

	Specification	A 01 December 2020
		Revision 7

CONDITIONS FOR USING THE SKZ-MARK

The conditions for using the SKZ-mark comprise 7 pages.
These conditions take effect as of 1 January 2021 and supersede all
previous conditions of the product certification body of SKZ.

1 GENERAL

A lot of plastic products are certified in a legally not regulated field by SKZ - Testing GmbH, for example according to their own Specifications for Tests and Inspection defining the test procedure, approval and inspection for various products considering the general state of art. The SKZ-mark is known worldwide and well reputed on the market. The SKZ-mark ensures that the product continuously meets the high requirements of the technical specification (Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH and standards). The SKZ-mark guarantees a qualification of the manufacturer's product towards inferior products. Craftsmen using certified products can work properly with reliable products. Consumers can rely on high-quality products with a SKZ-mark in every respect of an inspected and certified production. A continuous high quality protects people, environment and buildings.

2 AWARD

2.1 After having received an informal order the product certification body of SKZ - Testing GmbH grants the right to use the SKZ-mark (certificate) for products, especially made of plastics, provided the following conditions are fulfilled:

2.2 Prerequisites for the award and maintenance of a SKZ-mark:

- the presentation of a positive test report of an initial type test conducted by a testing laboratory accredited in compliance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH, according to the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or other relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines,

the requirements and details for this proof are stipulated in the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or in relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines,

- the conclusion of an inspection contract,
- the conclusion of a certification contract,
- the positive assessment of the factory production control at the specific manufacturer's plant within the scope of the initial inspection by an inspection body accredited in compliance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH,
- the permanent compliance with the currently valid version of the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or the permanent compliance with the currently valid version of the relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines.

All aforementioned prerequisites shall be complied with in order to award and maintain the SKZ-mark.

2.3 Products and/or production groups are stipulated in the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH, in the contract or in relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines.

- 2.4 A certificate is valid for five years and may be extended for another period of five years provided that the requirements of the currently valid version of the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or the currently valid version of standards, technical regulations or guidelines will be met permanently.

3 APPLICATION

- 3.1 The manufacturer shall mark the products with the SKZ-mark. The kind of marking – injection, embossing, labelling etc. – as well as the geometric design shall be made in agreement with the product certification body of SKZ - Testing GmbH.
- 3.2 Using the SKZ-mark entails that the product shall be marked with the manufacturer's trademark and the production date. The manufacturer's trademark and the production date can be encoded, however, the decryption key shall be deposited with the inspection and product certification body of SKZ - Testing GmbH.
- 3.3 The manufacturer shall take the necessary precautions and is responsible to ensure that the products provided with the SKZ-mark comply with the minimum requirements of the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH.
- 3.4 The responsibility of the manufacturer excludes a liability of SKZ - Testing GmbH for the products.
- 3.5 The manufacturer is entitled to refer to the SKZ-mark in his commercial papers, brochures and on his homepage. However, clear reference shall be made to the products for which the SKZ-mark was awarded.

4 WITHDRAWAL

- 4.1 The manufacturer will be warned if any deviations from the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH are determined within the scope of the inspection.
- 4.2 The right to use the SKZ-mark shall be withdrawn for a limited period or permanently in case of repeated or serious infringement of the Conditions for Using the SKZ-mark and the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or the conditions stipulated in the contract or in the relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines. Prior to withdrawing the right to use the SKZ-mark from the manufacturer, the latter shall have the opportunity to comment within four weeks.
- 4.3 Upon withdrawal of the SKZ-mark, the manufacturer shall remove any reference to the SKZ-mark from his documents and products and return certificates and contracts to SKZ - Testing GmbH immediately. The same applies for a product which was produced for a distributor / company/person selling products to a merchant / seller who concluded a contract with SKZ - Testing GmbH or for the distributor / seller himself.

5 TERMINATION

- 5.1 Either contracting party can terminate the contracts in due time stipulated in the contract.
- 5.2 Products marked within the duration of the contract may be put on the market by the manufacturer up to 6 months after the termination of the contract. As regards leaflets and other documents as well as advertising brochures, all references to the SKZ-mark shall be removed within a period of 3 months after the contract termination. The same applies for a

product produced with the agreement of the manufacturer for a distributor who concluded a contract with SKZ - Testing GmbH as well as for the distributor himself.

6 PROCEDURE

6.1 General

The Specification for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH reflect the state of the art regarding the requirements to be complied with by the products as well as their design, processing and application. They are stipulated by SKZ - Testing GmbH with due regard to the technical development and the international standards.

At regular intervals, SKZ - Testing GmbH updates their own specifications and adapts them to the state of the art.

The implementation of amended requirements is monitored within the next third-party inspection, however, not later than in the following year. Other procedures can be stated in based standards, technical regulations or specifications.

If another inspection body or testing laboratory performs the third-party inspection instead of SKZ - Testing GmbH, the customer shall be informed accordingly in advance.

The SKZ - Testing GmbH is entitled to visit distributors, too, for example, to inspect their commissioned goods or stock. Distributors will be invoiced about costs raised individually.

