LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK - FREEZER BAGS

AFNOR Certification identification n°.NF 229
Ref. Author AA/EG - LNE

Review no. 10 - January 2024
Approved by AFNOR Certification:
February 1st 2024

First applied: 19 September 1997

Reference document:
GENERAL RULES OF THE NF MARK
Approved by the President of AFNOR

Founded in 1938, the NF mark is a collective certification mark, with the object of certifying the compliance of products with national, European and international standard documents covering them, and which may be complemented by additional specifications, in conditions defined by the certification reference standards. It is granted by AFNOR Certification and its network of partner bodies, making up the NF network.

The NF mark is voluntary product certification mark; it satisfies the requirements of the Code de la Consommation, notably by associating the interested parties with the validation of the certification reference standards, by defining marking rules for certified products and by clear and transparent communication on the main characteristics certified.

The right to use the NF mark is granted on the basis of compliance with one (or more) standard(s) and more generally to the whole certification reference standard**,** for a product coming from an applicant and a designated design and/or manufacturing and/or marketing process. Attribution of the right to use cannot in any circumstances substitute the LNE's responsibility for that which is legally incumbent upon the company holding the right to use the NF mark.

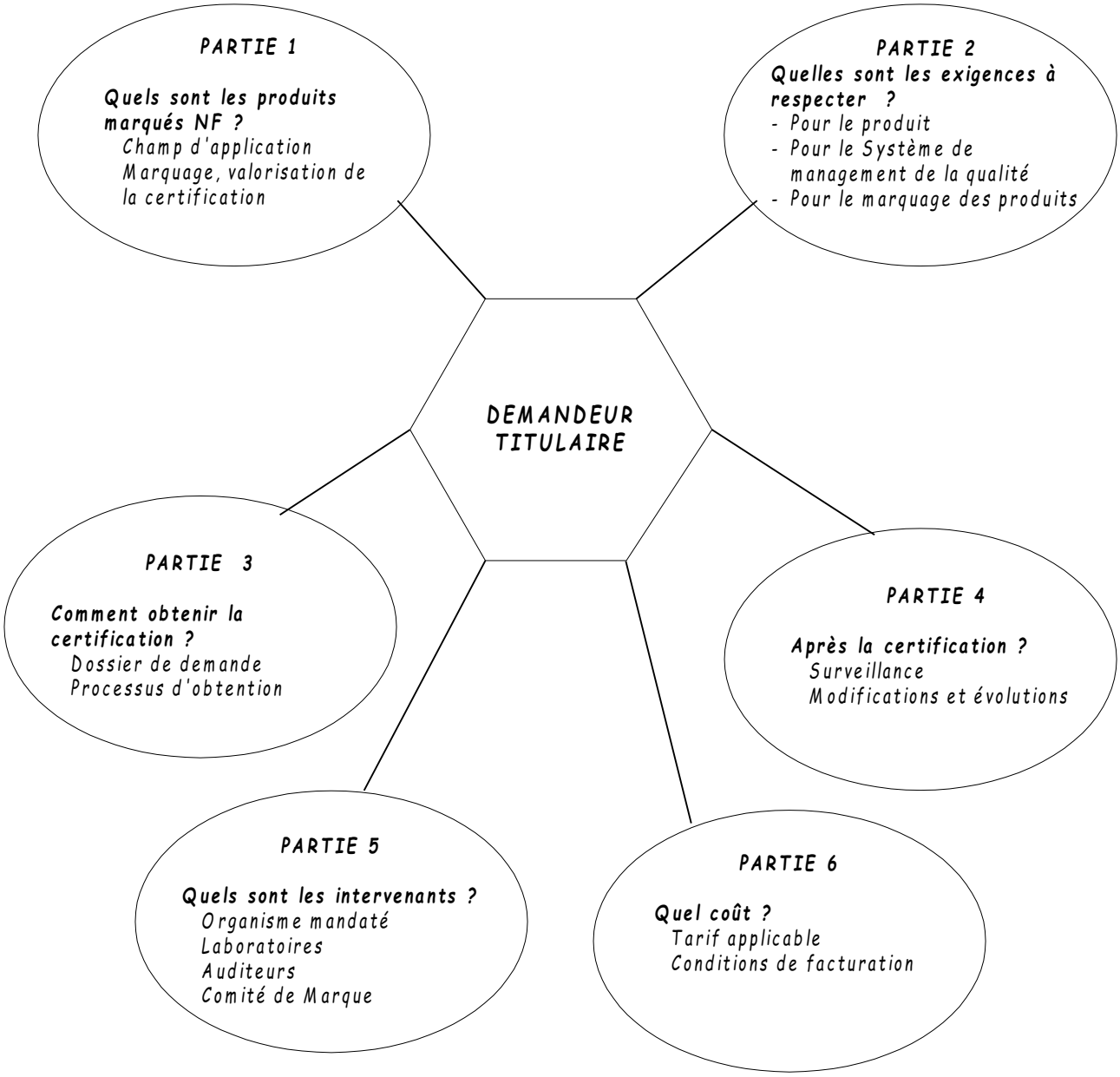
The NF mark checks the characteristics covering the safety of persons and goods, the suitability for use and the durability of products, as well as any additional characteristics enabling products to be distinguished in the market.

