

Acceptance of Test Reports for Agrément Certification Policy

1.0 Purpose

This policy sets out the requirements governing the acceptance of test reports and test data used to support NSAI Agrément assessments. Its purpose is to ensure that all technical evidence supplied as part of an Agrément assessment is:

- Reliable, traceable and technically valid;
- Appropriate to the product/system being assessed;
- Compliant with ISO/IEC 17025 principles for competent testing; and
- Sufficient to support NSAI's responsibilities as an accredited ISO/IEC 17065 Product Certification Body.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to all NSAI Agrément certification activities, including:

- New certifications, revisions and reviews;
- All product or system categories for which external test data are submitted;
- Situations where test data originate from accredited, non-accredited, internal or external test bodies.

3.0 Definitions

Test Report: A document presenting test results, methods, conditions, personnel qualifications, and traceability information.

Accredited Laboratory: A laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by a recognised national accreditation body (e.g., INAB, UKAS) or by a body covered under ILAC/EA multilateral agreements.

Non-Accredited Laboratory: A laboratory not accredited for the specific test(s) performed.

Representative Sample: A product sample that accurately reflects standard production and quality characteristics.

4.0 General Requirements for Accepting Test Data

4.1 Age of Test Reports

Test reports submitted for Agrément assessments should generally be no more than five years old.

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In certain cases, older test reports may be acceptable if the manufacturer can provide evidence that both the material tested, and the applicable test standard have not changed since the original testing. This option must be agreed on a project-specific basis with the NSAI Certification & Inspection Officer overseeing the assessment at technical assessment specification stage.

4.2 Relevance and Applicability

All test results must:

- Correspond to the exact product/system being certified;
- Employ the correct test methods for the performance characteristics under evaluation;
- Demonstrate compliance with the minimum performance thresholds specified in NSAI's Technical Assessment Specification (TAS).

5.0 Acceptance of Test Reports from Accredited Laboratories

Test data from laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for the specific test method(s) will normally be accepted without the need for additional NSAI investigation, provided that:

- ✓ The accreditation status is current and valid at the time of test;
- ✓ The accreditation covers the exact test method(s) performed;
- ✓ All required technical details are included in the report.

6.0 Acceptance of Test Reports from Non-Accredited Laboratories

Where test data is provided by a laboratory not accredited for the test(s) performed, NSAI will conduct a structured technical judgement to determine acceptability.

Assessment will consider the following factors:

- Significance of the tested characteristic to overall product fitness;
- Independence and impartiality of the organisation;
- Competence of personnel performing and authorising the testing;
- Adequacy and clarity of the test method, including references to standards and documented procedures;
- Appropriateness of test equipment, including calibration status and suitability;
- Environmental and procedural controls during sample conditioning and testing;
- Traceability to national or international standards;
- Completeness, clarity and format of the test report.

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NSAI reserves the right to:

- Require supplementary evidence or re-testing;
- Require a laboratory assessment aligned with ISO/IEC 17025 principles;
- Witness testing when necessary to confirm reliability.

7.0 Sampling, Product Identification and Traceability Requirements

Test reports submitted should provide sufficient detail to demonstrate that the samples tested reflect standard production. As a minimum, it is expected that materials used in the test programme are fully traceable.

8.0 European Technical Assessments (ETAs)

Where an applicant or certificate holder seeks to rely on a European Technical Assessment (ETA) in support of an NSAI Agrément assessment, a complete copy of the current ETA shall be provided to NSAI, together with the associated Evaluation Report and all supporting test reports referenced within the ETA assessment process. Applicants should not assume that acceptance of an ETA will automatically satisfy all evidence requirements for Agrément Certification. It is important to recognise that ETAs do not necessarily assess all characteristics relevant to use in Ireland, for example, some characteristics may not be assessed or may be declared as “NPD” (No Performance Determined). Additional testing, assessments or technical evidence may be required to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Irish Building Regulations and suitability for Irish climatic and environmental conditions. It is therefore important that applicants review the requirements of the Technical Assessment Specification (TAS) at an early stage and compare these against the evidence already available, as identifying and addressing any information gaps can have a significant impact on assessment scope, timelines and costs.

9.0 Format and Content Requirements for Test Reports

All test reports submitted must contain the following minimum elements:

- Title, test method references, test dates and report issue dates;
- Accreditation details (where applicable);

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- Description of the test item(s), including sample dimensions, conditioning procedures and batch identification;
- Detailed methodology and equipment used;
- Full numerical results, including units and uncertainty where applicable;
- Photographs, diagrams or setup descriptions where needed;
- All European technical assessments, evaluation reports and test reports submitted for Agrément assessments must be clear, legible and in English.

10.0 NSAI Rights and Responsibilities

NSAI may:

- Reject test reports that lack sufficient detail or that do not meet the above criteria;
- Request clarification or additional evidence;
- Specify required test methods or additional testing through a Technical Assessment Specification;
- Require retesting in an accredited or NSAI-approved laboratory;
- Conduct surveillance or witness assessment activities.

11.0 Review and Revision of this Policy

This policy is subject to periodic review and may be revised by NSAI from time to time to ensure its continued suitability and effectiveness.

12.0 Queries

For queries regarding the interpretation or implementation of this policy, applicants should contact their Certification & Inspection Officer before commissioning any external testing to ensure that test programmes will be acceptable to NSAI.