6.2 Initial type test (ITT)

This initial type test shall assess whether the products meet the requirements.

For the initial type test (ITT) as well as in case of a change of formulation, production procedure or production site (type test TT) the tests specified in the tables of the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or the relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines shall be performed and the requirements stipulated therein shall be met. Material formulations shall be deposited at SKZ - Testing GmbH. The requirements of this proof shall be stipulated in the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or in the relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines.

If the same product is manufactured for a distributor who concluded an inspection contract with SKZ - Testing GmbH agreed upon with the manufacturer, a conformity test shall be performed on the same product produced for the distributor by a testing laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH. Kind and scope of this conformity test on the respective product are stipulated in the annex specifying the product of this specification A 01.

6.2.1 Renewed initial type test (ITT)

When the production had been interrupted for more than one year, the production conditions had been amended or a special test was negative or production site was changed, a renewed initial type test will be required may be of a reduced test scope.

6.3 Initial inspection

Within the first certification an initial inspection of the specific manufacturer's production site shall be performed by an inspection body accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020

and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH. This initial inspection shall assess whether in terms of staff and device equipment the prerequisites for a permanent proper production and corresponding factory production control are fulfilled and whether the products meet the requirements.

6.4 Factory production control

Batch release test (BRT) and process verification test (PVT) by the manufacturer

The manufacturer is responsible for the production control at the specific production site by executing tests according to the tables in the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or according to the relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines, for each machine, each dimension produced and each material formulation. Test results shall be evaluated statistically as far as possible.

The records shall include at least the following information:

- Manufacturer and production plant
- Machine and tool
- Designation of the product
- Information on the sampling
- Test results
- Overall assessment including date and signature

The records shall be stored for at least five years and presented to SKZ - Testing GmbH if requested.

If during the factory production control the requirements are only partly met or not met at all, a repeat test shall be carried out using samples from the same production batch. If the requirements are not met this time again, the batch must be rejected (e.g. removing the mark, scrap-ping the batch). The manufacturer is obliged to take immediate measures to remedy the defects.

6.5 Third-party inspection

6.5.1 Audit test (AT)

This test shall determine whether the requirements for production and inspection and the requirements stipulated for the products are still complied with.

As a rule, an inspection body accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH, performs a third-party inspection visit at the manufacturer's specific production plant twice a year based on an inspection and certification contract. Where appropriate, the monitoring frequency is regulated differently in the contract, the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or in relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines.

The following tasks are incumbent upon the inspection body:

- monitoring the factory production control including documentation
- freely selecting samples of the products contracted according to the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or other relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines at the specific production site. Samples may also be chosen individually on the market. If the same product is produced at the production site for a distributor who concluded a contract with SKZ - Testing GmbH, additional samples shall be taken of the same product produced for the distributor according to the annex specifying the product of this Specification A 01.
- on site the inspector of SKZ - Testing GmbH issues an inspection record which is countersigned by the authorized representative of the company.
- as a rule, the tests on the samples taken are performed twice a year according to the requirements of the Specifications for Tests and Inspection or relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines by a testing laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH. By way of exception, the tests can be performed at the manufacturer's plant in the presence of the inspector recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH. In the course of this it shall be ensured that calibrated test equipment is used. Where appropriate, the monitoring frequency is regulated differently in the Specifications for Tests and Inspection of SKZ - Testing GmbH or the relevant standards, technical regulations or guidelines. If the same product is manufactured for a distributor who concluded a contract with SKZ - Testing GmbH, a conformity test shall be performed on the same product produced for the distributor by a testing laboratory or by the manufacturer himself under the presence of an inspector. Kind and scope of this conformity test on the respective product are stipulated in the annex specifying the product of this specification A 01.
- issuing an inspection report which includes an assessment of the factory production control
- providing the company with a copy of the inspection report

6.5.2 Repeat test

If during the audit test according to paragraph 6.5.1 not all requirements are met, the inspection body accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH, carries out an announced repeat test along the lines of the audit test according to 6.5.1 within three months after all test results have been available. If the test is negative this time again, a follow-up test shall be performed according to paragraph 6.5.3.

6.5.3 Follow-up test

If during a repeat test according to paragraph 6.5.2 not all requirements are met, the inspection body accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020 and recognized by SKZ - Testing GmbH, carries out an announced follow-up test along the lines of the audit test according to 6.5.1 together with an inspection visit within three months after all test results have been available. If the test result of the properties criticized under paragraph 6.5.2 is negative again, the product certification body of SKZ - Testing GmbH will withdraw the SKZ-mark.

7 ABBREVIATIONS USED

AT: Audit Test
BRT: Batch Release Test
ITT: Initial Type Test
PVT: Process Verification Test
TT: Type Test

8 Annexes

Annex 1: Reduced test scope for distributors using certified pipes and fittings
(January 2017)

Würzburg, 1 December 2020

Previous editions: January 2004
May 2006
March 2011
November 2014
July 2015
January 2017
September 2018

Current edition: December 2020
Adjustment of definition of initial type test under 6.2 and adjustment of
wording under 6.3