In accordance with the General Rules of the NF mark, AFNOR Certification entrusts the management of the NF mark - Freezer bags to the LNE, known as the mandated certifying body.

The LNE is responsible to AFNOR Certification for operations which are entrusted to it and are covered by a contract with AFNOR Certification.

Reminder*:
It is specified that all products or services must satisfy the regulations, independently of any certification application, concerning for example forgery, compliance and safety requirements, etc.

CERTIFICATION RULES



Who should you contact?
LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE METROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS (LNE)
Pôle Certification
1, rue Gaston Boissier - 75724 PARIS CEDEX 15 - France
Website: http :www.lne.fr

Your contact: Anthony Araba
Tel. 01 40 43 39 49
e-mail: anthony.araba@lne.fr

The documents applicable in this certification are:

- the general rules of the NF mark laying down the general organisation and conditions of use of the mark,
- these certification rules which define, in part 2, the technical characteristics to be respected.

These certification rules were submitted for the approbation of AFNOR Certification for acceptance in the NF certification system. They were approved by the General Manageress of AFNOR Certification.

They cancel and replace all previous versions.

Hence the certification rules can be revised, in part or in whole, by the LNE after consultation with the interested parties.

UPDATING

Certification rules	Reason for update	Revision	Date
Part 1: Scope, Marking	Minor redaction updates Addition of certified characteristics	Rev. 10	January 2024
Part 2: Quality requirements to be observed by the manufacturer	Minor redaction updates Normative updates Updates on the Specific Quality Requirements	Rev. 10	January 2024
Part 3: Obtaining certification	Minor redaction updates Removal of the Mark Committee	Rev. 10	January 2024
Part 4: Certified product surveillance process – Modifications and development	Minor redaction updates	Rev. 10	January 2024
Part 5: Participating organisations	Minor redaction updates	Rev. 10	January 2024
Part 6: Applicable fees – Terms of payment	Minor redaction updates	Rev. 10	January 2024

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK – FREEZER BAGS

PART 1

SCOPE – NF MARKING

CONTENTS

Rev. 10 – January 2024

1.1. SCOPE

The products covered by the certification regulations are the following plastic freezer bags:

- Drawtight bags without gusset,
- Drawtight bags with side gusset,
- Zip freezer bags without gusset (zip or double zip bags).

This mark also certifies the formulation of the freezer bags.

The physical characteristics certified by these certification rules are:

- Dimensional characteristics
- Seam resistance
- Water tightness
- Tear resistance
- Puncture resistance
- Suitability for food contact
- Suitability for writing

It is the responsibility of the applicant/holder to ensure that the regulations applicable to his product are respected (e.g.: CE marking).

