

Some facts about certification

Certification is the provision by an independent body of written assurance (i.e. a certificate), that the product (or service) meets specific requirements. Certification can be a useful tool for a manufacturer to add credibility, by demonstrating that its product can meet the expectations of its customers.

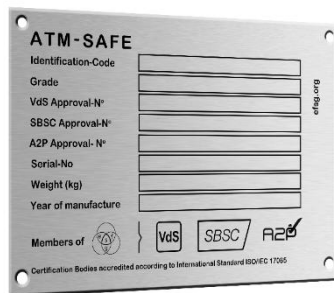
Third party certification (or approval) is a conformity assessment process, carried out by a body that is independent of both supplier and customer organisations. It provides confirmation that products and services have met and will continue to meet the requirements of specified standards and other normative documents.

When choosing a certification body it is recommended to use one that is accredited, as this provides independent confirmation that the certification body is competent and operating according to international standards.

The certification services offered by EFSG members are accredited third party type 5 certification schemes to ISO EN 17065 and comprise initial type testing and technical evaluation, assessment and surveillance of the manufacturer's quality system and production procedures, regular audit testing, labelling and listing, all ensuring the highest possible quality of fire and security products.

New EFSG plate for ATM Safes

A new plate for ATM safes certified using the multiple certification process has been endorsed by EFSG. Following requests from industry, all the certification marks and certificate numbers of the signatories of the applicable mutual recognition agreement can now be displayed on one single plate.



Thereby saving the costs of multiple plates and the associated handling plus end users can clearly see which certifications are obtained.

The plate is available to all applicants, providing the ATM safe has at least two certificates issued by EFSG member certification bodies under the mutual recognition framework.

Cyber-Security for safety/security devices

With cyber-crime on the increase, defence against cyber-attacks should be firmly at the top of the agenda of manufacturers of connected devices.

Cyber-attacks fall into two broad categories: breaches in data security and sabotage. Sabotage can take the form of denial of service attacks, which flood web services with bogus messages, as well as more conventional efforts to disable systems and infrastructure.

In addition to public relations problems, disruption of operations and the possibility of losing either a fire information or the capacity to alert when intrusion is detected, cyber-attacks may also expose an organisation to regulatory action, negligence claims, the inability to meet contractual obligations and a damaging loss of trust among customers and suppliers.

With the right level of preparation and specialist assistance, it is possible to mitigate the risks of a cyber-breach and its consequences. An analysis, by an independent third party, of the vulnerabilities related to cyber attacks of the devices, of their associated protocols of communication and of their applications on smartphones or others, will help the manufacturers to give confidence to the market.

Through its members, EFSG is able to offer cyber-security assessments of devices, protocols and applications, operating in the fire and security sectors.

For further details contact EFSG members:



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EFSG News

European Fire and Security Group

About EFSG

EFSG is an association of certifiers working in the fields of fire and security. Its members are established certification bodies who work together with testing laboratories that have high international popularity and reputations.

The certificates and accompanying marks issued by EFSG member certification bodies are highly regarded and help ease market entry for the providers of products and systems. Products displaying the certification marks indicate they are of superior quality.

EFSG supports the use of individual certification marks because the certification body owners vigorously protect their use, acting quickly to remove false claims and counterfeit product from the market, which is to the benefit of manufacturers, specifiers and end users alike.

EFSG creates mutual recognition agreements based on EN standards in order to facilitate the sharing of test results. This is so that manufacturers can obtain multiple certification from the member certification bodies without the need to duplicate testing. Thereby saving time and avoiding unnecessary costs.

The harmonised approach to product certification established by EFSG makes sure that all member certification bodies and their associated testing laboratories operate on a common basis.

Experienced laboratories

To achieve associated testing laboratory (ATL) status, the laboratory must successfully complete a comprehensive technical audit that examines its testing capabilities, resources and importantly, confirms that its employees possess experience and in depth knowledge of the product areas.

Further checks are made prior to the laboratory becoming signatory to one or more of the mutual recognition agreements. These checks are specific to the particular EN standards within the scope of the agreements and involve the comparison of test results with the existing signatories via a series of round-robin testing exercises. Activities which are necessary to achieve the high level of quality and consistency expected.

The auditing processes performed by EFSG are undertaken by experts in the specific product areas and are technically deeper (peer assessments) than those performed by the national accreditation bodies and other pan European certification organisations in operating in the fire and security industry.



To ensure quality and technical knowhow are maintained, the certification bodies and their ATLs also participate in frequent technical exchanges and ongoing auditing programmes.

Promoting best practice

Through the work of its development groups EFSG promotes best practices in the field of the testing and certification. Furthermore, its members actively participate in International and European standards working groups helping to shape and improve standardisation worldwide.

The needs of manufacturers and distributors of components of fire protection systems and intrusion alarm systems have changed with the

globalisation of the markets. The exploitation of new economic areas reinforces the need for well-established certification marks, which grant access to a lot of economically interesting markets. EFSG is able to match the needs of manufacturers and distributors with the requirements of other market participants such as regulators and specifiers.

Benefits of third party certification

A frequent concern of stakeholders is in knowing whether a product will perform in accordance with the stated specifications, whether related to performance, safety, health or environmental impacts, durability, compatibility and suitability for the intended purposes. These issues can all be addressed through product certification.

Specifying third party certified products helps to reduce risk by demonstrating due-diligence and best endeavour and mitigates against possible accusations of negligence.

Manufacturers can also benefit from increased sales. The certification marks of EFSG members are widely recognised and in some territories can be a mandatory requirement.

Certification often adds value to a product (or service) and can help reduce liability for the producer and its customers by demonstrating due-diligence.

For more information and access to the EFSG mutual recognition agreements, please visit www.efsg.org