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# Certification Rules for NF RAC-GAZ Mark (1)



The **NF540 (NF RAC-GAZ)** Mark is applicable to:

- interchangeable fittings
- sets of assembled fittings
- gaz appliance connection kits
- sealing materials for threaded fittings
- elastomer materials for seals and diaphragms for gaz installations



(1) *The NF Mark guidelines are made up of the Specific Certification Rules for the concerned mark and, in the Appendix, the General Rules of the NF Mark and the normative documents referenced therein.*

# CONTENTS

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<b>PART 1: PRESENTATION AND SCOPE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Scope .....	5
1.2 Products and product ranges .....	5
1.3 Who may apply for the NF Mark and why? .....	7
1.4 The NF Mark .....	8
<b>PART 2: REQUIREMENTS OF THE GUIDELINES.....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Certification guidelines .....	9
2.2 Supplementary standards and specifications .....	9
2.3 Regulations .....	11
2.4 Quality management requirements .....	11
2.5 Marking .....	18
<b>PART 3: OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATION.....</b>	<b>24</b>
3.1 Filing an application for certification .....	24
3.2 Examination of the application/admissibility .....	25
3.3 Verification procedures.....	25
3.4 Evaluation and decision.....	35
<b>PART 4: MAINTAINING THE CERTIFICATION: the monitoring procedures .....</b>	<b>37</b>
4.1 Monitoring procedures.....	37
4.2 Evaluation and decision.....	38
4.3 Statement of modifications .....	39
4.4 Conditions for the termination of marking or demarking .....	40
<b>PART 5: STAKEHOLDERS .....</b>	<b>41</b>
5.1 AFNOR Certification .....	41
5.2 CERTIGAZ .....	41
5.3 Inspection and audit body.....	41
5.4 Laboratories .....	41
5.5 Special Committee .....	42
<b>PART 6: PRICES .....</b>	<b>44</b>
6.1 Services relating to NF certification .....	44
6.2 Collection of payments for services.....	46
6.3 Amount payable for services .....	46
<b>PART 7: CERTIFICATION FILES.....</b>	<b>47</b>
7.1 Files for application for the right of use.....	47
7.2 Model forms.....	48
<b>PART 8: GLOSSARY.....</b>	<b>58</b>

These Certification Rules were submitted to AFNOR Certification's approval for admission into the NF certification system. They were approved by AFNOR Certification's legal representative on 15 April 2021.

They cancel and replace any previous versions.

These Certification Rules are applicable as from the approval date. There is no deadline for the implementation for elements covered by the modification of these Rules.

The Certification Rules may be revised, in whole or part, by CERTIGAZ and after consultation with the Special Committee of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark.

The revision is approved by AFNOR Certification's legal representative for admission into the NF certification system.

These guidelines are available and downloadable on the website [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr).

## CHANGE HISTORY

Rev. no.	Date	Changes made	Update application date (1)
1	10/03/2020	§1.1, §1.2.2 and §1.2.3: addition in the scope of the certification rules of sealing materials and elastomer materials	Immediate. No products certified yet upon publication of the certification rules
		§2.2.1: Addition of standard NF D 36-136	
		§2.2.1: Application of the 2017 versions of standards NF E 29-532 and NF E 29-536	
		§2.2.1: Integration of standards for "sealing material for threaded fittings" and "elastomer materials for seals"	
		§2.2.3: Addition of § "Materials" for compliance of brass and steel	
		§2.3: Addition of reference to the French Environment Code, the Decree of 23/02/2018 and the CNPG guide	
		§2.4.4.3: Addition of the table for defining the material compliance certificate types to be applied	
		§2.4.4.8: Precision "For nuts, a batch may not consist of several raw material batches"	
		§2.4.4.8: Addition of tables for sealing materials and elastomer materials	
		§2.4.4.9: Addition of the traceability requirement "Batch traceability".	
		§2.5: Addition of requirements regarding COFRAC logo use	
		§3.3.1.3.5 to §3.3.1.3.10: Addition of these paragraphs for sealing materials and elastomer materials	
		§3.3.2 and §4.1.2: Addition of audit conditions for sealing materials and elastomer materials	
		§3.3.2 and §4.1.2: Addition of conditions regarding non-conformities, sensitive points and areas for improvement	
		§4.2: Clarification on continuances and suspensions	
		§5.4: Addition of the LRCCP laboratory	
§7.2: addition of the availability of the rules and payment obligations in admission and maintenance letters			
§7.2: modification of form 004			
Part 8: addition of the definitions of non-conformities, sensitive points, areas for improvement and strong points			
2	14/09/2020	§2.2.1 and §3.3.1.3: addition of CCH 2020-04 and CCH 2020-05	Immediate. No products certified yet upon publication of the certification rules
		§2.2.2: addition of SRAC100-NF	
		§2.5.4: addition of the marking of products in stock during the certification	
		§3.3.2 and Part 8: Removal of the areas for improvement	

		§3.3.2: addition of the exceptional derogation procedure related to the Covid-19 pandemic	
3	05/11/2020	§2.2.2: removal of document dates and indications. The applicable versions of these specifications, managed by CERTIGAZ, are available on the website <a href="http://www.certigaz.fr">www.certigaz.fr</a>	Immediate. No products certified yet upon publication of the certification rules
		§5.4: Addition of the CTIF laboratory for metallurgical inspections	
4	08/12/2020	§2.2.3: fitting materials: addition of CC753S and CC754S grades	Immediate, no impact on certified products
		§2.2.3: addition of the possibility of a 3/8 threading for CCH2020-05 fittings	
		§2.5.4: modification of the conditions for the possibility of remarking fittings in stock	
		§2.5.4 + model letter 006: addition of the possibility of remarking for case no. 2	
		§2.5.4: model letter 007 + addition of remarking for case no. 3	
		§3.3.2: Covid-19 derogation procedure: -for fittings: addition of the possibility of conducting a remote audit for the holder's site if site already audited by CERTIGAZ -addition of remote audit procedures for sealing products	
5	12/03/2021	Integration of gaz appliance connection kits of CCH2020-02	Immediate, no impact on certified products
		§1.1.2, §2.4.4.8 and §3.3.2: addition of sleeve (captive nut) deformation conditions	
		§1.2.1: addition of the certification of fittings with mechanical connection	
		§2.2.1: addition of the M20x150 "plug" form according to standard NF M 88-781	
		§2.5.3.1: addition of the NF marking conditions on products: line art logo and use of NF letters	
		§3.3.2: addition of on-site non-conformity removal conditions	
		§3.3.1.3: Addition of the dimensional inspections of fittings during trade inspections	
6	19/04/21	Addition of the COFRAC logo following accreditation of the NF540 mark	Immediate, no impact on certified products
		Part 8 : Glossary : modification of the definitions of the major and minor non-conformities	

(1) Date of application of the change in relation to the "date of implementation" of these Certification Rules. In the case of a specific transition period for the application of a change by the holders, it is defined in paragraph 2.2) "Transition periods"

The changes made are identified using a vertical bar in the margin.

**In litigation, the French version applies.**

# Part 1

## PRESENTATION AND SCOPE

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### 1.1 Scope

This application, the NF RAC-GAZ (NF540) Mark, concerns:

► interchangeable fittings and sets of mechanically assembled connections for gaz installations. These products concern the following families of products for gaz installations:

- brass interchangeable threaded fittings (without end to be brazed);
- steel interchangeable threaded fittings (without end to be welded or braze welded);
- brass solder fittings (at least one end is to be brazed);
- steel welding or braze-welding fittings (at least one end is to be welded or braze-welded);
- copper tube/brass fitting brazed sets (these products will have a special specification and their certification is not yet covered by these rules);
- copper tube/steel braze-welded sets (these products will have a special specification and their certification is not yet covered by these rules);
- welded or braze-welded sets with steel tube.

► sealing materials for threaded fittings (anaerobic composition or non-hardening sealing composition) for gaz installations

► elastomer materials for seals for gaz installations

► connection kits for gaz appliance producing hot, cold and energy to the installation

As all of these products are intended for gaz installations, these products are considered as having safety obligations in the meaning of Article 10 of the General Rules of the NF Mark.

### 1.2 Products and product ranges

#### 1.2.1 Interchangeable fittings

A fitting for gaz installations is defined according to the applicable standards and specifications by:

- inlet fitting (type, size)
- outlet fitting (type, size)
- overall size and dimension
- materials
- manufacturing methods.

#### Fitting ranges

A fitting range for gaz installations consists of a set of fittings that have the same:

- family defined in paragraph 1.1
- design of fittings except for geometric differences related to different sizes,

which differs by:

- inlet and/or outlet fittings
- manufacturing process
- manufacturing and/or inspection sites, depending on criteria defined in the table below
- options with no impact on the certified characteristics.

In addition, the fitting ranges follow the following supplementary rules:

Note: in the case where fittings are marketed with non-removable mechanical connections (example: meter replacement plate). The set may be certified if each individual fitting is certified.

In this case, the mechanical connection between the fittings is not covered by the requirements of the NF540 Certification Rules.

Fitting type	Manufacturing process	Elements that may be different for a fitting range			
		Manufacturing site	Sealing inspection site	Final inspection site (1)	Product control site (2)
Brass fittings	Bar turning	Yes	Not applicable	No	No
	Bar turning + machining	Yes	Not applicable	No	No
	Casting + machining	Yes	No	No	No
Steel fittings	Bar turning	Yes	Not applicable	No	No
	Casting + machining	Yes	Yes	No	No
Solder fittings	Brazing	No	No	No	No
Braze-welded fittings	Braze welding	No	No	No	No
Fittings with stainless steel tube	Miscellaneous	No	No	No	No

(1) : The “final inspection site” corresponds to the site that carries out the final inspection for releasing products.

(2) The “product control site” corresponds to the site that controls the definition of the product, the industrial processes, the purchasing, the reception check of the products and the packaging

An NF certificate may only cover the products from a single range.

**1.2.2 Gaz appliance connection kits**

Due to the configuration of these sets, certification of the ranges is organised as follows:

- fitting range. The corresponding certificates will indicate that these fittings cannot be marketed individually and that they are only intended to be incorporated into connection kits for gaz appliances.
- gaz appliance connection kit range. The certificate lists all of the connection kits certified for a holder.

**Fitting ranges for gaz appliance connection kits**

A fitting for connection kits is defined according to the applicable standards and specifications by:

- inlet fitting (type, size)
- outlet fitting (type, size)
- overall size and dimension
- materials
- manufacturing methods.

In addition, the fitting ranges for kits comply with the following supplementary rules:

Fitting type		Elements that may be different for a fitting range							
		Product control site (1)	Brazing site	Bar turning/casting site	Tube forming site	Sealing inspection site	Nut crimping or sleeve deformation site	Final inspection site (2)	Packaging site
Fitting with copper tube	Fittings without brazed elements	No	Not applicable	Yes	Yes	Not applicable	Yes	No	Yes
	Fittings with brazed elements	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Fittings without copper tube	Fittings with cast elements	No	Not applicable	Yes	Not applicable	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
	Fittings without cast elements	No	Not applicable	Yes	Not applicable	Not applicable	Yes	No	Yes

- (1) The “product control site” corresponds to the site that controls the definition of the product, the industrial processes, the purchasing, the reception check of the products and the packaging
- (2) The “final inspection site” corresponds to the site that carries out the final inspection for releasing products.

An NF certificate may only cover the products of a single range of fittings

### **Appliance connection kit ranges**

A range of connection kits for a gaz appliance consists of all of the appliance connection kits for the same holder. This range consists of the various connections included in each reference (see fitting range). **Sealing materials (anaerobic composition or non-hardening sealing composition)**

A sealing material for gaz installations is defined according to the applicable standards and specifications by:

- its trade name
- its class

### **1.2.3 Sealing material ranges**

A sealing material NF certificate can only cover a single definition of a product, a single trade name

### **1.2.4 Elastomer material for seals and diaphragms**

An elastomer material that can be used for seals for gaz installations is defined according to the applicable standards and specifications by:

- its trade name
- its nominal hardness
- its temperature class
- its possible ozone resistance

### **Elastomer ranges for seals and diaphragms**

An elastomer material NF certificate for seals can only cover a single definition of a product (elastomer mixture), a single trade name

## **1.3 Who may apply for the NF Mark and why?**

These Certification Rules are open to any applicant whose products fall within the above-defined scope and meet the technical requirements described in Part 2 of this document.

### **Definition of applicants/holders, agents, distributors:**

#### **a – Applicant/ holder:**

Legal entity that provides control and accountability for compliance with all requirements specified in the NF RAC-GAZ Mark Certification Rules.

These requirements cover at least the following steps: manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking, packaging and introduction onto the market, and specify the critical points of each step.

#### **b – Agent:**

Legal entity or private individual located in the European Economic Area (EEA) or in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) which represents the applicant/holder outside the EEA or in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and has a written power of attorney from the applicant/holder stating that it can act on its behalf and specifying in what framework (missions and associated responsibilities and financial aspects, claims, certifying body contact, among others) in the NF Mark certification process in accordance with the provisions of the Certification Rules.

The agent may be the distributor or the importer; its various functions are clearly identified.

**c – Distributor:**

Legal entity distributing the products of the applicant/holder, and which does not alter the product to modify compliance with regard to NF Mark requirements.

