

Co-Branding Policy

Version 3 February 2025

VeraSol provides a valuable service to off-grid lighting companies by allowing them to showcase co-branded products on the <u>VeraSol Product Database</u>. This enables multiple companies to market the same product without undergoing separate testing procedures, thus reducing the time and costs associated with testing and certification. The original company or brand that submitted a product for testing is referred to as "Company A," whereas the company or brand that will co-brand the product is known as "Company B." It's worth noting that multiple companies can co-brand the same product.

There are **THREE OPTIONS** available to Company B related to co-branding. The first option permits Company B to utilize the test results from Company A in its listing. The second option mandates that Company B should fully test its product independently using the <u>Quality Test Method (QTM</u>), without referencing the test results of Company A. The third option allows Company B to reference results from Company A and add independently-tested components to their family.

For specific information about the requirements of each option, refer to the outlined details below.

OPTION 1: Company B references test results from Company A

In order for Company B to co-brand a product originally tested and certified by Company A, VeraSol requires the following:

• (If Company A's product received a conditional pass) That Company A sends photographs of hard copies of the corrected packaging/user manual/warranty card showing that the identified issues have been addressed before signing a cobranding service order.

Note: The term "photographs" refers to digital photographs of the **physical** component taken for the VeraSol team for co-branding certification, NOT a digital rendering of the product.

• The signing of a service order between CLASP, Company A, and Company B. Signing the service order indicates agreement with the following:

- For fully-tested kits and components in a product family, the only difference between the Company A and Company B's product(s) is the brand name (i.e., the products sold under different brand names are technically identical except for the branding).
- If the product meets the Quality Standards, it may be subject to <u>Market Check</u> <u>Testing</u> at any time. Market Check Testing may be conducted on any brand of the product and any product in a product family. Furthermore, if any brand of the product fails the Market Check Test, all brands may subsequently lose quality certification and will be removed from the VeraSol Product Database.
- If Company A's product will be retested due to product changes or expiration:
- Company A must pay the program fee for such product that is re-tested and remain responsible for any fees or expenses payable to the testing laboratory relating to such re-testing;
- Company A must inform Company B that the applicable product(s) will be retested;
- Both parties will need to resubmit an official document to confirm that the product(s) remain technically identical; **AND**
- Company B will resubmit their consumer-facing documentation and photographs of the product(s) for review.
- The co-branding agreement expires when the results of Company A's product expire unless written notice of termination is given to the other parties at least thirty (30) days before the expiration If there is no written notice of termination and Company A's product's test results are renewed, then Company A and B may opt to renew the co-branding agreement.
- Companies A and B must inform VeraSol of their plans for renewal and sign a new co-branding agreement prior to the product's expiration date. If a renewal co-branding agreement is not signed before the product's expiration date, it will be removed from the VeraSol Product Database. See the <u>Policy for Renewing Test</u> <u>Results</u> for detailed information on the renewal process. VeraSol will charge a fee for renewing the co-branding at the time of renewal.
- If Company A's product is undergoing renewal testing, Company B can sign a cobranding agreement and send the materials for the VeraSol team to review, but they will not be reviewed until Company A has finished renewal testing and their product has met the quality standards.
 - Upon termination of the co-branding agreement, only products that have successfully undergone retesting will retain program support. After termination, Company B is expected to remove all references to the Program's trademarks, and VeraSol will remove Company B's brand from all public-facing materials.

- The Specification Sheet, Specification Book, and VeraSol certificate of the co-branded product(s) will refer to the test results of Company A's product.
- Information regarding the party/brand of both Company A and Company B, including:
 - A copy of their business license
 - Contact person name
 - Contact person position (job title)
 - Physical address of company headquarters
 - o Phone
 - Fax
 - o Email
- Information regarding Company A and Company B's product(s), including:
 - Company website and website where the product is listed (if different)
 - Product name
 - Product model number
 - Product warranty duration and terms
 - High-resolution and multiple-angle photographs of the product (from both Company A and B)
 - \circ $\,$ (For families) A list of all kits and components to be included in the cobranded family
 - (For families) Digital copies and photographs of Company B's packaging, user manual, and component labels for each kit to be co-branded. These must meet the quality standards (IEC TS 62257-9-8) for truth in advertising, performance reporting, and consumer information. This is required for <u>all</u> kits that will be included in a product family.
 - **Note:** The term "photographs" refers to digital photographs taken of the **physical** component for the VeraSol co-branding process, NOT a digital rendering of the product.
 - The company name(s) each company wants included in the product(s) listings on the website
- Payment of a co-branding fee for each product or product family that will be cobranded.
- (Optional) Permission from Company A for Company B to access a copy of the original report to provide to Pre-Export Verification of Conformity and other customs/program officials in certain markets.