The applicant/holder is solely responsible for the compliance of its products, LNE inspections cannot replace the responsibility of the applicant/holder.

1.2. DEFINITIONS

Applicant/Holder:
Artificial Person who manages and/or is responsible for compliance with all of the requirements defined in these certification rules of the NF Mark.
These requirements cover at least the following stages: design, manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking, packaging and putting on the market, and specify the critical points at each stage.
If the manufacturer is not established in the European Community he should appoint an agent.

Authorised agent:
Artificial or Natural Person established in the European Economic Area (E.E.A.) who acts as representative of the applicant/holder outside the E.E.A. and has a written mandate from the latter meaning that he can act in his name in the NF mark certification process according to the provisions of the certification regulations.
The authorised agent may also be the distributor, or the importer of the certified products; their different functions are clearly identified.

Distributor:
Artificial Person distributing the applicant's/holder's or his authorised agent's products who does not act upon the product or its packaging. If the distributor puts NF products on the market independently of the agent, he takes responsibility for the verification of the conformity with the NF certification rules and the applicable standards.

1.3. NF MARKING

The NF Mark for this application is materialised by the NF monogram conforming to the specimen below:

The marking conditions for products, packaging and technical and commercial documents are defined in Part 2

The graphics rules for the NF mark are available on request from the LNE.

The purpose of the marking rules is to guide the holder in how to meet the regulations and the requirements of the NF mark. The general rules of the NF mark specify the conditions of use, of validity and the penalties in the event of abusive use of the NF mark.

Without prejudice of the sanctions laid down in the General Rules of the NF mark, any incorrect announcement of the certified features and any fraudulent use of the NF logo expose the holder to lawsuits for frauds and/or misleading advertising.

1.4. CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

A list of the certified products is available via the certificate search engine on the www.lne.fr , in the section entitled "Certification", "Certificates issued by LNE", "Certificate Search Engine".

The LNE can provide information regarding the validity of a given certificate upon request.

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK – FREEZER BAGS

PART 2

REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY THE APPLICANT/HOLDER

CONTENTS

Rev. 10 – January 2024

REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING PRODUCTS

NF EN 14867 (October 2005) Packaging – Plastic freezer bags – Specifications and test methods

Raw materials

The "constituent materials of the bag" referred to in standard NF EN 14867 Para. 5.4. and in the national foreword concerning suitability for contact with foodstuffs are the base resin, additives and inks.

Ties

The length of the tie used to close tie bags must be at least 70 mm.

Assessment of the global migration in contact with liquids for human consumption

In the framework of the NF mark, the selected conditions for conducting global migration tests are as follows:

EU regulation No.10/2011 defines the following new conditions:

- Conditions for contact with simulants: 10 days at 40°C.

- Simulants used:
  - Ethanol at 10% (simulant A),
  - Acetic acid at 3% (simulant B),
  - Vegetable oil (simulant D2)(*),

These simulants are compulsory as of 1st January 2013.
(*) with composition in compliance with EU regulation No.10/2011 (for example, olive oil and sunflower oil).

The global migration tests are carried out according to the methods described in the following standards:

- EN 1186-2 and EN 1186-3 (2022 versions)

Basic texts:

- Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 October 2004 on materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.
- Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006 of the Commission of 22 December 2006 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

Texts applicable to plastic materials:

- Regulation (EC) No 10/2011 of the Commission of 14 January 2011 relating to plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, amended by the modifier texts in force:
  -
- Regulation (EC) No 282/2008 of the Commission of 27 March 2008 concerning recycled plastic objects and materials intended to come into contact with food
- Opinion of the French High Council for Public Hygiene of 7 September 1993 on materials recycled from used packaging in contact with food (the bags are made with virgin raw material: no recycled material, nor use of manufacturing waste).