The types of distributors can be the following:

- distributors who do not alter the product technically and distribute the product under the holder's trademark;
- ▶ distributors who do not alter the product technically and distribute the product with a change of trademark (in this case, it is necessary to maintain the right to use or to apply for the right to use, if the applicant does not wish that explicit reference be made to the applicant/holder).

**Note:** *the applicant's sites that are guarantors of the compliance with certain requirements of the guidelines are considered as the applicant's subcontractors and may be inspected in accordance with the requirements of the guidelines.*

The applicant/holder agrees notably not to submit counterfeit products for certification.

It is the responsibility of the applicant/holder to ensure that the regulations applicable to its product are effectively met.

## 1.4 The NF Mark

Created in 1938, the NF Mark is a registered collective certification mark that certifies the conformity of products with the applicable national, European and international standards, which may be completed by additional specifications, under the conditions defined in the certification guidelines. The mark is awarded by AFNOR Certification and its network of partners, which form the NF network.

The NF Mark is a voluntary product certification mark that meets the requirements of the French Consumer Code, in particular by involving the interested parties in the validation of the certification guidelines, by defining the rules applying to product marking and by communicating clearly and transparently on the main certified characteristics.

The right to use the NF Mark is granted on the basis of compliance with one or more standards and more generally with the entire certification guidelines, for a product coming from an applicant and a designated design and/or manufacturing and/or marketing process. Awarding the right to use shall under no circumstances substitute the legal responsibility of the company holding the right to use the NF Mark by the responsibility of CERTIGAZ.

The NF Mark checks the characteristics for the protection of the safety of persons and property, suitability for use and the durability of products, and any other additional characteristics that differentiate the product on the market.

Unanimously recognised by economic players, consumers, public authorities and institutions, the NF Mark has acquired an indisputable reputation that has been rewarded by the very rare status of a well-known trademark in France. This renown is based on:

- compliance with standards, a symbol of the consensus reached between the interested parties,
- the guarantee of high-quality, safe and high-performance products that have been tested and checked,
- the concern to meet the changing needs of the markets,
- confidence in the robustness of the certification process resulting in the award of the mark (thoroughness, transparency and impartiality, command of the processes),
- confidence in the competence and impartiality of the bodies that award the mark.

The operation of the NF Mark relies on a network of mandated certifying bodies, technical secretariats, laboratories, inspection bodies, auditors and recognised regional technical experts that, along with AFNOR Certification, make up the NF Network.

In accordance with the General Rules of the NF Mark, AFNOR Certification has appointed CERTIGAZ, the certifying body, to exercise the various functions necessary to manage the NF RAC-GAZ Mark.

CERTIGAZ is answerable to AFNOR Certification for the operations with which it is entrusted and which are covered by a contract with AFNOR Certification.



## Part 2

# REQUIREMENTS OF THE GUIDELINES

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### 2.1 Certification guidelines

The guidelines of this application of the NF Mark, under the terms of the French Consumer Code, are made up of:

- the General Rules for the NF Mark setting out the general organisation and terms of use of the mark;
- these Certification Rules, which describe the technical characteristics to be respected, and the procedures used to check the conformity with these characteristics;
- the standards to which these Certification Rules refer, and any additional technical specifications.

These Certification Rules that are used to certify products and services, other than foodstuffs specified in the French Consumer Code, specify the conditions of application of the General Rules of the NF Mark to the products defined in Part 1.

The company (applicant/holder) undertakes to comply with the Certification Rules and implement the appropriate changes communicated by CERTIGAZ.

### 2.2 Supplementary standards and specifications

#### 2.2.1 Standards, specifications and worksheets

##### Fittings

NF D 36-136 (06-2019)	Dimensional characteristics of mechanical connections intended for installation in pipelines for as installations  <b><i>NOTE: the connections defined in standard NF D 36-136 replace the definitions of the various connections of the standards cited below.</i></b>
NF E 29-532 (05/2017)	Mechanical joint with flat gasket for pipes gaz installations.
NF E 29-536 (05/2017)	Dismountable connections with sphero-conical junction for pipes gaz installations.
XP E 29-195 (01/2017)	Fittings for gaz installations, intended to be positioned at the exit of gaz meters
NF EN 10204 (01/2005)	Metallic products: Types of inspection documents
CCH 2020-02 (10/2020)	Connection kits for gaz appliance producing hot, cold and energy to the installation
CCH 2020-04 (05/2020)	Dismountable fittings with flat gasket for LPG installations
CCH 2020-05 (05/2020)	Dismountable fittings with thread sealing for gaz installations
ATG B.521 (06/2005)	Combustible gaz installations – Steel tubes and jointing
ATG B.524 (06/2005)	Combustible gaz installations – Copper tubes and jointing
NF M 88-781	Installations for liquid hydrocarbons - Pressure regulators, automatic changeover devices, having a maximum regulated pressure of 4 bar, with a maximum capacity of 150 kg/h, associated safety devices and adaptors for butane, propane, and their mixtures - Application of European standard EN 16129 <b>Use of the “plug” form of figure 2 of the standard</b>

**Sealing materials for threaded fittings**

NF EN 751-1 (11/1997)	Sealing materials for metallic threaded joints in contact with 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> family gazes and hot water
NF EN 751-2 (11/1997)	Sealing materials for metallic threaded joints in contact with 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> family gazes and hot water

**Elastomer materials for seals**

NF EN 549 (03/1995)	Rubber materials for seals and diaphragms for gaz appliances and gaz equipment
NF EN 549 (07/2019)	Rubber materials for seals and diaphragms for gaz appliances and gaz equipment
NF EN 682 (05/2003)	Material requirements for seals used in pipes and fittings carrying gaz and hydrocarbon fluids
NF EN 682/A1 (12/2005)	Material requirements for seals used in pipes and fittings carrying gaz and hydrocarbon fluids

The standards and documentation booklets (NF, XP, FD) are available at the Sales Department of:  
AFNOR – 11 rue Francis de Pressensé – F 93571 LA PLAINE ST-DENIS Cedex  
Tel.: +33 (0)1 41 62 80 00 – [www.afnor.org](http://www.afnor.org)

The SRAC specifications are available on request from CERTIGAZ and can be downloaded from the website [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr).

The CCH specifications can be downloaded from the website: [www.afgaz.fr](http://www.afgaz.fr).

The CNPG guides are available on the website [www.cnpg.fr](http://www.cnpg.fr).

**2.2.2 Specifications and applicable rules**

SRAC100-NF	Specific fittings for gaz installations and for gaz distributors
SRAC326-NF	Repair kit for GAZPAR meter outlet bracket – Box S2300 or S2400
SLAB100	Specifications for manufacturer laboratory authorisation.

The applicable versions of these specifications, managed by CERTIGAZ, are available on the website [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr)

**2.2.3 Specific technical requirements****Materials for interchangeable fittings**

The materials used for manufacturing brass and steel fittings comply with the tables in Annexes A of standards NF E 29-532 and NF E 29-536.

In addition to the materials cited in Annexes A, the CC753S and CC754S grades may also be used for fittings from foundries.

**Cast fittings:**

For all brass fittings from a foundry process, any impregnation processes to make the fittings leaktight is prohibited. Cast fittings are 100% leaktightness tested. This test is carried out on the fitting after all machining phases.

**CCH2020-05:**

Addition in Table 2 of CCH2020-05 of the values for the R-Rp3/8

<b>DN</b>	12
<b>Threading</b>	R or Rp 3/8
<b>Nominal torque to be applied (Nm)</b>	20

**NF EN 751:**

In addition to the normative requirements, these following provisions apply:

- Tightening torques to be applied for preparation of the test specimens: R1/4: 15 Nm; R1/2: 25 Nm; R1"1/2: 80 Nm
- Product foaming compatibility: possibility of using a product compliant with standard NF EN 14291 (foam producing solutions for leak detection on gaz installations)
- Leaktightness (Efficiency): the leak rate shall be less than 20 cm<sup>3</sup>/h

**CCH2020-02:**

The applicable tightening torques of the nuts in Table 8 of CCH2020-02 shall be indicated in the installation manual.

The tightening torque may also be indicated on the nut.

## 2.3 Regulations

The products subject to these certification guidelines shall comply with applicable French regulations concerning them and notably:

- French Environment Code (Book V – Title V – Chapter VII “High-risk products and equipment”)
- Decree of 23 February 2018 on technical and safety rules applicable to combustible gaz installations of individual or collective residential buildings, including communal parts
- CNPG (Centre National d’expertise des Professionnels de l’énergie Gaz) Guide “Gaz appliances and equipment”. The version in force is available on the CNPG’s website

The applicant/holder shall undertake to adhere to them for products related to the NF RAC-GAZ Mark and shall be able to prove it.

## 2.4 Quality management requirements

### 2.4.1 General

The minimum provisions in terms of quality assurance that the applicant/holder shall adopt and set up so that the products covered by the NF RAC-GAZ Mark are produced and/or distributed at all times in accordance with these certification guidelines are defined below.

By making use of the NF Mark, the holder makes a commitment regarding the permanent quality of the certified products that it manufactures and/or supplies to its customers. In the context of the NF Mark, the applicant/holder shall provide proof of the existence and effectiveness of its quality record.

The objective to be achieved by the applicant/holder is process control (as defined in Standard NF EN ISO 9000) and the maintained compliance of its products with the models initially accepted.

Achieving this objective requires that the applicant/holder should implement its own means whose performance is assessed during the admission visit and verified during follow-up visits. The quality requirements of this NF Mark are defined below and are based on the requirements of NF EN ISO 9001 whose scope is limited to the field of application.

The following tables summarise these requirements based on the version of standard ISO 9001. It should be noted that the 2008 version is no longer applicable after 15 September 2018

Quality requirements	ISO 9001 - 2015	Requirements*
<b>Quality management system</b>		
General requirements	4.1 - 4.2	Required for the product manufacturing processes.
Documentation requirements	4.4 – 7.5	Required
<b>Management responsibility</b>		
Management commitment	5.1 - 5.2	Required
Responsibility and authority	5.3	Required
Management review	9.3	Required
<b>Resource management</b>		
<b>Product development</b>		
Product development planning	8.1	Required
Customer-related processes	8.2	Required for customer complaint management
Purchasing	8.4	Required
Control of service production and preparation	8.5.1	Required
Identification and traceability	8.5.2	Required
Product preservation	8.5.4 - 8.5.5	Required
Control of monitoring and measuring equipment	7.1.5	Required
<b>Measurements, analysis and improvement</b>		
Product monitoring and measurement	8.6 - 9.1	Required
Control of non-conforming product	8.7 - 10.2	Required
Corrective action	10.2	Required

(\*) These requirements also apply to subcontractors, if any

#### 2.4.2 Minimum requirements for quality organisation

The commitments of the applicant/holder in terms of product quality shall be written and signed by management, adapted, known and implemented at all levels. The applicant/holder shall draw up a functional organisation chart and prepare job descriptions of all those involved in the development of certified products.

The applicant shall formalise in writing a quality record or quality manual, the measures in terms of organisation, documents, material and human resources that it puts in place to guarantee the control of product quality.

The applicant/holder shall describe and have an organisation to record, handle and close complaints from its customers regarding the certified products. Records related to these actions shall be maintained for a relevant period as defined by the applicant/holder.

#### 2.4.3 Certification of the quality system

A manufacturer whose quality system has been certified by a recognised certifying body is supposed to meet the applicable quality management requirements. The certificates recognised by CERTIGAZ are those issued by quality system certification bodies accredited by an accreditation body member of the EA.

The applicable quality management requirements and the production of the product(s) concerned shall be covered by the guidelines and scope of the quality system certification.

In this case, the evaluation by CERTIGAZ is limited:

- to the “Resource management”, “Product development” and “Measurements, analysis and improvement” paragraphs of ISO 9001
- and to the review of in-process controls as defined in paragraph 2.4.4.

However, it may be extended to any requirement of the applicable quality system not covered by the guidelines and/or the scope of the quality system certification or whose effectiveness can be questioned.

**2.4.4 Requirements specific to the products**

**2.4.4.1 General**

As part of the quality system, the products are examined and appropriate tests, defined in the applicable standard(s), or equivalent tests, are carried out to verify their compliance.

For this purpose, the manufacturer shall implement an in-process control plan at least equivalent to the “Standard Control Plan” set out in paragraph 2.4.4.8.

**2.4.4.2 In-process controls**

The manufacturer may conduct all or part of the controls mentioned in the “Standard Control Plans” (paragraph 2.4.4.8) during production provided it can ensure that compliance with the relevant requirements will be maintained until the stage of the delivered product.

**2.4.4.3 Control of raw materials and components**

The manufacturer shall check with its potential supplier(s) the conformity of products delivered with applicable specifications of the reference standard(s), either by ensuring that the supplier’s quality management system allows it to obtain a degree of sufficient confidence in the quality of the products purchased, or by performing the appropriate controls by sampling the batches received.

The holder shall have in its possession the material compliance certificates according to NF EN 10204 to certify the material compliance of the products supplied depending on the following requirements:

The certificates to demonstrate the compliance of the materials of components are available from the applicant/holder.

Material	Manufacturing process	Certificate type (minimum)	
		Material composition	Mechanical characteristics
Brass	Bar turning	3.1	2.2
	Punching	3.1	NA
	Casting	3.1	NA
Steel	Bar turning	3.1	3.1
	Casting	3.1	NA
Copper	Brazing or braze welding	3.1	3.1
	Forming	3.1	3.1
Stainless steel	Miscellaneous	3.1	3.1

**2.4.4.4 Unit controls**

The controls identified as 100% in the “Standard Control Plans” shall be performed on every manufactured product at a manufacturing stage to ensure that compliance with the relevant requirements will be maintained until the stage of the delivered product.

