# FORCE Certification UK Limited

## ABC-CPR

### General terms for certification of products according to

### UK Construction Product Regulation.

**FORCE Certification UK Limited supplementary requirements to product certification**

**3rd Edition – September 2024**

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## 1. Introduction and Basis for product certificates

This ABC-CPR deals with the specific requirements applicable to obtain and maintain a product certification according to the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) (Regulation (EU) 305/2011 as brought into UK law and amended), international and national standards, accreditation requirements and guidelines.

In addition, FORCE Certification UK Limited (FC UK) General Conditions apply. The General Conditions is enclosed to our contract or order confirmation and on our homepage www.forcecertification.co.uk. In case FC UK uses subcontractors for testing the general conditions of the subcontractor is also valid. These conditions will be enclosed to the order confirmation. None of the informative guidelines or other conditions can replace the requirements described in this ABC.

FC UK issues Constancy of Performance (CCP) certificates to manufacturers of products according to:

| | Harmonized standard | Title |
|---|---|---|
| Construction Product Regulation (CPR)<br>(Regulation (EU) 305/2011 as brought into UK law and amended) | EN 50575 | Power, control, and communication cables – Cables for general applications in construction works subject to reaction to fire requirements |

The technical regulations for testing and product design are stated in the product standards.

Issued and valid certificates are the property of FORCE Certification UK Limited.

## 2. General

The terms in this ABC must be met to achieve a certification of products.

Manufacturers who apply for product certification shall sign a certification agreement with FC UK. This certification agreement states the conditions for Factory Production Control (FPC), follow-up inspections or audits performed by FC UK and the extent of testing and methods.

## 3. Application for product certification

The manufacturer shall ensure all necessary information and/or documentation is made available to FC for performing the evaluation of the product or production.

The following activities must be conducted when a manufacturer applies for a product certification of a product:

1. The manufacturer forwards an application form together with information (product specification) covering the product.
2. For Assessment and Verification of Constancy of Performance (AVCP) methods 1 or 1+ FC UK prepares a testing program according to the relevant standard for mutual confirmation
3. FC UK prepares an agreement of the quality system audit program.

It is not permitted to apply for certification of a given product from more than one Approved Body.

The manufacturer shall give examiners and inspectors from FC UK access to the products and the production, including (if relevant) access to equipment, facilities, personnel, and subcontractors.

## 4. PRODUCT CERTIFICATION ACCORDING TO CPR

Testing and inspection performed during conformity assessment on products according to the Construct Product Regulation (CPR) shall be conducted according to the specific designated standard.

a) For AVCP method 1 and 1+ both type testing and audit of the Factory Production Control (FPC) is performed by an approved body. Prior to type testing the location for sampling of test specimen shall be agreed between the manufacturer and FC UK, and the sampling is subsequently performed under the responsibility of FC UK. The agreed location for sampling should ensure a random selection and traceability to the certified product. Type testing is performed by an accepted and accredited laboratory within the scheme. After successful completion of the type testing and initial audit of the manufacturers Factory Production Control System, the Certificate of Constancy Performance may be issued.

After successful completion of the product certification a Declaration of Performance (DOP) may be drawn up with reference to FC UK as approved body and UKCA-marking may be applied to the certified products together with the FC UK approval number 8534.

## 5. CHANGE IN STANDARDS, RULES OF ACCREDITATIONS AND GUIDELINES

If the requirements to achieve and maintain a product certification according to the regulation, international and national standards, accreditation requirements and guidelines are changed within the period of validity of the contract the manufacturer shall implement these requirements before date of commencement. The certification contract shall be changed accordingly.

## 6. MODIFICATION OF THE PRODUCT OR PRODUCTION CONDITIONS

It is the obligation of the manufacturer to immediately notify FC UK in the case of foreseen modification of the product. Any changes may affect the product certificate and FC UK will together with the manufacturer decide the character of the changes.

The definition of major changes in the product specification is defined as "changes, which require new tests to be performed." If major changes are made the following activities shall be performed:

- the manufacturer forwards the revised product specification to FC UK
- agreement on a supplementary test program will be prepared and the program must be executed as described in 4.

Minor changes in the product specification are "changes, which do not require further tests to be performed." In this case the manufacturer forwards the description of the changes to FC UK, who evaluates, stamps, and signs the documentation.

The manufacturer is also obliged to inform FC UK of any changes to the production conditions such as changes to e.g.:

- legal, commercial, organisational status or ownership
- organisation and management – e.g., changing of quality manager or technical key personnel.
- changing of production places/sites
- essential modification of the management system (quality)

## 7. RECORDING OF COMPLAINTS

The manufacturer is obliged to set up a registration of complaints relevant to certified products in accordance with this ABC. This register shall

- register all complaints, which the manufacturer learns about concerning the products compliance with the requirements in the regulation or relevant standards.
- be made available to FC UK


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The manufacturer shall take appropriate action with respect to such complaints.