Texts applicable to colouring matters and inks:

- Recommendations sheet published on 10/06/2010 by the DGCCRF concerning inks, coatings and varnishes for printing the external part of materials
- Opinion of the French High Council for Public Hygiene of 7 November 1995 on inks and varnishes used to print packaging in contact with food.
- Circular no. 176 consolidated of 2 December 1959 amended on pigments and colours of plastic materials and packaging.

All of the texts can be consulted on LNE's specialist website: www.contactalimentaire.com.

Precisions concerning the tests on the opening resistance double zipped bags:

For the double zip bags, the requirement on the opening resistance from the inside of a freezer bag only concerns the inside zip. The requirement on the opening resistance from the outside of a freezer bag only concerns the outer zip.

2.2 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The current chapter lists the minimal quality management system requirements which the applicant/holder must meet in order to use the NF mark. This assures that products which use the NF mark are manufactured in accordance with the current certification rules.

An efficient quality management system is required manage the certified products and to test the raw materials to be used in the finished product before, during and after manufacture.

2.2.1 LEADERSHIP

2.2.1.1 Quality policy

The applicant/holder's management much establish a quality policy, its objectives and reach. They must be up-to-date. They must also be communicated, understood and used within the company.

2.2.1.2 Roles, responsibilities and authority within the company.

2.2.1.2.1 Responsibilities and authority

The management must ensure that people's responsibilities and authority are communicated to every person involved:

- In the production stages, who may have a direct effect on the product's quality
- In testing
- In the release of the conforming product
- In the evaluation and remedy of the non-conforming product

The management must ensure that the responsibilities and authority are defined in such a way as to assure that the requirements of the certification standard are implemented permanently.

2.2.1.2.2 Testing means and staff

The applicant/holder must:

- Identify and implement monitoring and measurement measures to ensure product quality during appropriate stages (upon receipt, during manufacture and on the finished product),

- Foresee the necessary tests
- Appoint competent individuals to verify that the product meets the specified requirements.

2.2.1.2.3 Training

The staff who performs work with an impact on the quality of the finished product must be competent, with appropriate initial training and vocational training, knowledge and experience.

In order to assure this, the applicant/holder must:
- Determine the necessary competencies of the staff who carry out work with an impact on the quality of the finished product;
- Carry out actions in order to acquire the necessary competencies and to evaluate the efficacy of these actions, if needed.
- Assure that competence is maintained.
- Keep document evidence of competence (i.e. initial and professional training, further training, knowledge and experience.)

2.2.2 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

2.2.2.1 Management Review

At planned intervals, management should review the established quality management system in order to:
- comply with the requirements of these certification rules,
- ensure that it always remains appropriate and effective.

Documented information from these reviews shall be kept and made available (see 2.2.3).

The monitoring of objectives related to the quality of the products and the efficacy of the actions implemented must be a part of each management review.

2.2.2.2 Internal audit

Internal quality audits must be carried out at planned intervals in order to establish whether the quality management system meets the requirements placed by the applicant/holder as well as those listed in the certification rules.
The applicant/holder must keep the results of these internal audits, and carry out any appropriate corrective action(s).

2.2.3 DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT

Quality management system documentation must be read, evaluated and approved before being disseminated by authorised persons. Quality management system documentation must be managed in such a way as to assure that only valid documents are available.

The holder/applicant must manage the documented information. To do this, they must carry out the following actions, when applicable:

- Approve documentation, with regards to their adequacy, before dissemination.
- Review and update documents if necessary.
- Ensure that any modifications, and the validity period of the documents are identified.
- Ensure the availability of the documents wherever they are required.
- Ensure that the documents are legible and easily identifiable.
- Ensure that external documents are identified, and that their dissemination is managed.
- Prevent any unintentional use of expired documents and identify them appropriately if they are kept for any reason whatsoever.

2.2.4 PURCHASES

2.2.4.1 Purchase specifications

The holder/applicant must ensure that the purchased product conforms to the purchase specifications.