**2.4.4.5 Sample or statistical controls**

These controls are indicated in the “Standard Control Plans”.

Unless otherwise indicated in the “Standard Control Plans”, the sampling plan is left to the manufacturer’s discretion. This plan shall define the sampling method (batch size, conditions and number of samples), the conditions of acceptance or refusal. The sampling plan shall be defined to help ensure compliance of all individual products in a batch; it shall be adapted to the manufacturing processes implemented.

#### **2.4.4.6 Records of controls**

Records relating to the results of the controls shall be accessible to inspectors/auditors.

#### **2.4.4.7 Control procedures**

The choice of procedures for the control of raw materials and in-process controls is left to the applicant/holder’s discretion provided that the methods used yield significant results under the conditions defined in Article 2.4.4.8.

The control procedures shall comply with the requirements of the standards. However, procedures and apparatuses different from those described in these standards may be used provided that the results are equivalent.

#### **2.4.4.8 Minimum requirements for controls and tests during reception and production**

During reception and then during production, the applicant/holder shall perform the following controls and tests at the minimum frequency specified in the “Standard Control Plans” specific to each product family.

Samples are distributed so as to be representative of the production in the determined period.

A batch is a set of products of the same model, manufactured in the same production run. For nuts, a batch may not consist of several raw material batches.

Production run means the period during which a defined and homogeneous quantity of products is manufactured under uniform conditions. The batch shall be defined and identified by the manufacturer.

Depending on the method used for manufacturing interchangeable fittings, the provisions taken for the manufacture and inspection of the products are as follows:

Standard control plan: Interchangeable fittings															
Product type	Manufacturing process								Inspection process						
	Bar turning	Punching	Casting	Machining	Nut crimping or sleeve deformation	Brazing	Braze welding	Set manufactured with stainless steel tube	Leaktightness	Material (1)	Components (1)	Dimensions, overall size (1)	Marking (1)	Tightening resistance of the nuts (2)	Ammoniacal medium cracking resistance (2)
Threaded fittings	X				X				NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
		X		X	X				NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
			X	X	X				100%	S	S	S	S	S	S
Solder fittings	X				X				NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
		X		X	X				NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
			X	X	X				100%	S	S	S	S	S	S
Welding or braze-welding fittings	X				X				NA	S	S	S	S	S	S
Brazed set						X			100%	S	S	S	S	NA	NA
Braze-welded set							X		100%	S	S	S	S	NA	NA
Set with stainless tube							X		100%	S	S	S	S	S	S

100% = unit control

S = Statistical control

NA = Not Applicable

(1) = Statistical control to be carried out on each batch manufactured (sampling plan defined by the manufacturer)

(2) = Statistical control to be carried out at least:

- on each batch of nuts to be crimped or sleeves to be deformed (for captive nuts) supplied or manufactured (a batch of nuts or sleeves to be deformed cannot consist of several raw material batches)

- at least twice a year on complete fittings from the same certified fitting range.

<b>Standard control plan: Fittings for gas appliance connection kits (CCH 2020-02)</b>		
<b>Control</b>	<b>On production line</b>	<b>Off production line</b>
Raw materials (chemical composition, physical characteristics)		S (1)
Components		S (1)
Dimensions/overall size		S (1)
Leaktightness	100% if: -fittings with brazed elements -cast fittings	S (3)
Marking		S (1)
Packaging/manual		S (1)
Tightening resistance of the nuts		S (2) (4)
Ammoniacal medium stress cracking resistance		S (2)

100% = unit control

S = Statistical control

(1) = Statistical control to be carried out on each batch manufactured (sampling plan defined by the manufacturer)

(2) = Statistical control to be carried out at least:

- on each batch of nuts to be crimped or sleeves to be deformed (for captive nuts) supplied or manufactured (a batch of nuts or sleeves to be deformed cannot consist of several raw material batches)
- at least twice a year on complete kits from the same certified kit range

(3) = Statistical control to be carried out at least once a year.

(4) = At least once a year for each type of nut

<b>Standard control plan: Sealing materials for threaded joints (NF EN 751-1)</b>		
<b>Control</b>	<b>On production line</b>	<b>Off production line</b>
Raw materials (chemical composition, physical characteristics)		S
Appearance, colour, homogeneity	S	
Density, viscosity	S	
Reactivity test	S	
Mechanical resistance to loosening		S
Leaktightness		S
Pressure resistance		S

S = Statistical control



Standard control plan: Sealing materials for threaded joints (NF EN 751-2)		
Control	On production line	Off production line
Raw materials (chemical composition, physical characteristics)		S
Appearance, colour, homogeneity	S	
Density, viscosity	S	
Leaktightness		S
Pressure resistance		S

S = Statistical control

Standard control plan: Elastomer material		
Control	On production line	Off production line
Raw materials (chemical composition, physical characteristics)		S
Rheometry	On each load	
Hardness	S	
Elongation at break		S

S = Statistical control

#### 2.4.4.9 Minimum traceability requirements

The traceability of batches of materials and inspections in relation to batches of finished products shall be ensured internally by the holder.

#### Fittings:

The holder shall be able to demonstrate upward and downward traceability and the fitting is identified by a batch number. It shall be able to identify the manufacturing process and the various people involved according to the batch number.

#### 2.4.5 Control of records

The records on which the results of control tests are recorded may be required by CERTIGAZ and reviewed during audits by the auditors who shall also assess the means of control.

#### 2.4.6 Customer complaints

The applicant/holder shall record and handle all customer complaints concerning NF certified products.

## 2.5 Marking

Marking is an integral part of the certification of a product.

Beyond the identification of a certified product and its traceability, marking a product with the NF logo ensures improved user protection and enables holders to defend themselves against misuse and counterfeits.

The reproduction and displaying of the AFNOR, AFNOR Certification and CERTIGAZ logos are strictly forbidden without the prior approval of these bodies.

The reproduction and affixing of the COFRAC logo as well as the reference to CERTIGAZ accreditation by the applicant/holder (and its customers) are prohibited by CERTIGAZ. CERTIGAZ authorises the full reproduction of the certificates it has issued.

### 2.5.1 Reference texts

#### *The French Consumer Code*

Article R 115-2 of the French Consumer Code stipulates that:

“When reference is made to certification in advertising, on labelling or the presentation of any product or service, and in commercial documents of any kind relating thereto, the following mandatory information shall be provided to the consumer or user:

- the name or company name of the certifying body or the collective certification mark;
- the name of the certification guidelines used;
- the manner in which the certification guidelines can be consulted or obtained.”

The purpose of indicating the main certified characteristics is to make the technical characteristics to which the NF Mark applies more transparent for consumers and users. It adds value to the certification and its content. A “certified characteristic” is any technical characteristic whose content is checked within the scope of the NF Mark.

#### *General Rules of the NF Mark*

The purpose of the marking rules given below is to guide the holder in complying with the regulatory requirements and the NF certification requirements. The General Rules of the NF Mark specify the conditions of use, of validity and the sanctions in the event of improper use of the NF Mark.

Without prejudice to the sanctions laid down in the General Rules of the NF Mark, any incorrect announcement of the certified characteristics and any fraudulent use of the NF logo shall expose the holder to lawsuits for fraud and/or misleading advertising.

### 2.5.2 The NF logo

The NF logo shall assure the identification of all certified products.

The holder agrees to respect the graphic charter of the NF Mark. The NF logo and its graphic charter are available from CERTIGAZ.

The NF certified product shall bear a designation and identification distinct from non-NF certified products.

The holder shall only use the NF logo to distinguish certified products, without risk of any possible confusion with other products, particularly with non-NF certified products.

Holders are advised to submit all documents containing the NF Mark to CERTIGAZ.

### 2.5.3 NF Marking procedures

This section describes both the procedures for displaying the NF logo and the marking of essential certified characteristics.

In order to meet the requirements of Article R 115-2 of the French Consumer Code, the mark shall be produced as follows, whenever this is technically possible:



This section covers the following three aspects:

1. marking of the NF logo on the NF certified product
2. marking of the NF logo on the packaging of the NF certified product
3. marking of the NF logo on documentation and on websites

As indicated in paragraph 2.5.1, it is recommended to inform the consumer about the main reasons and advantages for using a certified product. In the NF certification system, the certified essential characteristics shall appear on at least one of the media (product, packaging or documentation).

The list of certified products distributed by CERTIGAZ and certificates issued to the holder shall mention or guarantee the following certified characteristics:

- Reference standard(s)
- DN
- MOP
- Dimensional characteristics
- Leaktightness
- Rated flow rate (if applicable)
- Mechanical strength
- Marking, manual, packaging

The holder has the option to reproduce the above information in its documentation by itself or refer to certificates or lists distributed by CERTIGAZ. For the French market, this information shall necessarily be given in French.

The certified characteristics may be indicated to the consumer according to the marking procedures in the following example:



- certified characteristic 1
- certified characteristic 2
- certified characteristic 3

### 2.5.3.1 Marking of NF RAC-GAZ certified product

Any product benefiting from the right to use the NF RAC-GAZ Mark, shall clearly bear:

- ▶ the indications mentioned in the “MARKING” chapter of the relevant specifications
- ▶ the identification of the manufacturer
- ▶ the NF logo defined in paragraph 2.5.2

In case of technical impossibility, the words “RAC-GAZ” and “CERTIFIED BY CERTIGAZ” may not be present. If present, these markings shall be legible.

The minimum allowable marking is as follows:



#### **Note:**

However, because of the specificity of NF RAC-GAZ certified products, derogation from the requirements defined below is permitted in the following way:

- ▶ the minimum size requirement of the logotype defined in the graphic charter is replaced by the principle of readability.
- ▶ if the marking of the NF logo cannot be carried out due to absence of a sufficient surface:
  - if the flat surface does not make it possible to obtain an NF logo of a minimum height of 5 mm;
  - if the marking of the logo can only be carried out on a cylindrical part the diameter of which is less than or equal to 12 mm;
 the NF logo may be replaced with the letters “NF”

In addition, depending on the processes used for marking the NF logo on the product (example: micro-percussion, laser, punching, casting, injection, knurling, coining, etc.), the use of line art marking is permitted:



### 2.5.3.2 Marking on the packaging of the NF certified product or on the accompanying document of the product

Displaying the logotype on the packaging and manuals of certified products is a means of promoting NF certified products. Therefore, holders of the NF Mark are strongly advised to also display the NF Mark on the packaging of the NF RAC-GAZ certified products.

In addition to the NF logo defined in paragraph 2.5.2, and at the very least, the reference and trade name of the certified product shall also appear on the packaging.

In addition, the requirements of applicable standards for packaging markings shall be respected.

As it is not possible to affix the NF logotype on flat seals, the packaging of NF RAC-GAZ certified joints shall include the logo in accordance with the model shown above.

The packaging of NF RAC-GAZ approved accessories may make reference to this approval but shall not bear the NF logo.

The certified characteristics specified in paragraph 2.5.2 may also appear on the packaging.

In case of technical impossibility, the words “CERTIFIED BY CERTIGAZ” may not be present. If present, this marking shall be perfectly legible.

The minimum allowable marking is as follows:



### **2.5.3.3 Marking on documentation (technical and sales documents, labels, posters, advertisements, websites, etc.)**

References to the NF Mark in the documentation shall be made in such a manner that there is no risk of confusion between certified products and other products.

The NF Mark shall be reproduced in the documentation and advertising materials in accordance with the conditions defined in paragraph 2.5.2.

Documentation relating specifically to the approved accessories may make reference to the NF RAC-GAZ approval, but it shall not bear the NF logo.

Reproduction of the NF Mark, as defined in 2.5.2, on the holder's letterhead is prohibited, unless the holder has been granted the NF Mark for all of its production.

The certified characteristics specified in paragraph 2.5.2 may also appear on the documentation.

In case of technical impossibility, and in particular in catalogues, the words “CERTIFIED BY CERTIGAZ” may not be present. If present, this marking shall be perfectly legible.

The minimum allowable marking is as follows:



As the distributor is not a holder of the NF Mark, it cannot refer to it directly.

Communication on the products that it markets may be done only under the holder's responsibility.

For a proper interpretation of this chapter, holders are advised to submit all documents containing the NF Mark to CERTIGAZ.

## 2.5.4 Marking of gaz appliance connection kits

The NF marking of kits may be produced in the following way:

- ▶ kit marketed without attachment plate: each fitting included in the kit shall be identified with the NF logo. The logo with the “RAC-GAZ” application shall be repeated on the packaging or in the manual. “Only the elements of the gaz line are NF RAC-GAZ certified” shall be indicated
- ▶ kit marketed with an attachment plate (pre-assembly of fittings): the NF logo shall be present on at least one of the fittings.  
It is also permitted to put the NF logo on the plate but the “RAC-GAZ” application shall accompany the logo in accordance with the logo in § 2.5.3.2  
“Only the elements of the gaz line are NF RAC-GAZ certified” shall be indicated in the manual.

The marking of the NF logo may be carried out using a label provided that it meets the marking resistance requirements of CCH2020-02.

