

TECHNICAL NOTE WSA TN-08

PRODUCT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS (Normative)

1 SCOPE

This Technical Note (WSA TN-08) sets out product conformity assessment requirements to supplement the conformity testing and assessment requirements of the product Standard(s) called up in a duly nominated (e.g. WSAA) Product Specification.

2 RELEVANCE

Asset owners, specifiers, regulators and procurement agencies typically rely on Type 5 product certification that has been undertaken by third party Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs). WSA TN-08 sets out supplementary requirements to be undertaken by CABs and incorporated into CAB sponsored product certification schemes. WSA TN-08 may be called up as a requirement by Asset owners, specifiers, regulators and procurement agencies in regulatory and contractual agreements that involve the supply of products.

3 ACCREDITATION OF LABORATORIES AND FACILITIES

For acceptance, the testing and calibration laboratories and facilities shall be accredited as meeting the requirements of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* by a signatory member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). The scope of laboratory/facility accreditation shall include the competencies and capabilities required to execute the particular product testing and calibration work to be undertaken.

NOTE In Australia, the appropriate signatory member of ILAC MRA is the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA).

4 PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

4.1 Products, in respect of which conformity with the nominated product Standard(s) is claimed, shall, for acceptance, be assessed in accordance with an acceptable product certification system and shall be subject to the issue of a certificate of conformity with the nominated Standard(s) by a duly accredited CAB.

NOTE Product certification is an impartial third-party attestation of product conformity with nominated Standard(s).

4.2 The certification scheme applied to demonstrate product conformity with the nominated product Standard(s) shall:

- a) be based on AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17067 *Conformity assessment – Fundamentals of product certification and guidelines for product certification schemes* and meet the criteria of ISO/IEC TR 17026, *Conformity assessment -- Example of a certification scheme for tangible products*;
- b) include product type testing from independently sampled production;
- c) require the manufacturer's production processes and associated controls to be part of a quality management system that has been certified as meeting the requirements of AS/NZS ISO 9001, *Quality management systems - Requirements*; and shall
- d) include subsequent verification that the manufacturer continues to maintain effective production control and product conformity with the nominated product Standard(s), at intervals not exceeding 12 months.

NOTE The certification scheme should assure consistent product conformity with the requirements of the nominated Standard(s) from the certificate of conformity date of issue to its expiry date.

4.3 The Conformity Assessment Body shall apply the minimum sampling and testing frequency plan and associated requirements detailed in the nominated product Standard(s) for the purpose of verifying product conformity. However, alternative sampling and testing frequencies that are nominated in a product manufacturer's quality management system and associated (documented) management system procedures may be applied for the purpose of product certification, where the manufacturer can clearly demonstrate adequate process control over all stages of production to the CAB.



4.4 Product certification shall be undertaken by a CAB that has been accredited as meeting the requirements of AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17065, *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services*, by a signatory member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Arrangement (MLA). The scope of (certification body) accreditation shall include the competencies and capabilities required to assess and certify conformity of tangible products, as defined in ISO/IEC TR 17026 *Conformity assessment -- Example of a certification scheme for tangible products*, with particular (relevant) product standards.

NOTE In Australia, the appropriate signatory member of the IAF MLA is the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ).