

Procedural Regulations for the Award and use of the Quality Label “European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles”

1 Quality basis

The quality basis for the quality label is represented by the quality regulations for elements made of metal plates like profiled sheets or sandwich panels. These are extended and further developed to match the technical progress made in this area.

2 Award

2.1 The European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles awards, under contract, the right to use the quality label “European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles” of the quality association to companies that manufacture elements made of metal plates or sandwich panels and which maintain the quality and test requirements in accordance with the quality regulations of “European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles”. The award of the quality label is only made, in a given instance, in respect of one specific group of products.

2.2 The application (for the award) has to be made in writing to the business location of the “European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles”. The application has to be accompanied by a signed and legally binding certificate of undertaking.

2.3 The application is examined by the Quality Committee on the basis of the quality regulations. The third party is bound to secrecy in respect of third parties.

2.3.1 Initial inspections are used to establish whether the applicant has set in place the prerequisites for quality control, in particular whether he has provided the assurance through his production equipment and his specialist personnel, that he will be able to fulfil the quality regulations.

2.3.2 An initial type testing (ITT) on the products, for which the quality label is sought, is carried out in accordance with the quality regulations.

2.4 The costs of the tests and the auditing are borne by the applicant.

2.5 The third party issues a report on the test results and the auditing, which is forwarded to the manufacturer in duplicate. One copy is passed on to the applicant and the other is passed to the secretariat of EPAQ.

2.6 In the case of positive results the applicant is awarded the quality label according to the Quality Regulations.

2.7 If the results are negative, the Quality Committee do not grant the application. The committee must then provide reasons in writing for the deferral. In this they can set a time for the execution of a repetition.

3 Use

3.1 Quality label users may only use the quality label for products which comply with the quality regulations and for which the quality label has been awarded.

3.2 The “European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles” alone has the right to allow a means of identification of the quality label to be produced and supplied to the user of the quality label or to allow the label to be handed out and the use of it to be set out in greater detail.

3.3 If the right to the use of the quality label is legally withdrawn, the award document for the quality label has to be returned. The same applies if the right to the use of the label has expired for any other reason.

4 Control

4.1 The “European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles” is justified and is required to control the use of the quality label and the maintenance of the quality regulations.

4.2 Every quality label user has to undertake the necessary provisions to make sure that the quality regulations are adhered to. Records must be made of the necessary factory production control (FPC) and retained for a minimum of 5 years (FPC). The results of the FPC are to be evaluated – statistically in suitable cases.

4.3 Further, he must submit his products, insofar as a quality label exists for them, to a third party. This is done by a laboratory arranged by EPAQ (audit testing). The costs that arise for this are borne by the quality label user.

4.4 If a test proves to be negative or a quality-controlled product is rejected, the Quality Committee arranges for the test to be repeated. The quality label user can likewise demand a repeat test to be undertaken.

4.5 A test report is to be issued by the appointed tester for each test result. EPAQ and the quality label user each obtain a copy.

4.6 If quality controlled products are unjustifiably rejected, then the organisation that has rejected them bears the cost of the test; if they have been justifiably rejected, then the respective quality label user bears the cost.

5 Penalties for deficiencies

5.1 If deficiencies in the quality control are established by the Quality Committee, it will propose penalties to the Managing Committee of "European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles". These depend on the severity of the deficiency:

5.1.1 Additional requirements in the context of FPC

5.1.2 Increase in audit testing

5.1.3 Warning

5.1.4 Contractual penalty in a sum of up to €5,000,-

5.1.5 Time-limited or permanent withdrawal of the label.

5.2 The measures stated under section 5.1 can be linked together.

5.3 Quality label users who have violated the conditions of section 3 or 4 can be warned.

5.4 The party concerned is to be given a hearing in all cases.

5.5 In urgent cases the President of the "European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles" can provisionally withdraw the quality label with immediate effect. This must be confirmed within 14 days by the Managing Committee of the "European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles".

6 Complaints

6.1 Quality label users can appeal to the Quality Committee against penalty decisions within 4 weeks of their issue.

6.2 The appeal must be replied in the next scheduled meeting of the Quality Committee under condition it arrives 4 weeks before this meeting.

6.3 If the Quality Committee rejects the appeal, then the person lodging the appeal has the right to take legal action within 4 weeks of the issue of the decision.

7 Re-award

If the right to use the label is withdrawn, the right to the use of the label can be reinstated following a successful re-examination. The procedure is in accordance with section 2. The board on proposal of the Quality Committees of the "European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles" can, however, impose additional conditions.

8 Changes

These procedural regulations and annexes and changes (Certificate of undertaking, award document) come into force after they have been notified by the "European Quality Assurance Association for Panels and Profiles".