OPTION 2: Company B does not reference test results from Company A

If Company A does not agree to the requirements from Option 1, VeraSol requires the following from Company B:

- Evidence that it received permission from Company A to re-brand Company A's product. [All products submitted for testing through VeraSol are subject to the <u>VeraSol Program Rules</u>.]
- A signed standard VeraSol <u>Master Service Agreement (MSA)</u> in order to have its product fully tested with the QTM method (this will allow Company B's product to obtain a separate listing than Company A's product).
- Understanding that the product branded by Company B will be subject to <u>Market</u> <u>Check Testing</u>, but that the Market Check Test results of Company A's product will not impact the status of Company B's product (and vice versa).

OPTION 3: Company B references results from Company A and tests additional components, creating a new family that includes kit configurations and/or components that are not included in Company A's family.

For this option, VeraSol requires the following:

From Both Company A and Company B:

• All applicable requirements regarding contracting, information, and expiration from Option 1 and Option 2 above.

From Either Company A or Company B:

• A variation form comparing the existing components in Company A's family to the components being submitted for testing.

From Company A:

• Approval and confirmation of the safety of all new configurations, appliances, and components that will be added to Company B's family for use with Company A's fully tested kit. This approval will be given through signatures on the service order with testing information for Company B's components/appliances.

From Company B:

- At their own risk, Company B can start testing components for the family prior to completion of the co-branding service agreement and submission of all required documentation for co-branding. Company B is responsible for all fees associated with component testing regardless of the status of the co-branding application.
- Components that are in Company A's family can be added to Company B's family under the co-branding agreement.

- Specification sheets for all appliances being submitted for testing must be provided.
- Components being added <u>only</u> to Company B's family must meet the following requirements:
 - Main units
- <u>All</u> batteries being added to Company B's family must be tested (Required tests include battery capacity and visual screening inspection. All other test results will be referenced from Company A's testing).
- Battery capacity for any main unit being submitted for testing for addition to Company B's family cannot be smaller than the smallest or larger than the largest battery capacity of the main units in Company A's family.
 - Other than differences in battery capacity, main units must be technically identical to those in Company A's family (including aspects like the circuits/ports, the manufacturer of the battery, and design of the housing). Changes to branding are acceptable, but no other changes that require testing can be made to a main unit being added to Company B's family.
 - Battery safety documentation for **<u>all</u>** components with batteries.
 - PV modules
 - <u>All</u> PV modules being added to Company B's family must be tested. (PV-IV Curve test is required. With permission, Company B can reference safety and durability results from like aspects of Company A's tested modules)
 - The PV power of any PV module being submitted for testing for addition to Company B's family cannot be smaller than the smallest or larger than the largest PV power of the PV modules in Company A's family.
 - The number of cells in a PV module being added to Company B's family must be within the range of the number of cells in the PV modules in Company A's family.

For example, if Company A's family has a 10 W module with 12 cells in series and a 50 W module with 18 cells in series, Company B can submit a 20W module with 14 cells in series for testing for addition to Company B's family.

In this example, a PV module with 12 - 18 cells in series would be eligible for testing, but a PV module with 10 or 20 cells in series would not.

(For amorphous or similar modules without countable cells, the voltage of Company B's module would need to be similar to those of Company A's modules.)

- Appliances (e.g. lights, radios, torches, TVs, etc.)
 - <u>All</u> appliances being added to Company B's family must be tested. With permission, technically identical aspects of Company B's appliances can be referenced from Company A's tested appliances.
 - Appliances submitted for testing <u>are</u> allowed to be smaller than the smallest or larger than the largest appliances in Company A's family.
 - Operating voltage range will be assessed using Company A's test results.
 - Additional functionality, performance, or system-level testing may be required at VeraSol's discretion.
 - Specification sheets should be provided for **<u>all</u>** appliances.
- All current program rules in the <u>Families of Products</u> policy will apply to testing components and appliances for addition to Company B's family. Additional system level testing may be required at VeraSol's discretion.
- Company B must offer and service the warranty for all kits and components included in their family. The warranty information provided to the customer must reflect this.
- Company B has responsibility for market check failures relating to the components they tested. Failures found with components listed only in Company B's family will not impact the certification status of Company A's products or components.

