

**NSAI**

Agrément

NSAI Agrément Certification

Information, Guidance & Certification Process

This Information Pack sets out the general Agrément Certification process applicable to construction products and systems. Applicants seeking certification of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) systems should read the NSAI MMC Toolkit, which provides additional guidance and requirements relevant to MMC assessments. The NSAI MMC Toolkit is available at:

www.nsai.ie/mmc-toolkit

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1.0 About NSAI

The National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) is Ireland's official standards body and national certification authority, established under the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act 1996. NSAI develops standards, provides certification services, and supports industry, regulators, specifiers and consumers through independent conformity assessment activities. NSAI operates certification schemes and acts as a Notified Body under the Construction Product Regulations. Through its Agrément function, NSAI provides independent technical assessment and certification services for innovative construction products, systems and processes intended for use in the Irish construction market.

2.0 What is NSAI Agrément Certification?

NSAI Agrément Certification is an independent technical assessment and certification process for construction products, systems and methods. Agrément Certification provides an independent technical opinion on whether a product or system is capable of satisfying the relevant requirements of the Irish Building Regulations.

Agrément Certification is particularly relevant where a product, system or construction method is innovative, outside the scope of existing standards, or where additional evidence is required to demonstrate performance, durability and suitability for Irish conditions.

Agrément Certificates are widely used by designers, specifiers, developers, contractors, assigned certifiers and other stakeholders as part of the evidence supporting the selection and use of innovative construction products and systems in projects subject to the Irish Building Regulations.

3.0 Benefits of Agrément Certification

Agrément Certification provides an independent technical assessment of a construction product, system or method and can offer several benefits to manufacturers, designers, specifiers, contractors, developers and building owners. These benefits may include:

- ✓ Independent assessment against the requirements of the Irish Building Regulations, taking account of the climatic, environmental and construction conditions applicable in Ireland.

- ✓ Comprehensive technical investigations of the manufacture, design and installation of a product or system to assess its suitability for use in Ireland.
- ✓ Greater clarity for designers, specifiers and assigned certifiers when evaluating and specifying construction products and systems.
- ✓ Reduced uncertainty where products or systems fall outside the scope of existing manufacturing, design or installation standards.
- ✓ Independent verification of performance claims through the assessment of testing, calculations and other supporting technical evidence.
- ✓ Clearly defined conditions for the design, specification, installation, maintenance and use of a product or system.
- ✓ Enhanced confidence among clients, insurers, funders, designers and regulatory stakeholders in the selection and use of innovative construction products and systems.
- ✓ A recognised source of technical evidence that can support project-specific compliance assessments and technical due diligence activities.
- ✓ Facilitates the adoption of innovative construction products and systems by providing an independent technical opinion on their use in Ireland.
- ✓ Ongoing certification surveillance and manufacturing oversight, where applicable, helping to maintain confidence in the consistency of the certified product or system.

4.0 Limitations of Agrément Certification

- Does not transfer responsibility or liability for the design, manufacture, specification, installation or use of a product or system. Responsibility remains with the relevant project stakeholders.
- Does not replace CE Marking, an ETA, or other applicable conformity assessment requirements.
- Is not a building control, planning or statutory approval.
- Does not guarantee performance in every application or set of circumstances.
- Does not replace professional judgement, appropriate design, specification, installation or workmanship. Does not certify a completed building or construction project, nor

demonstrate overall compliance with the Irish Building Regulations.

5.0 The Agrément Certification Process

5.1 Overview of the Agrément Certification Process

NSAI Agrément Certification is a structured, evidence-based process used to assess the suitability of innovative construction products and systems for use in Ireland. The process consists of four stages: Application, Technical Assessment Specification (TAS), Assessment and Certification. The principal stages are illustrated in Figure 1.

5.2 Stage 1 – Application

NSAI reviews the application, determines the suitability of the product or system for Agrément Certification, and defines the proposed assessment scope in an assessment contract.

5.3 Stage 2 – Technical Assessment Specification (TAS)

A project-specific TAS is developed, setting out the assessment criteria, evidence requirements, testing, calculations and audits necessary for certification.

5.4 Stage 3 – Assessment

The applicant submits the required evidence and NSAI conducts reviews, audits and site visits, where applicable, to assess compliance with the TAS.

5.5 Stage 4 – Certification

Following completion of the assessment, the technical dossier and draft certificate are independently reviewed. Where certification is granted, the Agrément Certificate is finalised and published on the NSAI Agrément Directory.

