DWTU Product Certification

Product Certification can be described as the process of confirming that a certain product has passed performance tests and quality assurance tests or qualification requirements required in contracts, regulations or specifications.

There are many intricate details when it comes to certifying a product:
- Detailed formulation reviews of each material the product is made with
- Testing and evaluation to verify that the materials will not impart harmful contaminants into the drinking water.
- Structural integrity testing verified that the product will maintain its integrity when subjected to normal line pressure
- Performance testing for any claims of contaminant reduction such as chlorine reduction
- Literature (i.e. manuals, brochures, performance specification sheets, etc.) undergoes review to ensure that the statements are not misrepresenting the tested and certified claims.
- The certification body will conduct on-site inspections at least one time per calendar year for each manufacturing facility.
- The final key to certification is monitoring and qualification of changes to certified products.

In the end, Certification means that products are allowed to carry a certification Mark on them. The Mark is an easy way for consumers to recognize a seal of approval symbolizing certification. Verification of the Mark can be found on each certification agency’s official public listing of certified products. The 5 main accredited product certification bodies are WQA, UL, CSA, IAPMO and NSF.

ANSI/SCC Accreditation

Accreditation indicates the Certification Program is scrutinized by a third party organization to ensure that it is following all the rules and regulations for operating a trustworthy program. American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Standards Council of Canada (SCC) accreditation demonstrates that the certification body is running a reputable certification program as per the ISO 65 guidelines. Accreditation according to ISO 65 ensures that each certification body produces certifications that are equivalent to one another.

Product certifications to national standards from any one of the above listed 5 accredited certification bodies are considered equivalent.

For more information, see FAQs on back of this flyer or contact WQA at goldseal@wqa.org
What is a Standard?
A standard is a document, established by consensus that provides rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results (as defined in ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004).

Who writes standards?
ANSI facilitates the development of American National Standards (ANSI) by accrediting the procedures of standards developing organizations (SDOs). There are over 220 total ANSI-accredited SDOs, but the most notable SDO for the drinking water treatment industry is NSF International.

How does a SDO create standards?
Standards such as NSF/ANSI standards are developed through involvement of those who are directly and materially affected by the scope of the standard. The process ensures balanced input from industry representatives, public health/regulatory officials and users/consumer representatives. WQA participates in all SDO standard development related to the drinking water treatment industry.

Who can use standards?
Standards are public domain and can be utilized by anyone; however in order to comply with many U.S. regulations, companies selling products must show compliance to a standard through certification by an ANSI- and/or SCC- accredited certification body. To see WQA’s accredited scope of standards for certification, go to the certified product link at www.wqa.org.

How does ANSI accredit certification bodies?
The program is overseen by the ANSI Product Certification Accreditation Committee (ACC), established by the ANSI Board of Directors. The responsibilities of the committee include approving the key policy documents, reviewing the process of evaluation, accreditation decisions, and monitoring/auditing programs. Certification bodies must show third party status, participate in assessments, and prove compliance to all aspects of ISO/IEC Guide 65 as well as other ANSI standards.

What does accreditation of a certification body mean?
Accreditation ensures that each certification body produces certifications that are equivalent to one another.

What are certification bodies accredited to?
An accreditation body, such as ANSI or SCC, provides accreditation in accordance with following the strict guidelines of ISO/IEC Guide 65 (general requirements for bodies operating products certification systems for product certification programs) to ensure that the marketplace can gain confidence for their activities. ISO/IEC Guide 65 guidelines include:
• Review
• Testing
• Attestation
• Annual surveillance
• Retesting

Does WQA have an on-site laboratory?
Yes. The Water Quality Association operates fully functioning product testing and analytical state of the art laboratories at its headquarters in Lisle, Illinois. The physical laboratory operates several automatic RO test benches as well as 15 benches to accommodate filtration, extraction and water softener testing. The analytical laboratory features state of the art analytical equipment including inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) and gas chromatography (GC).

Where can WQA’s certification listings be found?
WQA listings of certified products can be found in the certified products link at www.wqa.org. You can search listings by standard, manufacturer, country or brand. An advanced search by reduction claim is also available.