To do this, they must identify the requirements that they will place on the supplier, the checks to be carried out on supplied products, as well as any other steps necessary to ensure that the purchased products satisfy the purchase specifications. The importance of a purchased product on the conformance of a final product will determine the number and scope of any requirements placed on suppliers and purchased products. (For example: defined, regular inspections at the time of receipt, or certification of conformity to suppliers' technical specifications or specifications.)

Purchase documents must describe the purchased product and a provide a reference. If this is not possible, they must state the applicable version of the purchase specifications.

2.2.4.2 Subcontracting of NF manufacturing

Subcontracting operations are governed by the following principles:

- They are only authorised among mark holders (manufacturers who use subcontracting must be certified for the sack references and the nominal thickness in question) and include the subcontracting of semi-finished products.
- The holder who has requested the subcontracted job, is responsible for the conformance of the NF certified products, in accordance with the certification rules. In the case of non-conformance, the necessary checks must be carried out either at the manufacturer’s site, or at that of the subcontractor, in keeping with the quality duties adopted for the subcontracted work.
- Subcontracting operations shall be clearly documented as such in the manufacturer and subcontracting requester inspection records (batch number, identification of the manufacturer requesting subcontracting) as well as the tonnage declaration form.
- Orders shall clearly describe the product ordered (reference, thickness, technical properties, quantities, lead times, etc.), refer to the technical specifications in the

specifications and, if necessary, state the request for communication of the analysis certificate.

This does not apply to commercial distribution operations.

2.2.5 IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

The applicant/holder must provide instructions to allow for the identification of the product. They must be marked in according with the requirements of § 2.3 below.

The NF mark requires traceability. Unique product identification must be managed at every stage of the manufacturing process, by defining the rules to follow and the appropriate means to carry this out.
Identification must allow product and its history to be traced. It should be possible to trace the lots of the raw materials used and the tests carried out upon their receipt, during the manufacturing process and on the final product.

The applicant/holder must also determine the state of the products and compare them to the monitoring and measurement requirements, throughout the entire production process (from the time of receipt, as far as the final product). They must keep any documentation required for traceability.

2.2.6 PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

Production must be managed at every stage of the process.

This is the case from the start of manufacturing, until the final product is packaged.

To do this, the applicant/holder should:
- define the production methods associated with the types/product ranges,
- define the manufacturing parameters for each type/product range at each stage of production,
- arrange access to manufacturing instructions, product properties, inspection plans and associated monitoring equipment during production activities,

The manufacturing equipment must be kept in good condition.

The applicant/holder must arrange for checks and periodic maintenance tasks to be carried out on manufacturing equipment. The applicant/holder must keep the relevant records of this.

2.2.7 TESTING

Responsibilities and authority within a company must be given to people who carry out testing and those release conforming products.

2.2.7.1 Tests to carry out upon receipt

The manufacturer must check the quality of raw materials used in the manufacture of products for which he holds the right to use the NF Mark:

- For each batch (granules or powder) (*) supplied, the extruder shall:

- ask the producer of materials for a measurement result of the melt flow index,

or

- carry out its own fluidity index inspection.

or

- hold a certificate proving conformity:
  . with the technical specifications of the supplier
  or
  . with his specific statement of requirements (with defined tolerances)

(*) "A batch of raw materials corresponds to the homogeneous quantity of identified raw material obtained by the supplier in a homogenization silo.

- He must ensure that the constituent materials of the bag are declared in conformity by the supplier with the requirements of the European and French regulations in force applicable to materials intended to come into contact with food, which comprise at least the following texts:

2.2.7.2 Tests carried out on products which are being manufactured and those which are finished.

The applicant/holder must implement the planned actions, at the appropriate time points, in order to check that the specified requirements are being satisfied.

They must assure themselves that every required test has been carried out at the specified frequencies. This applies during receipt of the product (see § 2.2.7.1), manufacture and on the finished product (see table below). The results must show that the product conforms with the specified requirements.

