

## General

This general guidance document is to provide information on suitability of IECEE CB test reports, particularly when testing in customer testing facilities (CTF) is used by the CB Test laboratory.

## Question

What is acceptable for IECEE CB test reports for use for certification in the EESS?

## Answer

The Equipment Safety rules (ESR) section 10.3 provides information on IECEE CB test reports being accepted for use for certification in the EESS. However, it does not specifically list the acceptance requirements for reports in relation to the IECEE customer testing facility (CTF) options being adopted in the IECEE Scheme.

This answer is not a change in requirement but a clarification of requirement to ensure uniformity of application.

The ESR will be proposed to be amended to add the required clarity for completeness. In the interim the following is applied for IECEE CB test reports (in alignment with proposed amendment to ESR):

*IECEE CB Scheme Testing Laboratories (CBTLs) accepted under the CB Scheme of the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE). A CB Test Report is required to be accompanied by CB Test Certificate issued by the appropriate National Certification Body (NCB) for all situations. Test Reports are required to be related to:*

- i. Full testing performed within the IECEE CB test facility*
- ii. Full testing carried out by CBTL staff or qualified Local Technical Representative (LTR) at Customers' Testing Facility (CTF Stage 1)*
- iii. Witnessing 100 per cent of each test program by CBTL/NCB qualified staff or a qualified LTR at Customer Testing Facility (CTF Stage 2)*

*Note: CTF stages 3 or 4 are not accepted*

*Note: where any hybrid testing of i., ii., or iii. occur the test report shall clearly indicate which type of testing was carried out for each test/assessment.*

This requirement does not change the requirement to have the IECEE CB Test Report be accompanied by a IECEE CB Certificate.

This information bulletin applies to requirements for certification in the EESS. Where a Responsible Supplier wishes to use manufacturer provided test reports or IECEE CB scheme CTF stage 3 or CTF stage 4 test reports as evidence of compliance for Level 2 or Level 1 equipment (and not wanting EESS certification) they may do so, subject to their own review and acceptance decision based on requirements outlined in the Equipment Safety Rules. In such situations, if after applying criteria within the Equipment Safety Rules and EESS legislation, such test reports are later identified as unsuitable or insufficient, then regulatory actions may be taken against the Responsible Supplier.

## Transition

As industry are affected by this clarification, a transition period for those who have work underway that may be using CTF3 test reports for certification is as follows:

- CTF 3 test reports - Up to 30 June 2024 certification (including modifications to existing certificates and renewals) can be obtained using CTF3 test reports (subject to usual review for correctness, suitability, details as required etc) under the terms of:
  - The certificate applicant can show they received the test reports prior to, or within 2 months of, this v2.0 of this information bulletin being published; or
  - The certificate applicant can show they had engaged a test facility to conduct the tests prior to, or within 2 months of this v2.0 of this information bulletin being published; and
  - the test reports are submitted with a certification application to a certifier before the transition period ends.
- CTF 4 test reports – no transition period is applied as there is no allowance for use CTF 4 test reports for certification.

**NOTE:** after the transition period ends no test reports for CTF 3 or 4 will be accepted for any certification process (including renewal or modifications to certificates), even if original certification was obtained using a CTF 3 test report.

All existing certification (that used CTF 3 test reports) issued prior to this guidance document being issued remain valid for their period of certification unless otherwise cancelled sooner due to a safety related issue (and any related equipment registration using these certificates is valid for its period of registration unless otherwise cancelled sooner due to a safety related issue).

## Background

This guidance re-confirms suitable test reports for IECEE CB scheme within EESS. In the past the IECEE CB Scheme had various levels of manufacturers testing laboratories and designations for such testing (as opposed to testing in the IECEE CB test facility directly). This terminology included TMP (Tested Manufacturers Premises), WMT (Witnessed Manufacturer Testing), SMT (Supervised Manufacturers Testing), RMT (Recognised Manufacturers Testing). This has now evolved into designation of Customer Test Facilities and different levels (CTF stage 1, CTF stage 2, CTF stage 3 and CTF stage 4).

Regulators have identified there have been inconsistent application of requirements in certification when using IECEE CB test reports. This guidance document is to clarify the expected requirements for certification in the EESS - to provide a consistent level of test report acceptable to regulators and certification in line with the basic requirement that EESS certification is based on accredited test reports independent from manufacturers own test results.

This guidance document does not change any requirements for independent certification in EESS (or requirements for Responsible Supplier own acceptance of test reports for level 2 or level 1 equipment), it merely documents requirements so there is no confusion as to acceptable IECEE CB test reports for certification in the EESS.

This guidance document will be reviewed when the ESR amendment is finalised.