## 2.5.5 Marking of the products in stock during certification

For any application for certification sent to CERTIGAZ before 01/12/2020 and whose corresponding certification decision is declared before 31/01/2021, the holder is permitted to NF mark the products in stock according to the following conditions:

### **Case no. 1: Stocks present with the holder: the manufacturer and the manufacturing process are strictly identical to those corresponding to the certification of the products:**

- ▶ The holder shall make the written application in accordance with model letter 006 of these certification rules (see Part 7) and send it to CERTIGAZ;
- ▶ With its written application, the supplier shall supply the list of products in stock concerned. This list shall indicate:
  - The name of the fittings
  - The quantities in stock
  - The batch numbers
  - The production dates
  - Identification of the manufacturing sites and processes (as per form 004)
  - The date of creation/update of the table
- ▶ The holder shall define the technical procedures for marking the NF logo;
- ▶ CERTIGAZ shall carry out a verification by sampling of the traceability of the batches. Depending on the result of this verification, CERTIGAZ shall decide on the possibility of marking the products in stock and shall inform the holder of this.

### **Case no. 2: Stocks present with the holder: case of fittings present with the holder during the certification but that were manufactured on sites not covered by the certification of the products (definition and material identical to those certified):**

- ▶ The holder shall make the written application in accordance with model letter 006 of these certification rules (see Part 7) and send it to CERTIGAZ;
- ▶ With its written application, the supplier shall supply the list of products in stock concerned. This list shall indicate:
  - The name of the fittings
  - Precision whether crimped or uncrimped nuts
  - Indication whether the product has a GRDF operating licence
  - Identification of the manufacturing sites and processes (as per form 004)
  - The quantity in stock
  - The product batch numbers
  - The material analysis certificate number
  - The estimation of the period of time required to sell off the products
  - The date of creation/update of the table

- ▶ The holder shall define the technical procedures for marking the NF logo;
- ▶ CERTIGAZ carries out a verification by applying the procedures in the following table. Depending on the result of this verification, CERTIGAZ shall decide on the possibility of marking the products in stock and shall inform the holder of this.

Products <u>not</u> authorised for GRDF use	Products <u>authorised</u> for GRDF use
Samples taken by CERTIGAZ in the holder's stock	
Verification by CERTIGAZ of the availability of the material analyses (spectrometry other than that supplied by the supplier) and of the concordance of the products with the certified fitting drawings	Verification by CERTIGAZ and by sampling of the availability of the material analyses and concordance of the products with the certified fitting drawings
Control of the tightening resistance of the nuts of all of the fittings (2 nuts tested)	Control of the tightening resistance of each model of crimped nut (2 nuts per model)
Control of the stress corrosion resistance of each fitting with crimped nuts	Control of the stress corrosion resistance of each model of crimped nut

**Case no. 3: Stocks present with the holder's customers**

- ▶ The holder shall make the written application in accordance with model letter 007 of these certification rules (see Part 7) and send it to CERTIGAZ;
- ▶ With its application, the holder shall send the procedure put in place for treating these products and it shall describe as a minimum:
  - The product reception, identification and isolation method
  - The product compliance verification (identical to the certified products), general condition
  - The acceptance criteria for agreeing to carry out the remarking
  - The product traceability management
  - The remarking process
  - The repackaging process
    - ▶ Depending on the elements implemented by the holder, CERTIGAZ decides on the possibility of marking the products and shall inform the holder of this.
- ▶ The holder shall keep a list of the products concerned up to date. This list shall indicate:
  - The product reception date
  - The name of the fittings
  - The quantity
  - The product batch numbers
  - The customer's name
  - The results of the product compliance check
  - The process implemented for the remarking
  - The shipping date
  - The date of creation/update of the list
- ▶ Any remarking operation shall be carried out before 01/04/21

## Part 3

# OBTAINING THE CERTIFICATION

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The purpose of this part is to give the applicant of the right to use the NF RAC-GAZ mark all information necessary to compile its file.

### Type of applications

An application for the right to use can be:

- ☞ An initial admission application
- ☞ An admission application
- ☞ An extension application for product modification, or for a new product derived from a product already certified by the NF RAC-GAZ Mark
- ☞ A maintenance application

An **initial admission application** is made by a manufacturer who has never obtained the right to use the NF RAC-GAZ Mark (initial admission application). It corresponds to a product from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a trade reference specific to the product submitted and technical characteristics.

An **admission application** is made by a manufacturer that has obtained the right to use the NF RAC-GAZ Mark for other products and that wishes to obtain the right to use the NF RAC-GAZ Mark for a new product or a new manufacturing site. It corresponds to a product from a specific manufacturing unit, defined by a trademark, a trade reference specific to the product submitted and technical characteristics.

An **extension application** is made by a holder and concerns a product already certified by the NF RAC-GAZ Mark and which has been modified or a new product derived from a product already certified by the NF RAC-GAZ Mark.

A **maintenance application** is made by a holder and concerns an NF certified product to be marketed under another trademark and/or with a specific reference to the product without modifying the certified characteristics.

In case of maintenance, the manufacturer and the subcontractor are each responsible in respect of the right to use the NF Mark relating to the product in question and undertake to implement the measures stemming from the sanctions made in accordance with the Guidelines.

A manufacturer subject to a suspension of the right to use may not therefore subcontract products to another holder as part of this maintenance procedure.

Similarly, the subcontractor shall inform its principal of sanctions challenging its right to use.

### 3.1 Filing an application for certification

Before making the application, the applicant shall be sure to meet, at the time of the application, the conditions defined in these Certification Rules, especially those in Part 2, concerning its product and the sites concerned. It is the responsibility of the applicant/holder to ensure that the regulations applicable to its product are effectively met.

By making an application, the applicant or holder agrees to reserve the trade name of its manufacture submitted for admission only to the certified products and to facilitate auditors in their operations incumbent upon them under these Guidelines.

It shall undertake to meet the same conditions during the whole duration of the use of the NF Mark.

If the applicant/holder fails to obey these Rules, then the examination of their application may be interrupted or suspended. In particular, it is strictly forbidden to make any references to the NF Mark before obtaining the right to use it, or to submit counterfeit products for certification.

The application shall be submitted in accordance with the conditions and models given in Part 7.



The application for the right to use the NF Mark shall be sent to the attention of CERTIGAZ according to the models defined in Part 7.

It shall be accompanied by the:

- general information form regarding the applicant
- product form
- technical file.

If the applicant is located outside the European Economic Area or outside the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the applicant shall appoint a European agent who shall co-sign the application as well as the terms of reference (see Part 7).

Upon receipt of the application, the following process is initiated:

- examination of the application/admissibility of the file
- implementation of checks and inspections
- evaluation and decision

### **3.2 Examination of the application/Admissibility**

During the examination of the application, CERTIGAZ checks that:

- the application is admissible;
- all the required documents are enclosed with the application;
- the documents in the technical file meet the requirements of these Certification Rules.

The application is only admissible if:

- the products that are the subject of the application are covered by the normative documents cited in these Rules;
- the letter of application to use the NF Mark has been sent to CERTIGAZ (model letter 001, 002A or 002B).

Once the application is deemed admissible, CERTIGAZ examines the application and:

- verifies the presence and compliance of the required documents (see Part 7);
- if necessary, requests for the missing items, additional information or corrections of items in the application file (drawings, application letter or document, etc.);
- informs the applicant of the organisational procedures (auditor, audit duration, sites to be audited, laboratories, products to be sampled, etc.) and organises the inspections.

During the examination of the application, CERTIGAZ ensures that:

- the applicant controls and takes responsibility for the following steps: manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking, packaging as well as placement on the market;
- the inspections and tests of the products covered by the application, as specified in the technical documents of these Certification Rules, are in place.

### **3.3 Verification procedures**

The inspections carried out for the NF Mark are of different types:

- ▶ tests on the products,
- ▶ audits.

#### **3.3.1 Tests**

All the examinations and tests shall be performed in accordance with the supplementary standards and specifications defined in Part 2 and in accordance with the tables in paragraph 3.3.1.3.

In the event of modification of an already certified project, a reduced test plan is possible. The applicant may then submit a proposed test plan when filing its application.

The test plan is determined by CERTIGAZ on the basis of its expertise and if necessary with the help of the independent laboratory and in agreement with the applicant.

Tests shall be conducted either:

- ▶ by one of the independent laboratories designated in Part 5 of these Rules, chosen by the applicant. In this case, the independent laboratory shall send its test report(s) to CERTIGAZ and to the applicant/holder;
- ▶ or, in the manufacturer's laboratory NF-certified by CERTIGAZ.

The tests are performed on samples taken by the applicant or by CERTIGAZ from a representative routine mass production called batch.

### **3.3.1.1 Tests carried out by an NF-authorized laboratory**

The NF-authorized laboratory may carry out all or part of the tests.

When the NF-authorized manufacturer's laboratory does not have the necessary resources, the corresponding tests shall be performed by an independent laboratory of its choice.

The authorisation of the NF-authorized manufacturer's laboratory shall follow the procedure SLAB100 "Specifications for manufacturer laboratory authorisation" (available on the website [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr)).

The NF-authorized laboratory shall send its report(s), according to its choice, to CERTIGAZ or to an independent laboratory.

This independent laboratory or CERTIGAZ shall examine the results of the authorized laboratory's type tests.

Verification tests shall then be performed in the facilities of the independent laboratory or in those of the NF-authorized laboratory depending on availability and the choice of the applicant.

These verification tests are chosen with the agreement of CERTIGAZ according to the guidelines in the tables in paragraph 3.3.1.3 below, the results of the type tests and the criticality of the tests.

Tests in the NF-authorized laboratory shall be carried out under the supervision of a representative of the independent laboratory or of CERTIGAZ.

Any verification test performed in the NF-authorized manufacturer's laboratory without the constant presence of the representative of the independent laboratory or of CERTIGAZ shall be recorded continuously (for example, some endurance tests). Otherwise, the tests shall be carried out by an independent laboratory.

The independent laboratory shall send its test reports and its opinion on the manufacturer's test report if necessary to CERTIGAZ and to the applicant/holder.

### **3.3.1.2 Tests carried out by an accredited manufacturer's laboratory**

The manufacturer's accredited laboratory may carry out all or part of the tests.

As part of the monitoring of the accreditation of its laboratory, the procedure SLAB100 (available on the website [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr)) shall be applied.

The accredited manufacturer's laboratory shall send its report(s) to CERTIGAZ.

CERTIGAZ shall examine the type test results of the independent laboratory and if deemed necessary, may ask an independent laboratory, in its facilities or in the facilities of the accredited manufacturer's laboratory depending on availability and the applicant's choice, to carry out cross-check tests chosen with the agreement of CERTIGAZ.

The independent laboratory shall send its cross-check test report(s) to CERTIGAZ and to the applicant/holder.

### **3.3.1.3 Determination of the tests**

**3.3.1.3.1 - NF E 29-532**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
3-4-5-9	Dimensions	(1)	(6)
6	Leaktightness and pressure resistance test	(2)	(2)
7	Tightening resistance test of the nuts	(3)	(4) (5)
8	Stress cracking resistance test in ammoniacal medium of copper alloy connection parts	(3)	(2) (4)
10	Marking	(6)	(6)
11	Material (material analysis)	(2) (8)	(2) (8)

**3.3.1.3.2 - NF E 29-536**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
3-8	Dimensions	(1)	(6)
5	Leaktightness and pressure resistance test	(2)	(2)
6	Tightening resistance test of the nuts	(3)	(4) (5)
7	Stress cracking resistance test in ammoniacal medium of copper alloy connection parts	(3)	(2) (4)
9	Marking	(6)	(6)
10	Material (material analysis)	(2) (8)	(2) (8)

**3.3.1.3.3 - CCH 2020-04**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
3 and 5	Dimensions	(1)	(6)
4.2	Leaktightness test	(2)	(2)
4.3	Tightening resistance test of the nuts	(3)	(4) (5)
4.4	Stress cracking resistance test in ammoniacal medium of copper alloy connection parts	(3)	(2) (4)
6	Marking	(6)	(6)
7	Packaging and/or manual	(6)	(6)
8	Material (material analysis)	(2) (8)	(2) (8)

**3.3.1.3.4 - CCH 2020-05**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
3 and 5	Dimensions	(1)	(6)
4.2	Leaktightness test	(2)	(2)
4.3	Stress cracking resistance test in ammoniacal medium of copper alloy connection parts	(2)	(2)
6	Marking	(6)	(6)
8	Material (material analysis)	(2) (8)	(2) (8)

**3.3.1.3.5 - XPE 29-195**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
	Dimensions (see special specification if applicable)	(7)	(7)
5.1	Leaktightness	(7)	(7)
5.2	Pressure drop	(7)	(7)
5.3	Hydraulic pressure resistance	(7)	(7)
5.4	Tensile strength	(7)	(7)
5.5	Pliability resistance	(7)	(7)
5.6	Penetration resistance	(7)	(7)
5.7	Crush resistance	(7)	(7)
5.8	Wear resistance of the outer protection (if any)	(7)	(7)
5.9	Temperature resistance (if presence of a protective sheath)	(7)	(7)
5.10	Salt spray resistance	(7)	
5.11	Corrosion resistance to hydrochloric acid	(7)	(7)
5.12	Stress corrosion resistance for parts containing copper alloys	(7)	(7)
5.13	Electrical continuity	(7)	
6	Marking	(7)	(7)
7	Packaging and manual	(7)	(7)

**3.3.1.3.6 - SRAC326-NF**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
4.1	Leaktightness	(7)	(7)
4.2	Pressure drop	(7)	(7)
4.3	Tensile strength	(7)	(7)
4.4	Bending strength	(7)	(7)
4.5	Resistance to thermal cycling	(7)	(7)
4.6	Impact resistance	(7)	(7)
4.7	Crush resistance	(7)	(7)
4.8	Rotation endurance test	(7)	(7)
4.9	Endurance test of the fitting's sliding function	(7)	(7)
5	Dimensions	(7)	(7)
6	Marking	(7)	(7)
7	Packaging and manual	(7)	(7)

**3.3.1.3.7 - CCH 2020-02**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
4 and 5	Dimensional and manufacturing requirements	(1)	(6)
6.1	Leaktightness	(9)	(9)
6.2	Resistances to chemical actions	(3) (9)	(4) (9)
6.3	Resistances to mechanical actions	(3) (9)	(4) (9)
6.4	Marking resistance	(6)	(6)
7	Marking	(6)	(6)
8	Installation manual	(6)	(6)
9	Protection	(6)	(6)

**Legend for all of the tables in paragraph 3.3.1.3:**

- (1) Elements examined by CERTIGAZ during analysis of the technical file and during the audits
- (2) 1 product for each type of manufacturing process (bar turning, punching/machining and/or casting/machining).
- (3) For all DN of nuts (crimped and uncrimped) or sleeves to be deformed (for captive nuts)
- (4) For all DN of nuts or sleeves to be deformed (for captive nuts)
- (5) 1 DN for uncrimped nut
- (6) For all products concerned by the tests
- (7) For each type of bracket and each DN
- (8) Metallurgical analysis by independent laboratory
- (9) 2 models per range

In the event of common supplier for various certificates and for the same industrial process, the inspections may be adapted to cover all of the products.