The inspection plan put in place must make it possible to ensure that the products comply with the specifications defined in § 2.1. It must at least contain tests described below.

The results of these tests must be recorded, along with the acceptance criteria and any decisions taken in the case of non-conformance.

Products shall not be shipped to the client until all planned tests have been carried out satisfactorily.

Samples are taken for each NF manufacture:

- at the beginning of manufacturing (change of formulation and/or change of model according to the definition in part 1 - Para. 1.1.)
- after each event which can have an incidence on the characteristics and the performance of the bag (to be defined by the manufacturer, change of reel or stopping of the machine for example).

For each characteristic, the manufacturer defines how the sample will be taken.

The following tests are carried out on samples:

Controlled characteristics	Comments
Visual inspection	Controls carried out relate to the position of the reserved zone to writing, legibility and printing faults, on the basis of criteria predefined by the manufacturer (conforming, acceptable, nonconforming) in reference to: . the code of practices for polyolefin film and can industries available from the Plastic Film Association

	. the standard NF Q 06-006 Vocabulary for printing defects.
Length – width	The manufacturer defines the tolerances for both characteristics in order to respect the criteria concerning the volume and the useful width/length ratio
Thickness	The control of thickness can be carried out in a previous stage of manufacturing. The minimum and maximum thicknesses can be determined with a profilometer, the average thickness can be calculated from the mass surface density and the density of the material. The point-per-point method is the reference method
Length of the locking strip	For zip freezer bags,
Resistance of seams	The manufacturer can define, by justifying them, another test method than the one defined in Para. 5.2.6. of standard NF EN 14867 and a criterion of acceptance to qualify the resistance of seams.
Tightness of seams	
Length of ties	For drawtight bags
Opacity	The manufacturer can define, by justifying them, another test method than the one defined in Para. 5.3.2. of standard NF EN 14867 and an acceptance criterion to qualify the opacity of bags,
Aptitude for writing	

In the case of a nonconformity detected during control, except for the length of ties and the aptitude for writing, the manufacturing conditions shall be corrected and the bags previously produced will be eliminated.

After correction of these manufacturing conditions, a new sample must be taken for inspection.

When a manufacturer has a device allowing the continuous control of a characteristic of which he can prove the efficiency to the LNE, the control on the corresponding finished product is not required.

Moreover, the following tests will be carried out at a frequency defined by the manufacturer allowing for the validation of the different models and formulations:

Controlled characteristics	**Comments**
Grammes per square meter of the locking strip	For zip freezer bags
Resistance to opening	For zip freezer bags
Tear resistance	
Perforating strength	
Resistance of seams	According to the method defined in Para. 5.2.6. of standard NF EN 14867.

2.2.7.3 Recording of tests:

Documents relating to testing must be drawn up and kept, in order to prove that the products conform to the requirements of this certification. They must be legible, easy to identify and accessible.

The applicant/holder must ensure that the documents relating to testing carried are identifiable, properly stored, protected and accessible. They must also ensure the amount of time that they will be kept for, and their subsequent elimination.

2.2.7.4 Subcontracted testing:

Certain tests may be subcontracted, as long as this does not affect the manufacturing process (for example due to the turnaround time.)

The subcontracting terms and conditions must be formalized and recorded (e.g. how "subcontractor" is defined, the frequency in which the tests will be carried out, the turn-around times required, the written communication of results, the procedure to follow in case of non-compliance).

In order to verify that the subcontracting laboratory conforms with the required regulations, LNE reserves the right to audit it.

2.2.8 MANAGEMENT OF TESTING AND MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT

- Principles of calibration:

Calibration involves the comparison of the values given by a piece of measurement equipment or system, to known values given by a standard.

The standard's value must be traceable to the value given by a national standard, using un uninterrupted calibration chain, described by documents (traceability).