5.6 – How the Process Works

The Agrément Certification process is designed to guide applicants from initial application through to certification in a clear and structured manner. Figure 1 provides an overview of the principal stages of the Agrément Certification process.

5.7 – Indicative Assessment Timelines

The time required to complete an Agrément assessment will vary depending on the complexity of the product or system and the availability, quality and completeness of the information submitted. All timeframes shown in Figure 1 are indicative only.

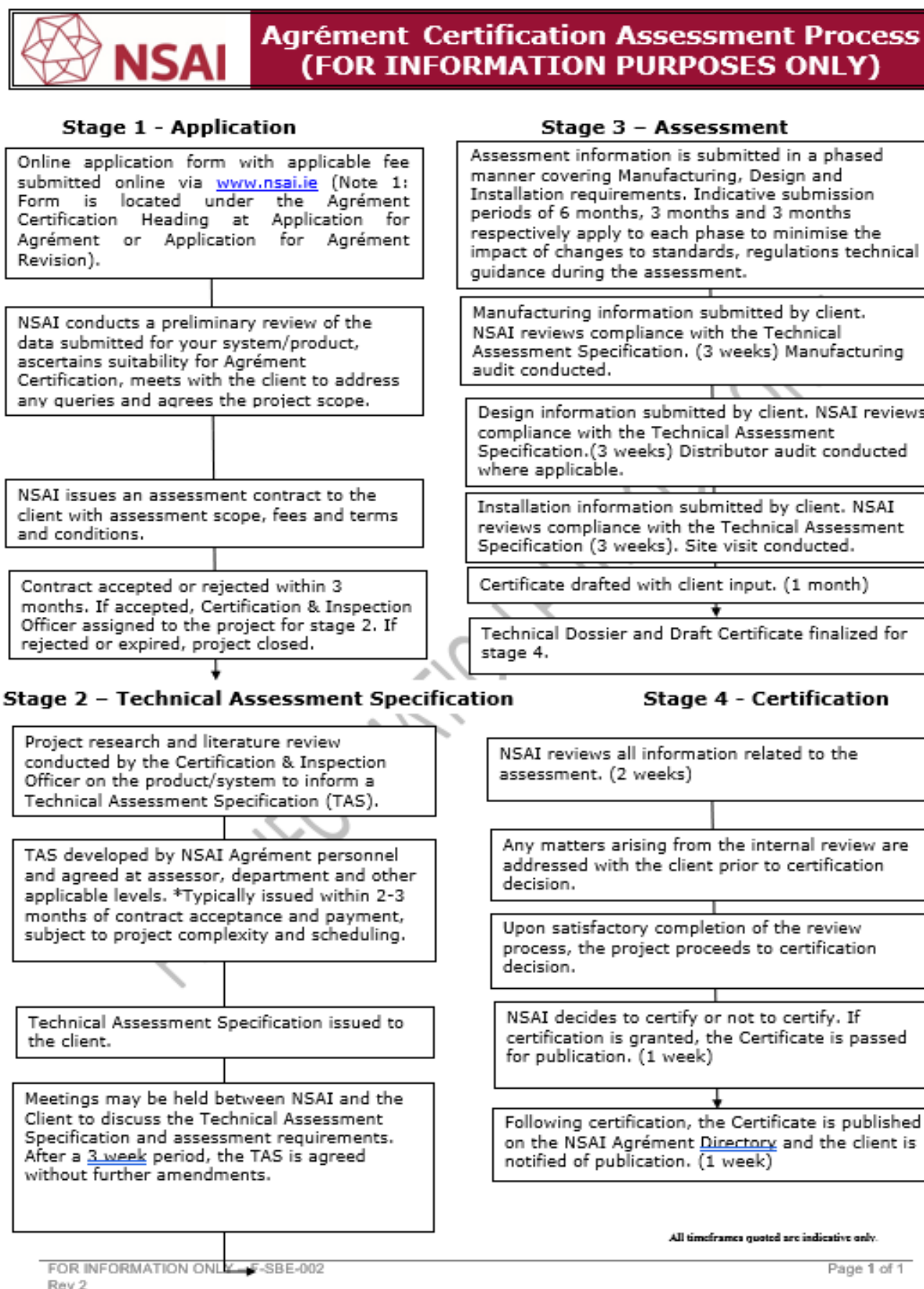


Figure 1 – Agrément Certification Process

6.0 Fees and Charges

6.1 Application Fees

Application type	Fee
Application for a new NSAI Agrément Certificate	€1,800 plus VAT
Application for revision of an existing NSAI Agrément Certificate	€900 plus VAT

The applicable fee must be submitted with the application. Where the assessment proceeds, the application fee will be deducted from the assessment contract fee.