In the case of products using common elements, CERTIGAZ may possibly reduce the tests by only carrying out the test on a single product or distributing the tests over the various products.

**3.3.1.3.8 - NF EN 751-1**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 6.2	Technical document verification	X	X
§ 5.1.1	Visual appearance	X	X
§ 5.1.2	Chemical stability	X	X
§ 5.1.3	Anti-corrosion property: - Corrosivity test (classed 3 or less according to EN ISO 2160)	X	X
§ 5.1.4	Storage stability	X	X
§ 7.2.1.1	Test specimen preparation	X	X
§ 5.2.1.1 + § 7.2.1.2	Efficiency (leak)	X	X
§ 5.2.1.2 + § 7.2.1.3	Resistance to gaz condensates: - conditioning with n-pentane for 72 h - then Efficiency check	X	X

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 5.2.1.3 + § 7.2.1.4	Hot water resistance: - conditioning at 130°C for 168 h - then Efficiency check	X	Once every 3 years
§ 5.2.1.4 + § 7.2.1.5	Resistance to temperature cycling: - cycles (5 cycles 150°C + 1 cycle -20°C = 124 h) - then Efficiency check	X	X
§ 5.2.1.5 + § 7.2.1.6	Vibration resistance: - vibrations for 30 min - then Efficiency check	X	X
§ 5.2.2 + § 7.2.2	Compatibility with foaming leak detectors	X	X
§ 8.1	Marking on packaging	X	X
§ 8.2	Instructions	X	X

**3.3.1.3.9 - NF EN 751-2**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 6.2	Technical document verification	X	X
§ 5.1.1	Visual appearance	X	X
§ 5.1.1	Anti-corrosion property	X	X
§ 5.1.3	Storage stability	X	X
§ 5.1.1 + § 7.2.1.1	Wettability/Test specimen preparation	X	X
§ 5.2.1.1 + § 7.2.1.2	Efficiency (leak)	X	X
§ 5.2.1.1 + § 7.2.1.2	Efficiency (leak) – additional tests if class A	X	X
§ 5.2.1.2 + § 7.2.1.3	Efficiency after adjusting orientation (for class Arp only)	X	X
§ 5.2.1.3 + § 7.2.1.4	Resistance to gaz condensates: - conditioning with n-pentane for 72 h - then Efficiency check	X	X
§ 5.2.1.4 + § 7.2.1.5	Hot water resistance (class A): - conditioning at 130°C for 168 h - then Efficiency check	X	Once every 3 years
§ 5.2.1.4 + § 7.2.1.5	Hot water resistance (class B and C): - conditioning in water bath at 70°C for 6 h - then Efficiency check	X	
§ 5.2.1.5 + § 7.2.1.6	Resistance to temperature cycling: - cycles (5 cycles 150°C + 1 cycle -20°C = 124 h) - then Efficiency check	X	X
§ 5.2.1.6 + § 7.2.1.7	Vibration resistance	X	X
§ 5.2.2 + § 7.2.2	Compatibility with foaming leak detectors	X	X

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 5.2.3 + § 7.2.3	Hardening and demountability	X	X
§ 8.1	Marking on packaging	X	X
§ 8.2	Instructions	X	X

**3.3.1.3.10 - NF EN 549 (03/1995)**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 6.1	Visual inspection	X	X
§ 7.2	Hardness	X	X
§ 7.3	Tensile strength and elongation at break	X	X
§ 7.4	Compression set	X	X
§ 7.5	Resistance to ageing	X	X
§ 7.6	Resistance to gaz	X	X
§ 7.7	Resistance to lubricants	X	X
§ 7.8	Resistance to ozone	X	X

**3.3.1.3.11 - NF EN 549 (07/2019)**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 6.1	Visual inspection	X	X
§ 7.2	Hardness	X	X
§ 7.3	Tensile strength and elongation at break	X	X
§ 7.4	Compression set	X	X
§ 7.5	Resistance to ageing	X	X
§ 7.6	Resistance to gaz	X	X
§ 7.7	Resistance to condensate/liquid phase of combustible gazes	X	X
§ 7.8	Resistance to lubricants	X	X
§ 7.9	Resistance to ozone	X	X

**3.3.1.3.12 - NF EN 682 and NF EN 682/A1**

§	Requirements	Admission tests	Trade inspection
§ 4.2.3	Hardness	X	X
§ 4.2.4	Tensile strength and elongation at break	X	X
§ 4.2.5	Compression set	X	X
§ 4.2.6	Accelerated ageing	X	X
§ 4.2.7	Compression stress relaxation	X	X
§ 4.2.8	Volume variation in liquid B	X	X
§ 4.2.9	Volume variation in oil	X	X
§ 4.2.10	Resistance to ozone	X	X
§ 4.2.11	Compression set at -15°C	X	X

**3.3.2 Audit**

When examining an admission application for the right to use the NF Mark for fittings (interchangeable), CERTIGAZ shall conduct an audit of the site(s) taking the following table into account:

<b>Interchangeable fittings</b>				
<b>Entities</b>		<b>Audited industrial processes</b>	<b>Audit frequency</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Product control site		All processes	Admission and every year	
<b>Subcontractor</b>	Bar turning	No site audit	NA	If reception check + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Punching/ Machining	Punching and machining	Admission and once during the validity period of the certificate	If reception check + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Casting/ Machining	Casting, machining and 100% leaktightness test	Admission and once during the validity period of the certificate	If reception check + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Nut crimping or sleeve deformation	Nut crimping or sleeve deformation (for captive nuts)	Admission and once during the validity period of the certificate	If batch release tests, acceptance test + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Brazing	Brazing process + 100% leaktightness test	Admission and every year	
	Braze welding	Welding-brazing process + 100% leaktightness test	Admission and every year	
	Bracket manufacturing with stainless steel tube	Corrugated manufacturing or tube with longitudinal weld (if applicable) Jointing 100% leaktightness test	Admission and every year	



Gaz appliance connection kits			
Entities	Audited industrial processes	Audit frequency	Comments
Product control site	All processes	Admission and every year	
Subcontractor	Brazing	Brazing	Admission and every year
	Punching/casting	Punching and casting	Admission and once during the validity period of the certificate If reception check + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Tube forming	Forming	Admission and once during the validity period of the certificate If reception check + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Leaktightness	100% leaktightness test	Admission and every year
	Nut crimping or sleeve deformation	Nut crimping or sleeve deformation (for captive nuts)	Admission and once during the validity period of the certificate If batch release tests, acceptance test + supply control by holder (otherwise, annual audit)
	Final inspection	Batch release control and periodic control	Admission and every year

During the instruction of an admission application for the right to use the NF Mark:

- for threaded fitting sealants, the sealant manufacturing and packaging sites are audited;
- for elastomers, the mixing sites are audited.

The duration of the audit shall be defined by CERTIGAZ taking into account the complexity of the products and of the range submitted.

The audit shall be carried out taking into account the requirements of paragraph 2.4.3.

In the case of an extension application, CERTIGAZ may decide to conduct, if it deems necessary, an audit to verify that the new measures implemented by the manufacturer meet the requirements of these guidelines. In this case, the audit may only cover elements specific to the manufacture of the product that is covered by the application.

The purpose of the audit is to ensure that the measures defined and implemented by the applicant in the design and/or manufacturing and/or marketing process audited, meet the requirements of Part 2 of these Certification Guidelines.

The audit shall be conducted by adopting the general principles defined in the ISO/IEC 19011 for carrying out a quality audit. The audit scope and details of its conduct shall be set out in an audit plan sent in advance to the company.

In the case of an application wherein an annexe workshop is involved in a significant part of the process, a joint or separate audit shall be organised.

If the entity subcontracts a part of its business, CERTIGAZ reserves the right to audit the premises of the subcontractor(s) based on the same guidelines.

The auditor shall be provided with all the resources necessary (premises, facilities, equipment) to perform the assignment, including competent people to carry it out.

With the applicant’s agreement, the inspectors/auditors may make a copy of any document they consider necessary.

The applicant agrees to the presence of a third-party observer during the audit. If there is a conflict of interest, the holder may object to the third-party observer.

At the end of the audit, a closing report signed by those present in the closing meeting shall show the number of non-conformities. An audit report shall then be prepared and sent to the applicant.

The audit report shall show any observations:

- Major non-conformity
- Minor non-conformity
- Sensitive point
- Strong point

In the case of non-conformities found during the audit, the applicant shall return to the auditor the non-conformity sheets completed with the corrective actions implemented and their implementation deadline.

The auditor analyses the corrective actions and their implementation time, then decides on their relevance.

A major non-conformity shall be resolved, the verification of the effective implementation of the corrective actions shall be carried out by the auditor. A major non-conformity that has not been resolved blocks the certification process.

When a non-conformity (major or minor) cannot be resolved on the basis of the action plan and elements provided, it may be necessary to carry out an additional audit. The aim of this audit is to examine on site the effective implementation of the corrective actions. The CSR communicates this requirement with the customer by explaining the reasons for this decision and indicating to them the expected duration (0.5 days or 1 day). This eventuality is indicated by the auditor during the closing meeting when presenting non-conformities

A minor non-conformity shall be resolved based on the action plan proposed by the applicant:

- The minor non-conformity may be resolved depending on the action plan and the elements provided;
- The minor non-conformity may be resolved during the next audit when it is necessary to verify the effective implementation and the effectiveness of the corrective actions.

An unresolved minor non-conformity does not block the certification process. The sensitive points shall be checked during the next audit.

#### **Exceptional derogation procedure related to the Covid-19 pandemic:**

In the case where it is not possible to carry out the audit of a manufacturing site due to health measures related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the following procedure may be applied:

##### **Case no.1: brass and steel fittings and connection kit for gaz appliances**

- ▶ This procedure is only applicable if the holder carries out a physical reception check of the product manufactured on the site that cannot be audited and that the holder's site is audited;
- ▶ The admission audit may be carried out remotely for the holder's site only for sites already audited by CERTIGAZ within the framework of another NF Mark managed by CERTIGAZ (NF078, NF115, NF136 or NF404). In this case, the audit shall be carried out by an auditor who already carried out a physical audit on the site concerned;
  - ▶ A remote audit of the site that cannot be physically audited is carried out via videoconferencing in all sectors of the company (including the production workshops). The duration of the remote audit may be increased in relation to the duration of an on-site physical audit;
  - ▶ Third-party monitoring tests in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 of this document, but with a periodicity of 3 months, until the physical audit is carried out;
  - ▶ It is imperative to carry out the physical audit as soon as the health measures permit.

**Case no. 2: sealants**

- ▶ A remote audit of the site that cannot be physically audited is carried out via videoconferencing in all sectors of the company (including the production workshops). The duration of the remote audit may be increased in relation to the duration of an on-site physical audit;
- ▶ In the case of a remote audit of the manufacturing site, monitoring tests shall be carried out on each product batch manufactured or at least once a month if several batches are manufactured in one month, until the physical audit is carried out. These tests are carried out by the Mark laboratory (see §5.4) or on a site audited by CERTIGAZ and that has demonstrated its ability to carry out the tests. The tests to be carried out on each batch are the following:

§	NF EN 751-1 requirements
§ 5.1.1	Visual appearance
§ 5.2.1.1 + § 7.2.1.2	Efficiency (leak)
§ 5.2.1.3 + § 7.2.1.4	Resistance to gaz condensates: - conditioning with n-pentane for 72 h - then Efficiency check
§ 5.2.1.6 + § 7.2.1.7	Vibration resistance
§ 8.1	Marking on packaging
§ 8.2	Instructions

The batches of products tested may only be placed on the market after the test results have been obtained.

- ▶ For each batch of products manufactured during this derogation, the manufacturer shall keep samples of each batch manufactured.
  - ▶ It is imperative to carry out the physical audit as soon as the health measures permit.

