



VeraSolSM

Product Date of Manufacture Policy

Version 1.0

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VeraSol requires manufacturers to include the date of manufacture on all products certified to IEC TS 62257-9-8. The requirements are detailed in Section 5.8.2 of the IEC standard. The requirement is to include a recognizable date of manufacture that assures traceability to at least the level of month and year.

VeraSol will check for the date of manufacture during tests for program entry (QTM, AVM or Renewal testing), as well as during random field Market Check Tests and Market Observations. If companies submit their packaging for review prior to testing, the VeraSol team can provide feedback via the Required Information for Testing (RIFT) form regarding whether the date of manufacture is presented in an acceptable format.

How can the date of manufacture be presented?

The date may be provided on the product packaging or on the main component of the system.

- The date may be printed directly on the product or the packaging, or may be printed on a label that is affixed to the packaging.
- If components are packaged separately, provide the component-specific date of manufacture for each component on the component or component packaging.
- Date of manufacture may be presented directly (for instance, "DoM: January 2020") or encoded in a serial number, bar code or QR code (see details on acceptable formats for machine-readable codes in the next section).
 - If the date is provided in a code, the company must provide information that will allow the test lab and VeraSol field personnel to decipher the date from the code.
 - It is also acceptable for companies to maintain a database in which every serial number can be traced to a specific date of manufacture, even if the date cannot be directly deciphered from the serial number. For products to use this option, the serial number (or some portion of it) must be sequential and the company must be able to provide information to enable VeraSol field personnel to identify products in the market that were produced after a given date. For instance, a company could state that "all products with a serial number greater than 12345 were produced after March 2021" or "all products with serial number XYZZZZ where XX is greater than 15 were produced after January 2021".
 - With either of these options, the date can be associated with a specific product or the product batch as long as the date is still accurate to at least the month and year.
 - Regardless of the format of the date of manufacture, VeraSol field personnel must be able to use information provided by the company at the time of certification to know the date of manufacture without contacting the company.

Acceptable formats for barcodes and QR codes

If the date of manufacture is presented as a machine-readable code, it must be readable by the following barcode reader mobile apps: "QR & Barcode Reader" (by TeaCaps) or "Bar-Code reader" (by Roberto Sonzogni). [Note, the "QR & Barcode Reader" app may appear as "QR Scanner" after downloaded to a mobile device.] The ability to read the code with common apps will be confirmed during entry testing. Some of the 2D codes that can be read by these applications include:

- QR Code
- Data Matrix
- PDF417
- Aztec
- EAN-13
- EAN-8
- UPC-A
- UPC-E
- Code 128
- Code 93
- Code 39
- Codabar

Ideally, reading the date of manufacture should not require connection to the internet. (i.e., the date is directly embedded in the code rather than the code pointing to a webpage) If the machine-readable code does point to a webpage, the date or code should be clearly displayed on the landing page and not require the user to conduct any additional steps to retrieve the information.

Use of third-party date of manufacturer identifiers/readers by manufacturers

Date of manufacture presented in a format that requires a third-party application code reader or identifier other than that recommended by VeraSol shall not be accepted.

If a company would like to present the date of manufacture in a format other than that recommended by VeraSol, the company should provide VeraSol with clear step-by-step instructions on how to identify the date of manufacture prior to testing for approval.

Additional date of manufacture requirements for PV module label

In addition to the requirement for a decipherable date to be provided for the product, IEC 62257-9-8 section 5.2.3.1 requires the PV module label to include the date of manufacture or a serial number allowing the date of manufacture to be traced. The requirements for date of manufacture in section 5.2.3.1 differ from the requirement in section 5.2.8 (described above). It is acceptable for the date of manufacture on the PV module label to use a code that is not decipherable by VeraSol personnel in the field. The company is still required to provide the test lab and VeraSol information about how to decipher the code to determine the date of manufacture at the time of testing.

NOTE: If the date of manufacture on the PV module label is not decipherable by VeraSol personnel in the field, an additional decipherable date must be provided to meet the requirements in section 5.2.8, as noted in the information above. The decipherable date may be on the PV module, on the PV module packaging, or if the PV module is packaged with the kit, the decipherable date may be on the kit packaging or main unit of the kit.

What happens if a product doesn't have the date of manufacture included?

If a date of manufacture is not present or the code to decipher the date is not disclosed during the testing process, the product will receive a "Conditional Pass" and the manufacturer will have a chance to rectify the issue by submitting additional information. See the [Conditional Pass Policy](#) for details on this process.

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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 Humboldt State University. 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.