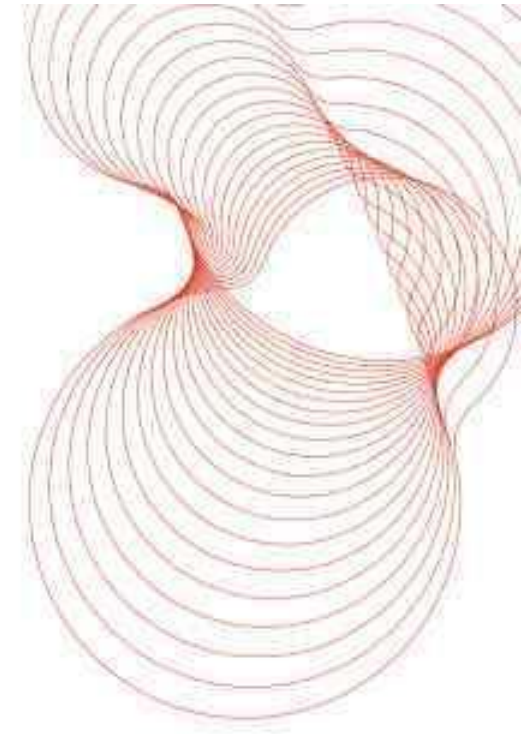


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Certification and the UK Microgeneration Scheme

- Dr. John Holden
- BRE Certification Ltd



What is certification?



Independent third party confirmation that a product or service complies with a specific standard and continues to comply, through:

- independently drafted testing plan
- independent and competent testing
- independent review of test results against a technical standard
- surveillance of production and assessment of management system
- audit sampling and testing

- assessment of competence to design, install, commission and service installations to relevant rules and codes of practice and issue of Certificate of Conformity

Why have certification?

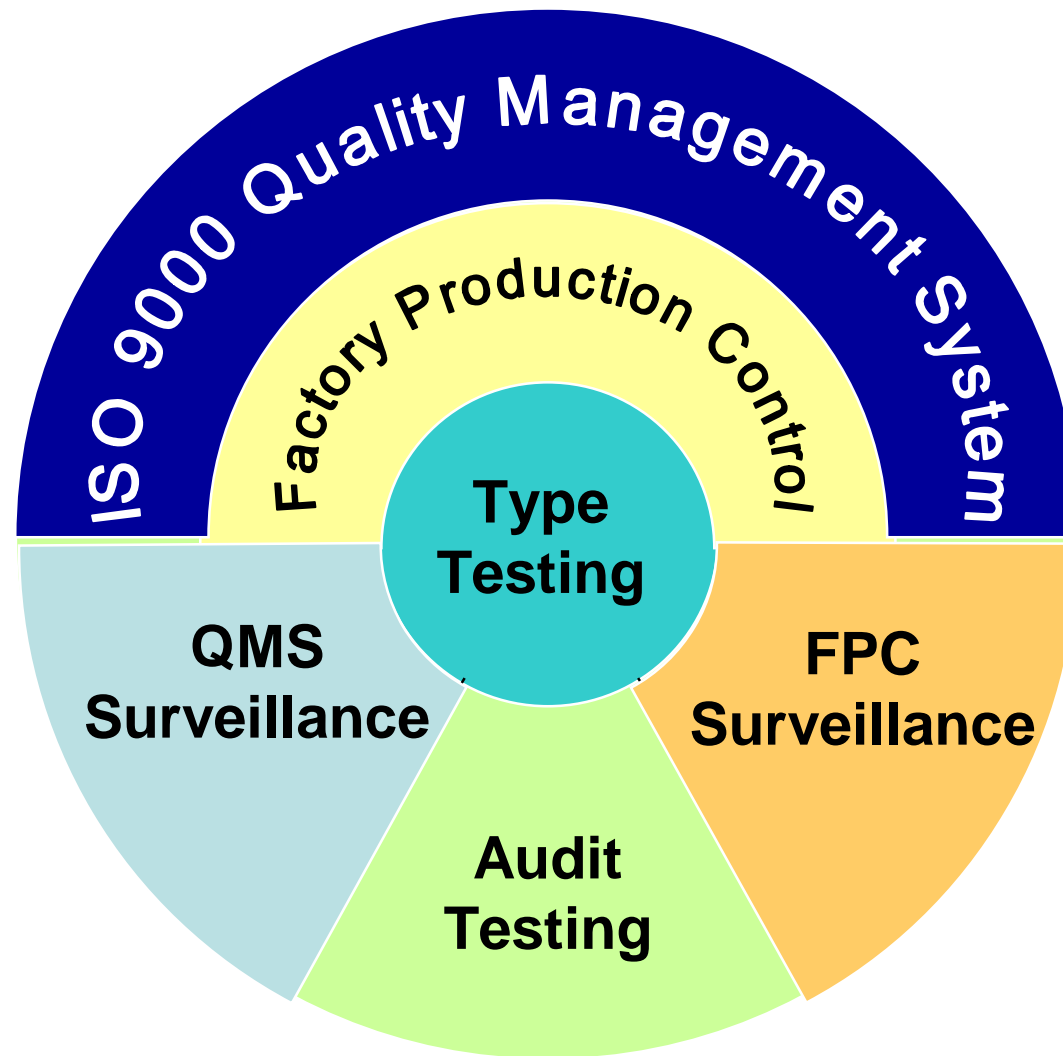
Common claims:

- “Complies with ...”
- “Designed to ...”
- “Tested to ...”



