



The Certification Mark for Onsite  
Sustainable Energy Technologies

## Microgeneration Certification Scheme: MCS 011

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**Product Certification Scheme Requirements: Acceptance  
Criteria for Testing Required for Product Certification**

**Issue 1.5**

This standard has been approved by the Steering Group of the Microgeneration Certification Scheme.

### **REVISION OF MICROGENERATION STANDARDS**

Microgeneration Standards will be revised by issue of revised editions or amendments. Details will be posted on the website at [www.microgenerationcertification.org](http://www.microgenerationcertification.org)

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## 1. Introduction

This paper sets out the acceptance criteria to be applied to testing evidence supplied by applicants for product certification under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme. Acceptance of any testing evidence will be at the discretion of the Certification Body providing the certification but at least the following criteria shall be applied.

## 2. Testing by independent, third party, test laboratories accredited for the applicable testing by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) or an equivalent accreditation body<sup>1</sup>.

Where testing is to be or has been conducted by an independent, third party, test laboratory, which is accredited for the applicable testing by UKAS or equivalent<sup>1</sup>, then the following shall apply:

2.1 The results of the testing shall be recorded in a test report(s) that shall:

- be in English (or be accompanied by an authorised translation);
- be in full, be correctly signed/authorised by the test laboratory and verify that all applicable requirements are met;
- identify the make, model number and build status of the product tested, and give details of any modifications and/or re-testing made to meet the requirements;
- be less than 4 years old (reports over 4 years old may be acceptable if there is sufficient evidence of their continued validity, (e.g. periodic surveillance of the production processes, audit testing etc.).

2.2 Additionally manufacturers shall provide a written declaration stating that the product tested was a production sample and is fully representative of the current production or identifying any modifications to the design, production processes or materials. (This

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<sup>1</sup> Accreditation bodies which are members of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) or International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) are considered as equivalent to UKAS

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should be verified during the assessment of the Factory Production Control (FPC system).

- 2.3 Where the sample tested was a prototype, or modifications have been made, an assessment shall be made by the Certification Body to determine the possible effects of these differences/modifications on the results of the tests, and to determine if any further testing or verification is required.
- 2.4 Where one or more of the required characteristics are the same for products with similar design, construction and functionality (i.e. product families), then the results of tests of these characteristics on one product may be applied to the other similar products, subject to an assessment of the validity of this approach<sup>2</sup>.
3. Testing by independent, third party, test laboratories, which are not accredited for the applicable testing or were not so accredited when the testing was conducted

Where testing is to be or has been conducted by an independent, third party, test laboratory, which is/was not accredited for the applicable testing by UKAS or equivalent<sup>1</sup>, then, in addition to the conditions set out in 2.1 to 2.4 above, the following shall apply:

- 3.1 The Certification Body shall conduct an assessment<sup>3</sup> of the test laboratory, based on the requirements of ISO 17025<sup>4</sup>, to confirm that the test laboratory has the equipment, procedures, staff, calibration status and capability to conduct the test work. This will involve witnessing the same or similar tests and reviewing other test reports and management systems information to confirm that the procedures are adequate and correctly implemented.

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<sup>2</sup> The acceptability of applying test results to similar products is at the discretion of the Certification Body and it is recommended that the test plan is agreed between the Certification Body and the manufacturer before testing is commenced.

<sup>3</sup> The costs of the required assessments of test laboratories and manufacturer's test facilities, and the witnessing of tests may be charged to the applicant.

<sup>4</sup> EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

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3.2 If the testing was conducted before the above assessment, then the test laboratory shall also provide evidence that they had the correct equipment, procedures, staff, calibration status and capability to conduct the test work at the time when the testing was conducted.

#### 4. Testing to be conducted at the manufacturer's testing facilities

Where testing is to be conducted at the manufacturers testing facilities, then, in addition to the conditions set out in 2.1 to 2.4 above, the following shall apply:

4.1 The Certification Body shall conduct an assessment<sup>3</sup> of the test facilities to confirm that the manufacturer has the capability to conduct the test work. This assessment shall at least confirm that the manufacturer has:

- adequately documented procedures for conducting the relevant tests, and analysing and recording the results ;
- the correct test and measuring equipment in accordance with the applicable standard and that all measuring equipment required for the tests have current calibration, traceable to national standards;
- adequate means to measure and control the environment in the test area to meet the conditions required by the standard;
- competent personnel with sufficient training and experience to conduct the tests and that they, or their supervisor, have adequate knowledge of the test equipment, test procedures and the equipment under test to appreciate the significance of the results obtained, and the authority to take the correct actions in the event of non-conformities being identified;

4.2 The Certification Body shall witness<sup>3</sup> at least a representative sample of the testing required for each product or product family, such that they are satisfied with the validity and integrity of results obtained. For tests with a long duration, the Certification Body should witness at least the start and/or finish of the test and should inspect the records of the test conditions or data collected to assess the validity & integrity of the results.

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## 5. Testing that has already been conducted at the manufacturer's testing facilities

In exceptional circumstances, the results of testing that has already been conducted at the manufacturer's testing facilities may be acceptable providing that, in addition to the conditions set out in 2.1 to 2.4 above, the following apply:

5.1 The Certification Body has conducted an assessment<sup>5</sup> of the test facilities, which confirms that the manufacturer has the capability to conduct the test work and that there is sufficient evidence that they had this capability at the time that the testing to be accepted was conducted. This assessment shall at least confirm that the manufacturer has and had:

- adequately documented procedures for conducting the relevant tests, and analysing and recording the results;
- the correct test and measuring equipment in accordance with the applicable standard and all of the required measuring equipment with appropriate calibration, traceable to national standards;
- adequate means to measure and control the environment in the test area to meet the conditions required by the standard;
- competent personnel with sufficient training and experience to conduct the tests and that they, or their supervisor, have/had adequate knowledge of the test equipment, test procedures and the equipment under test to appreciate the significance of the results obtained, and the authority to take the correct actions in the event of non-conformities being identified.

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<sup>5</sup> The costs of the required assessments of test laboratories and manufacturer's test facilities, and the witnessing of tests may be charged to the applicant

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- 5.2 The manufacturer has provided documentary evidence of the period during which the product has been on the market and that during this period the product has had a satisfactory track record without major problems with its performance or reliability.
- 5.3 The Certification Body has witnessed<sup>5</sup> retest(s) of at least a representative sample of the testing required and that result(s) obtained confirm the validity of the original testing (i.e. the results from the retesting compare favourably with the results from the original testing, after taking account of the expected uncertainty of the testing procedure(s)).

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## AMENDMENTS ISSUED SINCE PUBLICATION

DOCUMENT NO.	AMENDMENT DETAILS	DATE
1.1	'UK' removed from scheme name; 'Department of Trade and Industry' MCS mark replaced by 'BERR ' MCS mark	11/01/2008
1.2	Revision details added	25/02/2008
1.3	Gemserv details added as Licensee. Document reformatted to reflect brand update. References to BERR updated to DECC, MCS logo updated accordingly. Website and email addresses updated to reflect new name.	01/12/2008
1.4	Quality review	10/01/2009
1.5	MCS Mark Updated	25/02/2009