**3.4 Evaluation and decision**

CERTIGAZ shall evaluate:

- The audit reports and the auditor’s transmission sheets and shall analyse the corrective actions and their implementation time, and the relevance of the applicant’s responses;
- The manufacturer’s application and related documents;
- The technical files;
- The test reports.

The test results shall demonstrate that all product performance comply with the requirements of the standards. The test reports shall demonstrate compliance for all of the tests defined in paragraph 3.3.1.3

If the results are disputed, CERTIGAZ may commission an additional inspection to verify the implementation of corrective actions (audit and/or complete or partial test(s)).

If CERTIGAZ has difficulty in arriving at a decision, the Special Committee of the NF540 Mark may be asked to give an opinion.

Following evaluation of the results of all of the elements, CERTIGAZ shall make one of the following decisions:

- ▶ Grant the certification;
- ▶ Refuse the certification

In case of a positive certification decision, AFNOR Certification shall grant the right to use the NF Mark, and CERTIGAZ shall send to the applicant, who becomes the holder, the NF certificate and the letter notifying the decision.

The certificate shall have a 3-year validity period. This certificate may be reproduced only in its entirety.

In the event of serious infringements of safety obligations and the absence of specified requirements, CERTIGAZ may, as a conservatory measure, apply the requisite decision to refuse the certification with immediate effect.

The applicant may challenge the decision made by submitting a request in accordance with the General Rules of the NF Mark.

Awarding the right to use shall under no circumstances substitute the legal responsibility of the company holding the right to use the NF Mark by the responsibility of CERTIGAZ.

The procedures for communicating about certification are defined in Part 2.5 of these Certification Rules.

## Part 4

# MAINTAINING THE CERTIFICATION: the monitoring procedures

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During the entire certification, the holder shall:

- Comply with the requirements defined and the conditions of marking described in Part 2;
- Keep its certification file up to date as specified in Part 7;
- Systematically inform CERTIGAZ of changes of any characteristics of the certified product, and/or of its organisation likely to have any consequence on the certification.

Moreover, CERTIGAZ reserves the right to proceed with any inspections (audits, tests, verifications, etc.) that it deems to be necessary further to:

- A change to the certified product or the quality organisation of the production entities (production plant, production workshops, subcontractors' plants, etc.);
- complaints, claims, litigation, etc. regarding the use of the NF Mark that came to its notice.

The certified products are monitored every year by CERTIGAZ after the right to use the NF Mark has been granted.

Generally, during any visit and in all places, regardless of the main purpose of their assignment, the NF inspector/auditor shall gather information about the use made of the NF Mark and about all issues relating to the application of the General Rules of the NF Mark and these Certification Rules.

### 4.1 Monitoring procedures

The monitoring of NF certified products shall include tests on products and audits of the manufacturing site(s).

It also covers the monitoring of the use of the mark and logo on products, packaging and any communication materials.

The monitoring procedures are defined below but may be based on:

- decisions made with reference to the previous controls;
- any complaints.

#### 4.1.1 Tests on the NF certified product

##### 4.1.1.1 General

Compliance tests on the certified product are carried out in accordance with the specifications of admission tests set out in paragraph 3.3.1 in an independent laboratory or in an NF-authorized manufacturer's laboratory according to availability and chosen by the holder.

In the case of products certified using common elements, CERTIGAZ may possibly reduce the tests by only carrying out the test on a single product or distributing the tests over the various products.

The quantities to be sampled are those cited in the applicable standards and specifications and are defined by CERTIGAZ in special cases.

The monitoring tests are carried out annually in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 3.3.1.

Samples are taken on the manufacturer's stock. The latter is responsible for the cost of taking these samples.

In the event of insufficient representative stock (in quantity or date of manufacture), the samples may be taken by a distributor or in the trade with re-invoicing of the purchasing costs to the manufacturer. In this case, the holder shall be notified of this before the sampling.

Aside from the sanctions that may be taken as part of the monitoring and continuation of the pace of the normal control, any negative control of a product may lead to another control being carried out.

### 4.1.2 Audit of the manufacturing site

Audits are conducted periodically to ensure compliance with the conditions specified in paragraph 2.4. The audit frequencies for sites manufacturing fittings are defined in the table in paragraph 3.3.2.

For threaded fitting sealants, the sealant manufacturing and packaging sites are audited annually.

For elastomers, the mixing sites are audited annually.

The implementation conditions are the same as the initial audit. The duration of the audit is usually one day but may be reduced or increased depending on the complexity of the product, the product range monitored and the size of the manufacturing site.

If the holder manufactures products in several NF applications mandated to CERTIGAZ, the monitoring audit may be combined for several marks; in this case, the duration of the audit shall be adjusted and a team of auditors may be appointed.

The management of audit findings is identical to that of the admission or extension audit (see § 3.3.2).

A major or minor non-conformity shall be resolved based on the action plan proposed by the applicant:

- The non-conformity may be resolved depending on the action plan and the elements provided;
- The non-conformity may be resolved at the following audit when it is necessary to verify the effective implementation and the effectiveness of the corrective actions

## 4.2 Evaluation and decision

The evaluation procedures are similar to those described for admission in Part 3.

Depending on the results of all inspections, CERTIGAZ may decide to:

- continue the certification;
- continue the certification with an observation(s), renew the certification with a warning(s) and with or without additional inspection(s);
- declare the suspension of certification;
- declare the withdrawal of the certification.

### **Continuance:**

After receiving the results of the monitoring tests and the results of the audit(s), CERTIGAZ sends a continuance letter recording the monitoring carried out.

When CERTIGAZ issues this certification continuance decision letter, AFNOR Certification confirms continuance of the right to use the NF Mark.

### **Renewal:**

Before the expiry date of the certificate, CERTIGAZ assesses the results of the monitoring (audits and tests) and any sanctions imposed, then decides on the renewal of the certification.

### **Suspension:**

In the event of serious infringements of safety obligations and in the absence of specified requirements, CERTIGAZ may, as a conservatory measure, apply the requisite decision to suspend the certification with immediate effect.

The suspension decision:

- specifies the terms of its lifting. The lifting terms may be specified or reviewed by CERTIGAZ depending on the expertise, cause analysis and corrective actions presented by the holder
- is pronounced for a period of 6 months, renewable under conditions; the total duration of a suspension may not exceed 2 years. After this period, a withdrawal decision will be pronounced by CERTIGAZ.

The suspension can be lifted before the expiry date indicated in the CERTIGAZ decision letter if the terms of its lifting are respected.

In the event of the suspension or withdrawal of certification, AFNOR Certification shall suspend or withdraw the right to use the NF Mark.

The sanction shall be enforceable from the date of receipt of its notification.

Additional verification expenses incurred by the sanctions shall be borne by the holder.

The holders shall be responsible for the right to use the NF Mark for the product in question and shall undertake to implement the measures arising from the suspension or withdrawal of the right of use, taken in accordance with these Certification Rules.

Any suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF Mark entails the prohibition of using the NF Mark and of referring to it for any new production (see paragraph 4.4). For productions prior to the suspension or withdrawal of the right of use, CERTIGAZ may take special measures on a case-by-case basis (example: authorisation to dispose of the stocks, destruction of the stock, product recalls, etc.).

The holder may challenge the decision made by submitting a request in accordance with the General Rules of the NF Mark.

### **4.3 Declaration of modifications**

This section stipulates the information to be provided and the procedures to be followed in the event of changes affecting:

- The holder
- The production unit(s)
- The quality organisation of the design and/or manufacturing and/or marketing process
- The product

The holder shall notify CERTIGAZ in writing of any changes to the conditions under which the NF Mark was obtained.

If CERTIGAZ observes that this obligation has not been honoured, the right to use the NF Mark may be suspended or even withdrawn.

For other cases that are not covered by parts 4.3.1 to 4.3.5, CERTIGAZ shall determine whether the modifications could call into question the certification and whether an additional inspection is necessary.

Depending on the examination results, CERTIGAZ shall make the appropriate decision.

#### **4.3.1 Modification concerning the holder**

The holder shall report in writing to CERTIGAZ any legal modification of the company or any change in the company's name.

In case of merger, bankruptcy or takeover of the holder, the right to use the NF Mark that the holder may enjoy shall cease automatically.

A new application may be submitted and its examination reduced depending on the modifications.

#### **4.3.2 Modification concerning the production unit(s)**

Any transfer (total or partial) of the production unit(s) of an NF certified product to a different production site shall bring about an immediate cessation of NF Marking by the holder on the transferred products in any form whatsoever.

The holder shall declare this transfer in writing to CERTIGAZ, which shall organise an audit of the new production site and, as the case may be, have tests carried out.

If CERTIGAZ believes that the modifications are significant, the holder shall send an application to CERTIGAZ. Depending on the modification declared, CERTIGAZ shall determine if this is an application for extension, admission or maintenance of the certification.

The procedures for evaluation and for decision of the certification are identical to those for admission described in Part 3.

### **4.3.3 Modification concerning the quality organisation of the manufacturing and/or marketing process**

The holder shall declare in writing to CERTIGAZ any change regarding its quality organisation likely to have an impact on the compliance of the design and/or manufacturing and/or marketing with regard to the requirements of these Certification Rules (changes to the facilities, quality plans, agent, etc.).

If CERTIGAZ believes that the modifications are significant, the holder shall send an application to CERTIGAZ. Depending on the modification declared, CERTIGAZ shall determine if this is an application for extension, admission or maintenance of the certification.

On the other hand, any temporary cessation in the internal control for an NF certified product shall entail an immediate cessation of the NF Marking of this product by the holder in any form whatsoever. The holder shall inform CERTIGAZ.

The procedures for evaluation and for decision of the certification are identical to those for admission described in Part 3.

### **4.3.4 Modification concerning the NF certified product**

CERTIGAZ shall be informed by written statement of any modification of the NF certified product with respect to the application file, the certified model, the Rules defined in the certification guidelines liable to affect the conformity of the product with the requirements of these certification guidelines or any change of trademark.

Depending on the modification declared, CERTIGAZ shall determine if this is an application for extension, admission or maintenance of the certification.

### **4.3.5 Temporary or permanent cessation of production**

CERTIGAZ shall be informed by written statement of any permanent or temporary cessation of production of an NF certified product or any relinquishment of the right to use the NF Mark, specifying the period of time required to sell off the stock of NF marked products.

Upon receipt of the holder's letter, CERTIGAZ shall notify the holder of the suspension of the right to use the NF Mark. The maximum date for selling off the stock shall be defined by CERTIGAZ depending on the application of the holder and the market for the product.

The withdrawal of the right to use the NF Mark shall be notified upon the expiration of the deadline for selling off the stocks indicated by the holder, which has been approved previously by CERTIGAZ; the product shall then be removed from the list of certified products.

During the disposal of the stock, the annual management and the right to use the NF Mark shall be paid.

## **4.4 Conditions for the termination of marking or demarking in the event of suspension, withdrawal, relinquishment**

Any suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF RAC-GAZ Mark shall entail the prohibition of using this mark and of referring to it. Similarly, accidentally non-compliant products shall be demarked.

Therefore, in such cases, the NF Mark shall no longer appear on products, their packaging, documentation, advertising or any other of the manufacturer's materials.



## Part 5

# PARTICIPANTS

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The bodies involved in the procedure to grant the right to use the NF Mark and to monitor the NF certified products are specified below.

### 5.1 AFNOR Certification

AFNOR owns the NF Mark and has granted AFNOR Certification exclusive licensing rights.

AFNOR Certification manages and coordinates the NF certification system, which particularly defines the NF Mark governance rules and procedures.

<b>AFNOR Certification</b> 11, rue Francis de Pressensé F-93571 LA PLAINE SAINT-DENIS CEDEX	Telephone: +33 (0)1 41 62 80 00 Marque-nf@afnor.org www.marque-nf.com
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### 5.2 CERTIGAZ

In accordance with the General Rules of the NF Mark, AFNOR Certification has entrusted the management of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark to the body below, called the mandated body:

<b>CERTIGAZ</b> 8, rue de l'Hôtel de Ville F-92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE	Telephone: +33 (0)1 80 21 07 40 infocertigaz@certigaz.fr www.certigaz.fr
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CERTIGAZ is answerable to AFNOR Certification for the operations with which it is entrusted and which are covered by a contract.

### 5.3 Inspection and audit body

The functions of auditing the manufacturing unit, and possibly on the places of use, are carried out by CERTIGAZ

In some cases, audit and inspection operations may be performed by a subcontractor qualified by CERTIGAZ.

Auditors shall have the right of scrutiny at the premises of any applicant or holder within the framework of their mission.

### 5.4 Laboratories

When the inspections involve product tests, these tests are performed, at CERTIGAZ's request, by the following laboratory(ies), called the Mark laboratory(ies):

Laboratory	Contact
<b>CETIAT</b> (CENTRE TECHNIQUE DES INDUSTRIES AERAULIQUES ET THERMIQUES) BP 2042 F-69603 VILLEURBANNE CEDEX	Tel.:+33 (0)4 72 44 49 00
<b>CTIF</b> (CENTRE TECHNIQUE DES INDUSTRIES DE LA FONDERIE) 44 avenue de la Division Leclerc 92310 SEVRES	Tel.: +33 (0)1 41 14 63 00
<b>CSTB</b> (CENTRE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DU BATIMENT) 84 avenue Jean Jaurès F-77421 CHAMPS-SUR-MARNE	Tel.: +33 (0)1 64 68 82 86
<b>LRCCP</b> (LABORATOIRE DE RECHERCHE ET DE CONTROLE DU CAOUTCHOUC ET DES PLASTIQUES) 60 rue Auber 94408 VITRY-SUR-SEINE CEDEX	Tel.: +33 (0)1 49 60 57 57

Testing laboratories wishing to perform tests as an independent laboratory shall submit an application to CERTIGAZ. They shall be appointed on a proposal from CERTIGAZ after consultation with the Special Committee. Such laboratories shall meet the criteria defined by NF EN ISO/IEC 17025.