These claims are no guarantee that products will meet the right standards or that they will continue to do so.

What does certification involve?



Standards for certification

- National, European or International standards
- Building Regulations
- Loss Prevention Standards (LPS) developed in collaboration with industry, clients, insurers and regulators
- Microgeneration Standards (MIS, MPS) for microgeneration manufacturers and installers



A sobering thought



“It's a very sobering feeling to be up in space and realize that one's safety factor was determined by the lowest bidder on a government contract.”

Alan B Shepard



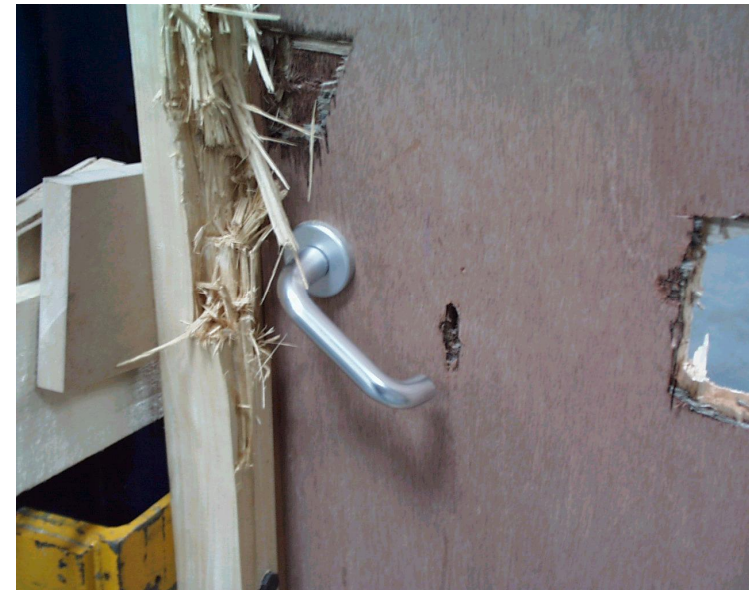
The performance gamble



More than **90%** of the products we test initially fail

Think about the gamble that:

- specifiers take if they do not specify independently approved products
- manufacturers take in making some of the claims of performance they make!



Could you spot the difference?



Product A



Product B





We can

..... and it could prevent a lot of problems!

Product A

Product B



Requirements of a certification body



The body providing certification should itself be accredited:



Accreditation confirms that we are operating correctly and is part of our risk management process

The accreditation standard for installer and product certification is EN45011.

The UK Microgeneration Certification Scheme



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Background

- Microgeneration rapidly growing in the UK
- More needs to be done to build consumer confidence to support continued growth
- UK DTI awards a contract to BRE Certification to develop and manage a microgeneration scheme
- Build on the experience gained from earlier schemes (Clear Skies, PV)
- Scheme to be capable of UKAS accreditation



Technologies Included

Solar Domestic Hot Water
Solar Photo Voltaic
Micro Wind
Micro Hydro
Biomass
Heat Pumps
Micro Combined Heat and Power
Renewable Combined Heat and Power
Fuel Cells



Purpose of scheme

- Provide assurance to consumers on product and service quality
- Set realistic expectations for consumers and provide a robust complaints procedure
- Give recognition and differentiation to companies providing good quality products and services in the market place



Objectives of Scheme



- Use our technical capability, independence, objectivity and impartiality to build confidence in industry and consumers.
- Set up a steering committee and working groups with appropriate representation to establish the standards and scheme requirements for each microgeneration technology
- Facilitate entry to the new scheme through the recognition of existing standards, skills and codes of practice



Objectives of Scheme cont.

- Set up installer certification scheme able to meet UKAS requirements
- Set up product certification scheme able to meet UKAS requirements
- To define skills and training requirements for certificated installers
- To define the acceptable test methods and performance requirements for microgeneration products



Key Scheme Requirements

- Stakeholder representation
- Set up technology specific Working Groups
- Review standards, specifications, guides & best practice
- Agree certification requirements
- Develop standards (MIS and MPS)
- Transition to new scheme enabling phasing out of the old Clear Skies and PV schemes



Scheme Status



- Currently over 160 applications from microgeneration installers
 - 110+ Existing Clear Skies and PV
 - 50+ new applicants
- Scheme currently undertaking pilot assessments of installers
 - PV, Solar, Wind
 - Heat Pumps awaiting 'sign-off' from Steering Group
 - Very positive feedback from assessments
- Product assessments will begin shortly
 - Draft standards for PV, Solar, Wind, Heat Pumps awaiting 'sign-off' from Steering Group
 - Pressure from manufacturers and importers of new and non Clear Skies/PV products



Anticipated Heat Pump Requirements



- Standards still to be ‘signed-off’ by the Steering Group
- Quality systems
- Installation
 - Capability/training
 - Code of Practice (REAL Code)
 - Documentation
- Performance
 - EN14511
 - Based on CoPs (SPFs to follow)
 - Verification of manufacturers test results
 - Ongoing factory and product audits



Conclusion

- Microgeneration is rapidly growing in popularity
- Some established technologies and some new ones
- Need to build consumer confidence and protect integrity of the market
- Robust scheme to enable quality manufacturers and installers to differentiate themselves
- Installer scheme underway, more technologies to follow, 160+ applications to date
- Product scheme to follow – already demand from manufacturers



THANK YOU



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