The manufacturer shall document the actions taken.

## 8. RULES FOR COMMUNICATION OF THE CERTIFICATION

At every reference of the customer's certification, the customer must make sure that:

- the requirements of FC UK are met when the customer refers to certification status in the media such as the Internet, brochures, or advertisements or in other documents.
- there is made no misleading declaration about the certification.
- the impression will not be given that the certification is valid for activities beyond the scope of the certification.
- the certification will not be used in such a way that could bring discredit on FC UK and/or the certification system and reduce the trust of the public.
- certificates are published in full only, and regarding extracts only with FC UK's permission in writing.
- all documentation or communication, which refers to the certification is to be stopped immediately if the certification is suspended, withdrawn or the scope is reduced.

## 9. RULES FOR USE OF CERTIFICATION MARK

UKAS's accreditation mark must not be used by the manufacturer. This includes any use of the mark on certified products, documents, or any kind of material (including electronic and digital use) created by the customer, manufacturer, or legal representatives.

Any application of FC UK's certification mark must be approved in writing (confirmation) by FC UK.

For application of mark the following minimum rules apply:

- the mark must be reproduced in its entirety in a reasonable size and uniform colour and must be accompanied by the number of the standard that the certificate covers.
- the mark may only be used in a manner which promotes the company's certified product.
- the mark must not discredit the certification attained.
- all use of the logo must stop immediately at the expiry of the period of validity of the certificate.
- all use of the mark and all documentation or publicity referring to the certificate is ceased immediately if the certification is suspended or withdrawn.

After issuing a certificate of constancy of performance according to the Construction Product Regulation, the client may use the FC UK identification number 8534 on the types of products included in the certificate.

Rules for marking of products are described in CPR.

## 10. CERTIFICATE WITHDRAWAL

Should the manufacturer decide not to maintain the certificate, FC UK will cancel the certificate after giving similar written notification according to the certification agreement.

FC UK has the right at any time to withdraw a certificate, a certification agreement, the use of our Approved Body no. 8534 or our certification mark, under the following circumstances:

- if the manufacturer has given misinformation
- if the test results do not fulfil the specified requirements after retesting
- if the manufacturer does not take corrective action within the time limits agreed upon
- if the manufacturer misuses the certificate or the mark
- if the manufacturer does not comply with the financial terms and conditions of the certification agreement
- if the manufacturer in any way brings discredit on FC UK or violates the certification agreement.

A manufacturer must be notified in writing of withdrawals and the letter must include information about complaint procedures.

FC UK will make public any such certificate suspension, withdrawal, or cancellation in the manner, that FC UK finds most relevant in the specific case. In all cases FC UK is obliged to inform other Approved Bodies and or the Secretary of State where certification is refused, suspended, withdrawn, or reduced.

## 11. CONFIDENTIALITY

FC UK treats all information gained by its representatives, including any sub-suppliers during the certification process or in any other manner as strictly confidential and will not pass on such information to unauthorised persons without the written consent of the company in question.

FC UK has taken measures to ensure that confidential information is not accessible to unauthorised persons.

FC UK is under an obligation, upon request, to supply UKAS with all necessary information for its surveillance with the accreditation.

FC UK is under obligation to receive surveillance visits by UKAS, and the company must accept that such a surveillance visit can include the certified activities at the company.

*Provisions related to UK-GDPR*

FC UK does not require general access to company registrations including registered personal data, and access to sensitive personal data must be cut off. FC UK will not select or extract personal data from the company's registrations.

FC UK must have the opportunity to judge a representative number of employees to assess the competence of the staff within the applied certification scheme. This review will take place when visiting the company's premises. If, in case of applications or documentation of corrective actions, the company sends evidence of employee competence to FC UK, this documentation shall not contain any personally sensitive information including any personal identification numbers, special categories of personal data, union membership or health information. FC UK deletes documents containing personal data after the assessment.

## 12. APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

An appeal against a decision made by FC UK shall be addressed in writing within 4 weeks after the receipt of the decision to FC UK.

A complaint against FC UK's activities in connection with the certification, shall be addressed in writing within 4 weeks after the date of certification to FC UK.

A complaint against FC UK as an Approved Body can always be submitted directly to MCLG[i].

Information on contact appears from www.forcecertification.co.uk.

## 13. PUBLICATION

FC UK undertakes to publish an up-to-date list with the following information about the registered certificate holders:

- full identification (name, address(es))
- basis for the certification
- special limitations with respect to products, technologies, etc.
- status of validity of the certificate
- status concerning suspension and withdrawal.

## 14. CANCELLATION

An agreement on certification according to this document can be cancelled by both parties with 90 days written notice.

In the notice period the certificate remains valid if the product is maintained according to the certification requirements.

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*Changes from 2nd ed.:*

- *Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities changed to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government*

*Changes from 1st ed.:*

- *Approved Body number is added in the document.*
- *Editorial changes*

[i] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government


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