## 5.5 Special Committee

### 5.5.1 Role and tasks of the Special Committee

An advisory body called the Special Committee shall be set up, whose secretariat shall be managed by CERTIGAZ.

The Special Committee shall meet periodically or when needed. The mission of this Committee is to give an opinion on:

- all questions concerning the certification of gaz fittings on request from CERTIGAZ;
- changes in the Certification Rules (widening the scope, technical changes, etc.). The Committee then evaluates the impact of the changes and proposes a transition period if necessary;
- the certification files on request from CERTIGAZ (including dispute resolutions, sanctions, etc.);
- approving the minutes of the meetings of the Special Committees;
- participating in the mechanism for safeguarding impartiality (§5.2 of standard NF EN ISO/IEC 17065).

The draft documents and proposed changes for these Certification Rules are subject to the opinion of the Special Committee before their approval by AFNOR Certification. The consultation is conducted by CERTIGAZ, which processes the different views of the stakeholders and provides them with feedback. CERTIGAZ prepares the final text, taking into account the opinion of each and tending to reconcile divergent opinions.

The Special Committee is an advisory body which issues opinions that serve as a basis for decision. Consensus is systematically sought.

CERTIGAZ may decide not to follow the opinion of the Special Committee, for example if it is contrary to the accreditation obligations. In this case, this decision and the reasons for this decision shall be recorded.

Committee members shall receive no remuneration for the functions entrusted to them.

CERTIGAZ shall take special provisions to ensure the confidentiality of the applicant's or holder's files submitted to the Special Committee (except in case of challenge/appeal).

To do this, a confidentiality and impartiality undertaking shall be taken by each member or alternate.

Representatives of AFNOR Certification, the Ministry and CERTIGAZ are bound by confidentiality as part of their duties and do not take this undertaking.

For specific topics, the Committee may call upon an expert. This expert is then invited and by signing the attendance register as any participant, they shall agree to ensure the confidentiality of the information discussed at the meeting.

The Special Committee may entrust some of its work to working groups. The result of this work shall be presented to the Special Committee for opinion.

These working groups may be composed of members of the Special Committee and holders of the NF Mark.

Before each meeting, CERTIGAZ shall send an agenda to each member, with or without preparatory documents.

At each meeting of the Special Committee, CERTIGAZ shall present the complaints/claims and appeals received and review the Cofrac accreditation. CERTIGAZ also presents the actions put in place to manage the risks of conflicts of interest. The Special Committee advises on the terms established by CERTIGAZ in order to control its impartiality. This opinion is recorded in the report.

CERTIGAZ shall prepare and send the report to the Committee members.

### **5.5.2 Composition of the Special Committee**

The composition of the Special Committee shall be defined so as to respect a representation between the different interested parties that does not lead to the predominance of one of them and that guarantees their relevance.

The members of the Special Committee shall be appointed by CERTIGAZ. A member of the Special Committee may be represented only by an alternate appointed under the same conditions.

During Special Committee meetings, the holder and its alternate may be present, but in case of voting, only the holder may vote.

When several holder manufacturers belong to a group, only one seat is possible for the group. However, the Committee member and their alternate may belong to two different entities within the same group and participate together in meetings.

The term of office of the members and the president shall be 3 years. The term is renewable by tacit agreement if there are no other nominations, and the maximum number of seats per panel is not reached.

#### **The Committee shall be composed of three panels:**

##### **MANUFACTURERS Panel:**

3 to 10 seats representing the manufacturers, who are holders of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark.

##### **USERS/SPECIFIERS Panel:**

3 to 10 seats representing the users/specifiers

- (Gaz distributors, professional gaz company unions, installers, dealers in sanitary heating, DIY stores, consumers, etc.).

##### **TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES Panel:**

3 to 10 seats representing the technical and administrative bodies

- (AFNOR Certification, BNG, CERTIGAZ, independent laboratories of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark, technical inspection agency, the Ministry for gaz safety, etc.).

The Chairman of the Special Committee shall be appointed from among the members of the Special Committee and by them.

CERTIGAZ and AFNOR Certification shall be ex officio vice-presidents.

## Part 6

### RATES

This part defines the amount payable for services regarding NF certification and describes the collection method.

NF certification includes the following services:

- Development and implementation of an application
- Examination of the application
- Functioning of the certification application
- Tests
- Inspection/audit visits
- Sampling
- Right to use the NF Mark
- Additional inspections
- Promotion

#### 6.1 Services relating to certification

Type of service	Definition of the service	General conditions common to NF Marks
<b>Development and implementation of an application (Registration)</b>	Participation in the implementation of an NF Mark application, elaboration of the certification rules (guidelines) included	Registration fees are paid by the applicant at the initial application for the right to use the NF Mark. These fees are invoiced when CERTIGAZ registers the initial application and no later than the time the right to use is invoiced (during the certification of products).
<b>Examination of the application</b>	This service includes the examination of application files, exchanges with applicants, laboratories, inspectors/auditors, and the evaluation of inspection results	Payment for these services is due even if the right to use the NF Mark is not granted or if the application process is forsaken during examination
<b>Functioning of the certification application</b>	Services for managing the files of certified products and their holders, drawing up lists of certified products, and assessing inspection results.	The payment for this management is invoiced at the beginning of every year. Upon admission, the management is prorated to the number of months following the certification decision. Payment for managing the NF Mark is due even in the case of withdrawal or suspension during the year.
<b>Tests</b>	Testing services of laboratories.	Rates for tests provided by laboratories, which invoice for this service.

Type of service	Definition of the service	General conditions common to NF Marks
<b>Inspection and audit visit</b>	Services including the preparation of the audit visit, the audit itself and the report. Travel expenses and allowances for long-distance travel will be added to these services.	Payment for these services is due even if the right to use the NF Mark is not granted or extended.
<b>Sampling</b>	This service includes sampling preparation and the sampling itself.	The service is invoiced for actual time spent.
<b>Right to use the NF Mark</b>	This licence fee due to AFNOR Certification is intended to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of the NF Mark: filing and protection of the mark, legal counsel, processing of appeals and misuses (legal services)</li> <li>• General promotion of the NF Mark</li> <li>• General operation of the NF Mark (management of the NF Mark governance bodies, quality systems, etc.).</li> </ul>	The licence fee amount is invoiced by CERTIGAZ and paid to AFNOR Certification as manager and leader of the NF certification system. Upon admission, the licence fee is prorated to the number of months following the certification decision. The licence fee for using the NF Mark is due, even in the case of withdrawal or suspension during the year.
<b>Additional inspections</b>	Services incurred by additional inspections or verification tests that may prove necessary following insufficiency or anomalies revealed by current inspections.	Services are borne by the applicant/holder.
<b>Promotion</b>	Sector-based promotion of the NF Mark.	Service for which the fees can be defined every year in addition to the other services.

## 6.2 Collection of payments for services

The above-defined services are invoiced by CERTIGAZ to the applicant/holder.

CERTIGAZ is authorised to collect the payments for all the services.

However, bodies involved in testing shall directly invoice and collect the amount payable for the corresponding services.

The applicant or holder shall pay for such services under the prescribed conditions: any failure on the part of the holder constitutes an obstacle to CERTIGAZ in its exercise of the control and intervention responsibilities incumbent on it under these Certification Rules (guidelines).

The payment of invoices issued by CERTIGAZ shall be due within 30 days from receipt of invoice, or upon receipt in the case of invoices sent to a foreign manufacturer.

In case a first notice does not lead to the payment of all sums due, any sanction provided in Part 4 may be taken for all of the holder's accepted products.

Services invoiced correspond to the number of verifications performed. Any additional test or audit is invoiced to the manufacturer, whatever the results obtained.

As long as there are stocks of NF marked products remaining with the holder, inspections and the reimbursement of corresponding services shall be maintained.

## 6.3 Amount payable for services

The amount payable for such services and for the right to use the mark is subject to a financial framework revisable annually by CERTIGAZ and sent, at the beginning of the year, to all holders of the mark, to the Special Committee members and to AFNOR Certification.

This rate is available upon request to CERTIGAZ and on CERTIGAZ's website: [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr)

Rates are in Euros excluding taxes. As regards test rates, the samples shall be delivered to the Mark laboratory, carriage paid and customs cleared as appropriate, within a maximum period of 15 days from the sampling date.

## Part 7 CERTIFICATION FILES

### 7.1 File for application for the right to use

The application for the right to use the NF Mark shall be sent to CERTIGAZ.

If the application comes from an entity located outside the European Economic Area or outside the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the applicant shall appoint a French agent which shall co-sign the application.

The applicant shall compile a file whose content is adapted on a case-by-case basis:

- ⇒ Application letter (admission, extension or maintenance) reproduced on the applicant’s letterhead and established according to the model appended, *(see Model letter 001 and 002),*
- ⇒ General information form, *(see Form 003),*
- ⇒ Product form, *(see Form 004),*
- ⇒ Technical file. *(see Form 005).*

	Application for NF certification		
	Admission	Extension	Maintenance
<b>Application letter and commitment</b>	Model letter 001	Model letter 002 A	Model letter 002 B
<b>General information form regarding the applicant – Form 003:</b> - 003 A: standard - 003 B: if agent	X	If modification to the already certified product	If modification to the already certified product
<b>Product form 004:</b> - 004 fitting (1) - 004 elastomer - 004 sealants -004 gaz appliance connection kits	X	If modification to the already certified product	X
<b>Technical file Form 005</b>	X	X	If modification to the already certified product

(1) The form 004A fitting is an Excel file available on the website [www.certigaz.fr](http://www.certigaz.fr)

## 7.2 Model forms

<b>MODEL LETTER 001 NF RAC-GAZ MARK</b>
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**APPLICATION FORM FOR THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK  
OR EXTENSION OF THIS RIGHT FOR A NEW PRODUCT (ADMISSION)  
(to be drawn up on the applicant's letterhead)**

**CERTIGAZ  
Managing Director  
8 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville  
F-92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE**

Subject: **NF RAC-GAZ MARK**  
**Admission application for the right to use the NF Mark for a new product**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to apply for the right to use the NF Mark for the following product/product range:

**<product name/reference normative document>**

produced in the following manufacturing entity:

**<company name + address>**

and for the brand and for the reference below:

**<trademark and trade reference>**

In this respect, I hereby declare that I know and accept the General Rules of the NF Mark as well as the NF RAC-GAZ Certification Rules and undertake to comply with, throughout the period of use of the NF Mark, all of these rules available on the CERTIGAZ website and provided on request by CERTIGAZ.

I undertake to settle, upon receipt of the invoices, the costs that are at our expense. The rates are available on the CERTIGAZ website and may be requested from CERTIGAZ.

<OPTION (1): Moreover, I hereby authorise the Company (company name), (status of the company), (head office) represented by Mr/Ms (name of the legal representative), in their capacity as (function), to represent me in France for all questions relating to the use of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark.

I undertake to inform CERTIGAZ immediately of any change in the aforementioned representative.

<OPTION: I consequently request that the expenses that are to be borne by me be invoiced directly to the said representative.

This representative will ensure the immediate settlement of invoices upon receipt on my behalf as bound so to do in accepting to represent me.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature  
of the legal representative  
of the applicant (compulsory)**

**<OPTION (1): Date and signature  
of the representative in the EEA/EFTA>**

*(1) Only concerns applicants-holders located outside of the European Economic Area and European Free Trade Association*



**MODEL LETTER 002 A  
NF RAC-GAZ MARK****APPLICATION FORM FOR EXTENSION OF THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK  
FOR A MODIFIED PRODUCT  
(to be drawn up on the applicant's letterhead)****CERTIGAZ  
Managing Director  
8 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville  
F-92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE****Subject: NF RAC-GAZ  
Application for extension of the right to use the NF Mark for a modified product**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a holder of the NF Mark for the product manufactured by me under the following reference:

- . name of product/product range:
- . reference normative document:
- . manufacturing entity: (<company name> <address>)
- . trademark and trade reference:
- . certificate number: (*number*)
- . right to use granted on: (*certificate date*)

I would like to apply for the extension of the right to use the NF Mark for the product(s) manufactured by my company, deriving from the product already NF certified < **RAC certificate no. ....**> with the following changes: <**description of changes**>.

This product/product range will replace the certified product:  NO  YES

I hereby declare that the other characteristics of the products/product range concerned by this application are in strict compliance with the products that are already NF certified and manufactured in the same conditions.

In this respect, I hereby declare that I know and accept the General Rules of the NF Mark as well as the NF RAC-GAZ Certification Rules and undertake to comply with, throughout the period of use of the NF Mark, all of these rules available on the CERTIGAZ website and provided on request by CERTIGAZ.