6.2 Product Assessment Fee

Product assessment fees are determined on a project-specific basis and depend on the scope, complexity and technical evidence associated with the assessment. Where an agreed change to the assessment scope results in additional work, NSAI may require a revised assessment contract fee.

6.3 Annual Product Registration Fees

Following certification, the applicable annual product registration fee is determined by the relevant fee category.

Category	Annual Fee
Category A	€4,400
Category B	€3,575
Category C	€2,750

Discounts of 10%, 20% and 30% apply to annual registration fees where a company holds two, three, or four or more Agrément Certificates respectively. The maximum annual registration fee payable by any certificate holder is €12,000 plus VAT.

6.4 Surveillance and Certificate Review

Following publication of an NSAI Agrément Certificate, an annual surveillance audit is conducted by NSAI to verify continued compliance with the certificate. The surveillance audit fee is €1,800 per day, excluding VAT and any applicable foreign travel expenses.

Agrément Certificates are subject to review every three years to ensure that they continue to reflect current regulations, standards, technical guidance and product specifications. Following initial review of any proposed changes, NSAI will provide a quotation for any further review activities considered necessary.

6.5 Additional Costs and Conditions

All fees are exclusive of VAT. Travel expenses for audits outside Ireland and the preparation of certificate graphics are not included in the stated fees. Where the assessment scope changes during the certification process, NSAI may revise the assessment fee accordingly.

7.0 Preparing for Agrément Certification

7.1 Evidence Requirements

Agrément Certification is an evidence-based assessment process. Applicants are required to provide sufficient technical information to demonstrate that the product or system is suitable for its intended use in Ireland. The information required for each project is defined within the Technical Assessment Specification (TAS) developed during the assessment process.

7.2 Information Typically Required

Depending on the nature of the product or system, assessment information may include:

- Product specifications and technical literature.
- Test reports and performance data.
- Design calculations and engineering assessments.
- Manufacturing and quality management documentation.
- Installation manuals and training procedures.
- Factory Production Control (FPC) documentation.
- Evidence relating to durability and maintenance.

7.3 Applicant Responsibilities

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all information submitted to NSAI is complete, accurate and representative of the product or system being assessed. The applicant remains responsible for demonstrating the suitability, performance and intended use of the product or system and for providing evidence to support any claims made.

7.4 Assessment Policies and Requirements

Current NSAI Agrément policies are available on the same NSAI webpage as this Information Pack and should be reviewed before an application is submitted. These documents set out the assessment requirements, acceptance criteria and evidential expectations applicable to Agrément Certification and may affect the suitability of a product or system for assessment. Policies, procedures and guidance may be amended from time to time. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that they have reviewed

the current versions of all applicable documents before and throughout the assessment process.

8.0 Next Steps

NSAI Agrément supports innovation in the construction sector and is committed to providing a clear and structured pathway for the assessment of innovative construction products, systems and methods intended for use in Ireland.

Applicants are encouraged to review the NSAI Agrément policies, guidance documents and supporting information available on the same webpage as this Information Pack. These documents are intended to help applicants understand the assessment process and prepare the technical evidence required for certification.

Key points for applicants include:

- ❑ Review the current NSAI Agrément policies and guidance documents before submitting an application.
- ❑ Familiarise yourself with the assessment requirements, evidential expectations and acceptance criteria relevant to your product or system.
- ❑ Applicants seeking certification of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) systems should review the NSAI MMC Toolkit in conjunction with this Information Pack before submitting an application.
- ❑ Once the Technical Assessment Specification (TAS) has been issued, review the assessment requirements against the technical evidence, test reports and supporting documentation already available for your product or system. Where gaps are identified, engage proactively with your Certification & Inspection Officer to agree how these requirements can be addressed. Applicants should be aware that existing certifications, evaluation reports or technical assessments may not cover all characteristics relevant to Irish regulations, climatic conditions or intended use, and additional evidence may therefore be required.

The online Agrément Certification application form, together with relevant policies, guidance documents and supporting information, is available on the NSAI Agrément webpage at www.nsai.ie. Should you decide to apply for Agrément Certification, we look forward to engaging with you throughout the assessment process and working with you to establish the certification requirements applicable to your product or system.

If you experience any difficulties with the online application process, please contact sustainability@nsai.ie or +353 (0)1 807 3800, and we will be pleased to assist.

Further Information

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