Renewing Test Results

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The information in this policy is relevant for products evaluated to IEC 62257-9-5 (Edition 4) and IEC 62257-9-8 (Edition 1). For information relevant to IEC 62257-9-5 (Edition 5) and IEC 62257-9-8 (Edition 2) please refer to the Renewing Test Results Policy version 5.0.

Quality Test Method (QTM) tests are valid for a period of two years from the original test report date.[1] To ensure certification for another two-year period, these results must be renewed or updated, with the cost of testing borne by the company. This policy applies to both pico-products, solar home system (SHS) kits, and product families.

In summary, companies can use one of two approaches to renew QTM results:

A) If the product remained unchanged since it last underwent QTM testing, a two-sample Primary Market Check Method (MCM) test with randomly procured samples can be used to confirm the original results. It is the company's responsibility to reach out to VeraSol staff regarding renewal testing; however, as a courtesy, VeraSol will notify the product company that the product's test results will soon expire. Companies should contact VeraSol at least 4 months prior to the expiration date of the product's original test results. This will provide 1 month for testing coordination, product sampling and shipping, 2 months for testing, 1 month for report review and to respond to any issues discovered during testing.

B) If the product was modified since it was last tested, then new QTM testing is required for the changed aspects, in addition to two-sample Primary MCM testing for all other aspects. This can take 3-4 months from arrival at the test lab to issuing a report, so we recommend contacting VeraSol at least 6 months prior to the expiration date.

If a company signs a certification service order for renewal testing and sampling is completed prior to the product's test results expiration date, the product's listing on the VeraSol website will be extended and the product will maintain its certification throughout the renewal testing process The expiration date for the product will be based on the test report date for the product.

- Note: In order to meet this deadline companies will need to sign the service order approximately 30 days before the expiration date, complete the sampling form, and set a sampling date 2 weeks ahead of the expiration date. VeraSol is not able to respond to last minute requests for service agreements or sampling. If the

[1] Refer to the Product Support Expiration Policy for details.

recommended lead times for signing the agreement and sampling are not met, the product risks being removed from the website during testing.

After sampling, any delay of more than 30 days (e.g. shipment delays, delays due to non-payment to the lab or to VeraSol, delays in responding to a request for information needed for testing) will result in the product's removal from the VeraSol website. If a service order for renewal testing is not signed, sampling completed, and testing initiated within 45 days of the product's expiration date, renewal testing may no longer be initiated and instead QTM testing will be required.

Once renewal testing is complete if the results indicate that the product meets the applicable Quality Standards[2], the product will be relisted on the website and retain its original program benefits.

Companies should keep in mind that a lapse in valid QTM test results might disqualify the product for importation into countries that enforce mandatory quality standards. The product might also be excluded from tenders that require quality verification via QTM testing at an accredited laboratory.

Furthermore, while VeraSol may be willing to extend the expiration date of the certification for a product whose QTM results have expired while renewal testing is underway, this does not guarantee that the product can be imported into all countries because some governments, importation agencies, and procurement programs may require a valid test report. Additionally, the original expiration date of the result from previous testing is used to determine the 2-year validity of the renewal results.

As the two-year renewal date approaches, companies should coordinate with VeraSol to renew a product's test results according to the following guidelines:

A: Renewal of Test Results for products that remain unchanged

Summary of requirements: Two-sample primary MCM with randomly procured samples. Results must meet the applicable Quality Standards[2]

*Validity: Additional two years**

**The original expiration date from the previous testing is used to set the 2-year validity period for renewal testing. Expiration date extensions made to allow a product to remain on the website during renewal testing are not used to set the 2-year validity period.*

Details:

These guidelines apply to products that have not been changed since the previous testing. The model name and number remain the same, and there has not been an update to any components of the product.

[2] VeraSol began referencing *IEC TS 62257-9-8: Integrated systems – Requirements for stand-alone renewable energy products with power ratings less than or equal to 350 W* in place of the Lighting Global Quality Standards in 2020. See https://verasol.org/updates/transition-to-iec-ts-62257-9-8 for detailed transition information. See the Change Log for Quality Standards for details on new requirements and the differences between the Standards.

Eight samples of the product will be procured in accordance with the Product Sampling Policy. Samples will typically be selected by VeraSol by random sampling at a warehouse specified by the company, but may be procured from the market, at VeraSol's discretion. **The company is responsible for paying the VeraSol program fees (which include the sampling costs), the cost to ship all product samples, and the cost for renewal testing**.

B: Update of Test Results for updated products or products with new generations

Summary of requirements: New QTM testing for changed aspects and two-sample primary MCM testing for unchanged aspects with randomly procured samples. Results must meet the applicable Quality Standards[2]

*Validity: Additional two years**

**The original expiration date from the previous testing is used to set the 2-year validity period for renewal testing. Expiration date extensions made to allow a product to remain on the website during renewal testing are not used to set the 2-year validity period.*

Details:

These guidelines apply to products that have been updated or replaced with next-generation models. Any change to the product should be reported to VeraSol at the time of the renewal.

Up to 18 samples of the product will be procured in accordance with the Product Sampling Policy to undergo QTM/MCM testing. VeraSol will typically select samples by random sampling at a warehouse specified by the company, but may be procured from the market, at VeraSol's discretion. In cases where only certain aspects of the product are changing, a custom test plan may be used to only require a full 6-sample or 4-sample QTM test for the re-designed aspects, while a 2-sample primary MCM can be used to re-test the unchanged aspects.[3,4] The new QTM test results (or mix of QTM and MCM results) will be used to determine if the updated product or next-generation product meets the Quality Standards. **The company is responsible for paying VeraSol program fees (which include the sampling costs), the cost to ship all product samples, and the cost for testing**.

Results

For aspects of the product tested with 2 samples (primary MCM method):

- If the test results indicate the product meets the Quality Standards, the results displayed on the Standardized Specifications Sheet will not change and the updated results will be valid for an additional two years from the end of testing. The reported values on the

[3] Pico-PV products (products with peak power of 10 W or less) require 6-sample QTM tests. Solar home system (SHS) kits (products with PV power up to 350 W), require 4-sample QTM tests.
[4] See the Similar Products Policy for guidance regarding creation of a custom test plan.

Standardized Specification Sheet will not be increased based on the results of the 2-sample testing.

For aspects of the product tested with 4 or 6 samples (QTM method):

- If the test results indicate the product meets the Quality Standards, the new test results from QTM testing for changed aspects (testing done on 4 or 6 samples) will replace the previous results on the Standardized Specification Sheet.
- Once the re-designed product has met the Quality Standards, the new product will replace the old product. If on-going support for the original product is required beyond the completion of the testing for the new product, the company should use the test results renewal procedures described in Option 1 above for the original product.

If the results for one or more aspects of the product no longer meet the Quality Standards, VeraSol will require corrections, clarification, or retesting. See the Market Check Testing Policy for details on next steps for products with 2-sample test results that do not meet the Quality Standards. If retesting is required, it will be conducted at the company's expense.

About VeraSol

An evolution of Lighting Global Quality Assurance, the VeraSol program supports high-performing, 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, UKaid, IKEA Foundation, Good Energies Foundation, and others.

Please visit VeraSol.org for more information.