I undertake to settle, upon receipt of the invoices, the costs that are at our expense. The rates are available on the CERTIGAZ website and may be requested from CERTIGAZ.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature  
of the legal representative  
of the holder**

**MODEL LETTER 002 B  
NF RAC-GAZ MARK****APPLICATION FORM FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK FOR A NEW  
TRADEMARK AND/OR SPECIFIC REFERENCE  
(to be drawn up on the applicant's letterhead)****CERTIGAZ  
Managing Director  
8 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville  
F-92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE****Subject: NF RAC-GAZ  
Application for maintenance of the right to use the NF Mark**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to apply to maintain the right to use the NF Mark for the product(s) which does/do not differ from the already NF certified product other than in their references and/or trademarks affixed thereto and in design changes which do not alter their certified features in any way whatsoever.

This application concerns:

- the name of the product/product range
- the manufacturing unit: (<company name> <address>)
- the right to use granted on: (certificate date)
- the certificate number: (number)

The trade name requested by the distributor is:

- trade reference:
- trademark:

I hereby declare that the other characteristics of the products concerned by this application are in strict compliance with the products already NF certified and manufactured in the same conditions.

In this respect, I hereby declare that I know and accept the General Rules of the NF Mark as well as the NF RAC-GAZ Certification Rules and undertake to comply with, throughout the period of use of the NF Mark, all of these Rules available on the CERTIGAZ website and provided on request by CERTIGAZ.

I undertake to settle, upon receipt of the invoices, the costs that are at our expense. The rates are available on the CERTIGAZ website and may be requested from CERTIGAZ.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature  
of the legal representative  
of the applicant****(and signature of the holder of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark  
for agreement in the case of an application for  
maintenance wherein the applicant is different from  
the holder)****<OPTION (1): Date and signature  
of the representative in the EEA/EFTA>***(1) Only concerns applicants-holders located outside of the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association*

**MODEL LETTER  
FORM 003 A  
NF RAC-GAZ MARK**

**GENERAL INFORMATION FORM REGARDING THE APPLICANT/HOLDER**

**MANUFACTURING UNIT:**

- Company name: .....
- .....
- Address: .....
- .....
- Country: .....
- Tel.: .....
- SIRET no. (1): ..... APE Code (2): .....
- Fax: ..... / Email, website:
- Name and position of the legal representative (3): .....
- Name and position of the contact (if different): .....
- Quality system certification:

**APPLICANT/HOLDER (if different from the manufacturing unit):**

- Company name: .....
- .....
- Address: .....
- .....
- Country: .....
- Tel.: .....
- Fax: ..... / Email, website:
- Name and position of the legal representative (3): .....
- Name and position of the contact (if different): .....

**REPRESENTATIVE IN THE EEA (if required):**

- Company name: .....
- .....
- Address: .....
- .....
- Country: .....
- Tel.: .....
- SIRET no. (1): ..... APE Code (2): .....
- Fax: ..... / Email, website:
- Name and position of the legal representative (3): .....
- Name and position of the contact (if different): .....

(1) and (2) Only for French companies.  
(3) The legal representative is the legal person responsible for the company.

**FORM 003 B  
NF-RAC-GAZ MARK**

**MODEL LETTER FOR AGENT**

**AGENT IN THE EEA :**

Dear Sir/Madam,

- Company name:

.....

- Address:

.....  
.....  
.....

- Country: ..... - Tel.: ..... - Fax:

.....

- SIRET no. (1): ..... NAF Code (1):

.....

- Name and position of the legal representative (2):

.....

- Name and position of the contact (if different):

.....

I hereby authorise the Company identified above in its capacity as agent to represent me on French territory for all issues relating to the use of the NF RAC-GAZ Mark. I undertake to inform CERTIGAZ immediately of any new appointment of the above-mentioned representative.

I consequently request that the expenses that are to be borne by me be invoiced directly to the said representative. This representative will ensure the immediate settlement of invoices upon receipt on my behalf as bound so to do in accepting to represent me.

Yours faithfully,

<p><b>Date, name and signature of the legal representative (2) of the applicant/holder, preceded by the handwritten comment "Approved for representation"</b></p>	<p><b>Date, name and signature of the agent in France preceded by the handwritten comment "Approved for representation"</b></p>

(1) Only for French companies.

(2) The legal representative is the person legally responsible for the company.

**FORM 004 Elastomer**

**PRODUCT FORM**

- Product identification/mixture number:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- Product definition standards:

.....  
.....

- Trade name:

- trademark: .....

- trade reference: .....

- Specific characteristics:

Nominal hardness: .....

Temperature class: .....

Resistance to ozone:.....

Others: .....

**FORM 004 Sealants**

**PRODUCT FORM**

- Product identification/identification number:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- Product definition standards:

.....  
.....

- Trade name:

- trademark: .....

- trade reference: .....

- Specific characteristics:

Class: .....

Others: .....

**FORM 005**  
**NF RAC-GAZ MARK**

**MODEL OF TECHNICAL FILE**

The technical file shall include as a minimum the following items. It may be supplemented by quality plans, control plans, quality manual.

The technical file items are organised in the order defined below.

This file can be sent to CERTIGAZ in electronic form (PDF) provided that all these items are contained in a single PDF file.

- 1 – Overall drawings
- 2 – Parts list (if necessary)
- 3 – Detailed drawings of all of the components (making sure to accurately define the materials used)
- 4 – Marking plan
- 5 – Definition of the codification of the batch number on the certified product
- 6 – Manual (installation, use, as applicable)
- 7 – Packaging
- 8 – Approval certificate or test report for elastomers (particularly if compliance application with standard NF EN 549)
- 9 – Compliance certificate for the materials used (certificate type document 3.1 of standard NF EN 10204)
- 10 – If brazing or braze welding: welding procedures, procedure descriptions, procedure qualifications, inspection instructions, welder/solderer qualification

**MODEL LETTER 006  
NF RAC-GAZ MARK****APPLICATION FORM FOR NF MARKING OF PRODUCTS IN STOCK WITH THE HOLDER  
(to be drawn up on the applicant's letterhead)****CERTIGAZ  
Managing Director  
8 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville  
F-92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE****Subject: NF RAC-GAZ  
Application for NF marking of products in stock**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, the undersigned, "*name and responsibility of the signatory*", representing the company "*name of the applicant/holder*", am applying to benefit from an evaluation of the stocks of NF RAC-GAZ certified products present in my unit, "*identity and address*" in view of a marking of the products manufactured before the certification decision.

*"By the present, I confirm that the manufacturing of the products present in stock, and for which a stock evaluation application is to be carried out, was carried out under the same conditions as the manufacturing corresponding to the products certified under certificate no. (same process, same suppliers, same design, same quality system and control plan, etc.)"*

Or

*"By the present, I declare that the products in stock during the certification were manufactured on sites not covered by the product certification but that the definitions and the materials are identical to those of the certified products"*

I undertake to provide the auditor with all of the documents proving the traceability and compliance of the products in stock (inspection reports, material certificates, traceability documents, quality documents, etc.)

Please find attached hereto the summary table, dated ".../.../..." specifying at least for each reference and batch number in stock, the elements listed in the certification rules.

I have taken note that CERTIGAZ will communicate its decision regarding the results of this evaluation and that any marking of the batches in stock is prohibited before the decision is announced.

In this respect, I hereby declare that I know and accept the General Rules of the NF Mark as well as the NF RAC-GAZ Certification Rules and undertake to comply with, throughout the period of use of the NF Mark, all of these Rules available on the CERTIGAZ website and provided on request by CERTIGAZ.

I undertake to settle, upon receipt of the invoices, the costs that are at our expense. The rates are available on the CERTIGAZ website and may be requested from CERTIGAZ.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature  
of the legal representative  
of the applicant****<OPTION (1): Date and signature  
of the representative in the EEA/EFTA>**

*(1) Only concerns applicants-holders located outside of the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association*



**MODEL LETTER 007  
NF RAC-GAZ MARK****APPLICATION FORM FOR NF MARKING OF PRODUCTS IN STOCK WITH CUSTOMERS  
(to be drawn up on the applicant's letterhead)****CERTIGAZ  
Managing Director  
8 rue de l'Hôtel de Ville  
F-92200 NEUILLY-SUR-SEINE****Subject: NF RAC-GAZ  
Application for NF marking of products in stock with customers**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, the undersigned, "*name and responsibility of the signatory*", representing the company "*name of the applicant/holder*", am applying to benefit from an evaluation of the stocks of NF RAC-GAZ certified products present in my unit "*identity and address*" in view of a marking of the products manufactured before the certification decision and that are in stock with my customers.

*"By the present, I confirm that the manufacturing of these products for which a stock remarking application is to be carried out, was carried out under the same conditions as the manufacturing corresponding to the products certified under certificate no. (same process, same suppliers, same design, same quality system and control plan, etc.)"*

Or

*"By the present, I declare that these products in stock during the certification were manufactured on sites not covered by the product certification but that the definitions and the materials are identical to those of the certified products"*

I undertake to provide the auditor with all of the documents proving the traceability and compliance of the products.

Please find attached hereto the procedure implemented for managing these remarking operations, in accordance with the requirements of the certification rules.

I undertake to provide CERTIGAZ, upon simple request and at any time, the list of remarked products.

I have taken note that CERTIGAZ will communicate its decision regarding the results of the evaluation of the procedure implemented and that any marking of the batches in stock is prohibited before the decision is announced.

In this respect, I hereby declare that I know and accept the General Rules of the NF Mark as well as the NF RAC-GAZ Certification Rules and undertake to comply with, throughout the period of use of the NF Mark, all of these Rules available on the CERTIGAZ website and provided on request by CERTIGAZ.

I undertake to settle, upon receipt of the invoices, the costs that are at our expense. The rates are available on the CERTIGAZ website and may be requested from CERTIGAZ.

Yours faithfully,

**Date and signature  
of the legal representative  
of the applicant****<OPTION (1): Date and signature  
of the representative in the EEA/EFTA>**

*(1) Only concerns applicants-holders located outside of the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association*

## Part 8

### GLOSSARY

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<b>Relinquishment:</b>	The holder requests the termination of the right to use the Mark for all or part of its products.
<b>Granting the right to use the NF Mark:</b>	Authorisation granted by AFNOR Certification and notified by CERTIGAZ to an applicant, allowing it to display the NF Mark on the product for which application has been made. This grant is materialised by a certificate.
<b>Audit:</b>	According to standard NF EN ISO 9001: Part of the site visit regarding the examination of a product and assessment of the specific means used to ensure compliance with the requirements in the certification guidelines.
<b>Warning:</b>	Decision made by the certification body whereby the holder shall rectify the infringements. Sanction decision, notified by CERTIGAZ, whereby the holder is required to correct any faults observed, during which time the right to use the NF Mark is not suspended.
<b>Consensus:</b>	According to standard NF EN 45020: General agreement, characterised by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. Note: Consensus need not imply unanimity.
<b>Application:</b>	Letter whereby an applicant requests the right to use the NF Mark, declares that it is familiar with and undertakes to comply with the certification guidelines in their entirety.
<b>Applicant:</b>	Legal entity requesting a certification and which undertakes to manage the conformity of its product with the certification guidelines in question.
<b>Right to use the NF Mark:</b>	Right granted by AFNOR Certification to a body to use the NF Mark for products in accordance with the General Rules and with the relevant NF certification guidelines.
<b>Extension:</b>	Authorisation granted by AFNOR Certification and notified by CERTIGAZ to an applicant, allowing it to display the NF Mark on the modified product for which the application has been made. This grant is materialised by a certificate. This procedure whereby a certification applicant's file submitted by a holder is examined, concerns a product already certified by the mark and having undergone changes or a new product derived from a product already certified by the mark.
<b>Batch:</b>	A batch is a set of products of the same model, manufactured in the same production run. Production run means the period during which a defined and homogeneous quantity of products is manufactured under uniform conditions. The batch shall be defined and identified by the manufacturer.

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<b>Maintenance:</b>	Authorisation granted by AFNOR Certification and notified by CERTIGAZ to an applicant to display the NF Mark on a product already certified for which the modification does not require any technical review (example: change in trade reference or trademark; aesthetic change without functional impact, etc.).
<b>Major non-conformity</b>	Deviation from a requirement of the standard relating to the organisation, application or formalisation of the QMS, the product or the process (production/control, etc.) and resulting in a proven risk (that is to say based on objective elements) of non-compliance, recurrent or unique in the event of a very significant risk, of a specified requirement, related to the safety of the product
<b>Minor non-conformity</b>	Deviation from a requirement of the standard relating to the organisation, application or formalisation of the QMS or the process (production/control, etc.) and not entailing any significant risk, of a specified requirement not related to the product.
<b>Strong point</b>	Point that exceeds the requirements of the standard, or that is particularly effective.
<b>Admissibility:</b>	Suitability of a file which allows an application to be examined; admissibility concerns the administrative parts of the file.
<b>Continuance:</b>	Decision whereby the holder's right to use the NF Mark is continued within the context of monitoring.
<b>Renewal:</b>	Decision whereby the holder's right to use the NF Mark is renewed.
<b>Withdrawal:</b>	Decision made by the certification body which cancels the right to use the NF Mark. Withdrawal may be declared as a sanction or in the event that the holder relinquishes its user right.
<b>Suspension:</b>	Decision made by the certification body which cancels the right to use the NF Mark for a set period of time. Suspension may be declared as a sanction or in the event that the holder temporarily relinquishes its user right.
<b>Holder:</b>	Legal entity that has the right to use the NF mark.
<b>Manufacturing unit:</b>	Plant that manufactures the products covered by the Guidelines and that is responsible for the final testing and inspection of the products.