

Indoor Air Comfort - Product Certification

An innovative tool for achieving better Indoor Air Quality

Eurofins is operating an innovative tool for achieving better Indoor Air Quality by using products indoors with low release of chemicals into indoor air. The product certification programme Indoor Air Comfort may help building owners, planners and architects to select low polluting products and to achieve good Indoor Air Quality. And it will help manufacturers to promote their low emission products better than before.



Why "Indoor Air Comfort"?

Most people spend more than 80% of their time indoors, if not more. Therefore many are concerned about Indoor Air Quality. While this is mainly a subject of proper ventilation, another important element of Indoor Air Quality is pollution - from surrounding outside air, and from products and materials used indoors.

Regarding emissions of chemicals from products, nowadays in very most cases these do not pose a threat of severe intoxication. But too high emissions of formaldehyde and volatile organic compounds (VOC) may lead to bad odour and to irritation of eyes, throat and skin.

Low emission and low indoor air pollution makes you feel comfortable, without any irritation or bad odour, and knowing that you are protected against health threats.

Sustainable "Green" building

More and more buildings are built sustainable, and there is a growing "Green Building" movement in many countries. Besides saving energy and resources, also healthy indoor air and use of low emitting products are helping to rate a building after its completion as "green". Examples of such rating schemes are LEED, DGNB, HQE, BREEAM, ...

Why product certification?

There are some regulations and many voluntary labels characterising low emission products. Although having the same goal, these rating systems are different per country and per industry. And - most of these are only testing once and then stamping the product with their label.

Emission rating based on one test is describing the situation as of today. Certification is more - it is a forecast of low emission, based on continuous control, auditing and re-testing. This increases reliability and end-user trust in the promised properties.

No re-invention of the wheel

Eurofins "Indoor Air Comfort" product certification does not re-invent the wheel. This certification shows compliance with all relevant European specifications. A certified product can apply for what ever other label on basis of test report as regards emissions into indoor air. Other properties required by such labels are not dealt with here and shall be evaluated separately by manufacturer in case of interest.

Principles

Eurofins "Indoor Air Comfort" product certification shows compliance with emission requirements of all relevant European specifications on two levels:

Standard level "Indoor Air Comfort - certified product" shows compliance of product emissions with the specifications issued by authorities in the EU.



Higher level "Indoor Air Comfort GOLD - certified product" shows compliance of product emissions with all related specifications in the EU and additionally with the specifications of all relevant voluntary labels.



A certified product can apply for whatever other label on basis of the test report as regards emissions into indoor air. But Eurofins "Indoor Air Comfort" certificate may be used as such - e.g. in countries and for products where no public low emission label exists.

Eurofins test reports can be used for:

- DIBt / AgBB, Germany (floorings, parquet coatings, adhesives)
- AFSSET, France (all building products)
- M1, Finland (all building products)
- Blue Angel, Germany (many different products)
- Umweltzeichen, Austria (many different products)
- Danish Indoor Climate Label (many building products)
- GuT, Europe (carpets)
- EMICODE, Europe (adhesives, sealants, parquet coatings, and more)
- CertiPUR, Europe (PUR foam)
- CertiPUR US (PUR foam)
- Californian Section 01350 (many building products + furniture)
- LEED EQ credits
- FloorScore (USA) (floorings)
- BIFMA (USA) (office furniture)
- Green Label, Hong Kong (several building products)
- Nordic Ecolabel ("Swan") (several building products)

Organisation

1. Initial type test of sample in test chamber (testing schedule may differ by product group);
2. Reporting of test results (specifications may differ by product group);
3. Contract between manufacturer and certification body, including agreements on actions for maintaining low VOC emissions from labelled products, e.g. on details of production, exclusion of certain raw materials, factory production control, quality documentation;
4. Initial external audit of relevant manufacturing site(s); audit report including the relevant documentation;

5. Certification process, including evaluation of test and audit reports, granting or denying of certificate according to the IAC criteria;
6. Periodic external audits by Eurofins incl. survey of emission relevant elements of quality documentation;
7. Periodic re-testing for ensuring reliability of claims on low emissions;
8. Continuous monitoring and improvement of specifications, testing and auditing methods.

International perspective

Eurofins is about to establish cooperation with certification organisations in the USA. Soon it may be possible to go through one certification process only and then be certified for Europe and for the USA.

Why work with Eurofins:

- Eurofins Product Testing is the world market leader for VOC product emission testing, with recognition by numerous labels in many different countries.
- Eurofins offers independent product testing with high quality and targeted consulting.
- Eurofins certification increases public trust in low emission statements.
- Eurofins certification makes life easier by combining specifications of different countries and different labels into one certificate.
- Eurofins is your global partner for independent testing, documentation and certification.

Contact

For more information, please contact your local Eurofins representative, or send an email to

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Or see our homepage:

www.product-testing.eurofins.com, then search for keyword IAC

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