VERASOL DOCUMENTATION FOR CO-BRANDED KITS AND FAMILIES

Upon completing the co-branding process, companies will have their product listed under their brand name on the VeraSol website. See example below:

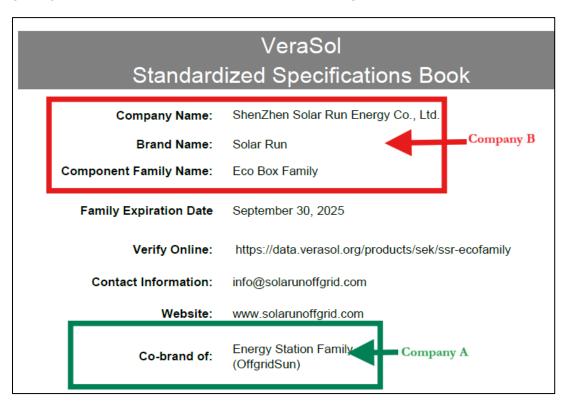
FILTER BY		
3 PRODUCT TYPES		~
3 PV MODULE MAXIMUM POWER		~
1 POWER SUPPLY TYPE		
2 AVAILABLE DAILY ELECTRICAL ENERGY		
3 NUMBER OF LIGHT POINTS ~		
3 APPLIANCES		~
55 BRAND		^
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A Standardized Specification Sheet (SSS) or Specification Book and Verification Certificate will be posted on the VeraSol website under the co-branded brand name.

Example SSS for a co-branded kit

PRODUCT DETAILS	
Company name	Shenzhen Solar Run Energy Co., Ltd.
Brand Name	Solar Run Company B
Product name	Eco Box
Product model / ID number	SR24C32YG
Contact information	info@solarunoffgrid.com
Website	www.solarunofforid.com
Co-brand of	Energy Station Next, OffGridSun

Example Specification Book for a co-branded family



Example Verification Certificate for a co-branded kit

	VeraSol* Product Certificate *Previously Lighting Global Quality Assurance		
	EcoBox		
	Expiration Date: September 30, 2025 ¹ Verify here: https://data.verasol.org/products/sek/ssr-esn		
test methods and conformer	This document verifies that the Energy Station Next was tested according to the following test methods and conformed with the following standards. This product is also co-		
branded by Shezhen Solar Ri	branded by Shezhen Solar Run Energy Co.,Ltd under the brand name EcoBox These are the same product with a different brand name.		
Test methods:	IEC TS 62257-9-5:2018 ² and IEC TS 62257-9-8:2020 ³		
Quality standards:	IEC TS 62257-9-8:2020 ³		
Testing Details			
Product Name:	EcoBox		
Model Number:	SR24C32YG		
Company Name:	Shenzhen Solar Run Energy Co., Ltd.		
Brand Name:	Solar Run		
Country of Origin:	China		
Company Contact:	Richard_info@solarunoffgrid.com		
Co-Brand of:	Energy Station Next, OffgridSun Company A		

Example Verification Certificate for a co-branded family

VeraSol* Product Certificate		
*Previously Lighting Global Quality Assurance		
Eco Box Family (cobrand of OffgridSun, Energy Station Family) Expiration Date: September 30, 2025 ¹ Verify here: https://data.verasol.org/products/sek/ssr-ecofamily		
This document verifies that OffgridSun's Energy Station product family was tested according to the following test methods and conformed with the following standards. The product family includes the SR24C32YG; SR24A*****, SR24B*****, and SR24C***** which are distributed by Shenzhen Solar Run Energy Co., Ltd. The kit model numbers can be interpreted as follows: the first A, B, and C's represent the PV module, where A is 8W, B is 10W and C is 15W. The first * represents the number of bulbs, the second * represents the type of light bulb, which can be either 1 or 2 where 1 is 1W, 2 is 1.7W. Model numbers with an Y have a radio, with a X have a torch, blank without and with a G are PAYG. For example, SR24A32XYG includes an 8 W PV module, 3 x 1.7W bulbs, a radio, a torch, and is PAYG.		
Test methods:	IEC TS 62257-9-5:2018 ² and IEC TS 62257-9-8:2020 ³	
Quality standards:	IEC TS 62257-9-8:2020 ³	
Testing Details		
Product Name:	Eco Box Family	
Model Number:	See list above	
Company Name:	ShenZhen Solar Run Energy Co., Ltd.	
Country of Origin:	China	
Company Contact:	info@solarunoffgrid.com	
Co-brand of:	Energy Station Family, OffgridSun Company A	

About VeraSol

An evolution of Lighting Global Quality Assurance, the VeraSol program supports highperforming, durable off-grid products that expand access to modern energy services. VeraSol builds upon the strong foundation for quality assurance laid by the World Bank Group and expands its services to encompass off-grid appliances, productive use equipment, and component-based solar home systems. Like Lighting Global Quality Assurance, the VeraSol program is managed by CLASP in collaboration with the Schatz Energy Research Center at Cal Poly Humboldt. Foundational support is provided by the World Bank Group's Lighting Global program, UK aid, IKEA Foundation, Good Energies Foundation, and others. Please visit <u>VeraSol.org</u> for more information.