment findings
 - CB will review results/information obtained from audit testing or assessment of products.

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- e) Decision on certification
 - CB will decide whether to grant the certification according to assessment and test results
- f) Licensing - the right to use certificates or marks
 - CB will decide whether to grant the right to use certificates or marks on products

System 5 Product Certification System

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- g) Surveillance of the production process or quality system or both of the organization
 - CB will carry out surveillance visits to plant and office of the certified manufacturer at regular intervals.
- h) Surveillance by testing or inspection of samples from the factory or the open market, or both
 - CB will arrange audit testing of products, obtained from the factory or open market.

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

As a third party in a competent manner to

- maintain complete integrity and impartiality in all circumstances of certification activities;
- make decisions relating to the granting, maintaining, extending, suspending and withdrawing of certification, extending or reducing the scope of certification; and performing re-evaluation;
- have the capability to performing and arranging testing, inspection, evaluation, and certification processes

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Ensuring Initial Type Testing / Audit Testing

- Samples selected by the CB audit team
- Chain of custody
- Laboratory appointed by CB
- Testing witnessed by the audit team
- Results to be reviewed by the audit team

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Verifying Production Processes

- Criteria and handling of incoming raw materials
- Design of products
- Control/ criteria of various operations by means of inspection and testing
- Actions to be taken if control values not obtained
- Training of production personnel
- Statistical techniques
- Product packing and delivery
- Product traceability

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

In-house Quality Control and Laboratory Inspection

- Records of inspection and testing of raw materials / final products
- Calibration and maintenance records of testing equipment
- Training records of QC staff

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Issuance of Certification of Conformity

Address	Description	Product Model
PCCS-TA	Product conformity certification to IS 9001:2008	(S.M. The PCCS-TA 2008 (CERT))
		(S.M. The PCCS-TA 2008 (CERT))

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Monitoring the Use of Certification Mark

- Product
- Packaging materials
- Quotations
- Delivery notes
- Stationery
- Brochures and other advertising media

PCCS-TA
BSEN 12004:2007
Product Model : XXXXX

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Use of HKCAS Accreditation Symbol

- Stationery
- Literature
- Advertisements
- Not on product
- Not on packaging materials



Certificate No. XXXX

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Market Surveillance

Market surveillance is conducted and samples of the product from factory or the market are assessed for ongoing conformity.

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

Maintaining Directory of Certified Products

- Certification No.
- Manufacturer's name
- Certified plant
- Product details – brand / model
- Product certification scheme
- Classification / rating of product to scheme requirements

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

In product certification process, the role of certification body is to be :-

- Screener
- Auditor
- Witness

Role of Certification Body in Product Certification

In product certification process, the role of certification body is NOT to be :-

- Police
- Consumer Council
- Buyer

~ Thank You ~