Calibration methods of measurement equipment or system:

There are two possibilities:

- The holder's laboratory has its own standards, which are compared to national standards at defined intervals. The holder calibrates their equipment themselves.
- The holder's laboratory sends their equipment off to be calibrated by a service provider, which is accredited by COFRAC, or its equivalent, according to the applicant/holder's country of origin. If the service provider is not COFRAC accredited or equivalent, depending on the country of origin of the applicant/holder, it must in all cases have established standards that are regularly integrated with the national standards for the standardisations concerned.

The applicant/holder must have equipment to ensure that the results are valid.

- Management of measurement equipment:

Measurement equipment must be:

- Calibrated against standards linked to national or international standards (if these standards do not exist, the calibration reference used must be registered). They must be re-calibrated or checked at specified intervals or before their first use
- Identifiable, in order to allow the validity of the calibration to be checked.

The standard's uncertainty must be sufficiently small with regards to the uncertainty expected from the measuring equipment or system to be calibrated.

When a piece of equipment is found to be non-conforming, the applicant/holder must check the validity of previous results obtained. They must take appropriate action on the equipment and on any affected products. This information must be recorded. The records of the calibration and verification results must be kept.

These requirements apply to every laboratory, regardless of whether they carry out all, or a part of the internal measurement checks.

2.2.9 MANAGEMENT OF NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS

The applicant/holder must ensure that each product which does not conform to the specified requirements is identified and managed so that it does not get used or delivered unintentionally.

The applicant/holder must treat a non-conforming product marked with the NF mark in the following ways:

- By carrying out actions which eliminate the non-conformity,
- By allowing its use, release or acceptation by derogation- in this case, the previous agreement must be obtained from the client and from LNE.
- By carrying out actions which prevent it from being used (e.g. scrapping of the product).

Responsibilities and authority must be given to people who carry out testing and those who take actions in order to remedy the product.

The applicant/holder must keep documentation which describes non-conformities along with their remedy.

2.2.10 CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The holder/applicant will define the requirement and will keep proof of actions carried out in order to:

- Review non-conformities (including client complaints).
- Determine the cause(s) of non-conformities.
- Evaluate the need to undertake actions so that non-conformities are not repeated.
- Determine which actions are necessary, and put them into place.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken.
- Record the results of the actions put in place.

Records of any complaints made regarding certified products, and their remedy must be made and kept.

2.2.11 PRODUCT PRESERVATION

2.2.11.1 Storage

The manufacturer must draw up and update the written procedures for product handling, storage, packaging, preservation and delivery.

The applicant/holder must provide areas or premises for the storage of stockin order to avoid causing damage or deterioration to the product before it is used or delivered.

The condition of the stock must be assessed at defined and appropriate time intervals, in order to detect any deterioration.

2.2.11.2 Packaging

The holder/applicant must manage the wrapping, packing and marking of products as needed, in order to ensure that they conform to the specified requirements.

2.2.12 REQUIREMENTS AT THE LEVEL OF MANUFACTURING/TRANSFORMATION CONDITIONS TO GUARANTEE/ MAINTAIN THE APTITUDE FOR CONTACT WITH FOODSTUFFS

2.2.12.1. Risk analysis

The manufacturer must have carried out a hazard analysis to define the critical points to be controlled for maintaining fitness of the freezer bags for food contact.

The manufacturer can base this on the following documents:

- Codex Alimentarius Commission -2003 – Directives concerning the application of the hazard analysis system – Critical control points (HACCP) – ALINORM 93/13A.
- Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs.

Regulation (EC) No 2023/2006 of 18 January 2007 on good manufacturing practice for materials and articles intended to come into contact with food.

- ISO 15161 (15 November 2001): guidelines for the application of standard ISO 9001: for food and drink industries. "

A. Scope

This risk analysis applies to the freezer bag manufacturing process: receipt and storage of raw materials, manufacturing process, storage and shipment of the finished product.

In terms of freezer bag production, there are three hazard classes:

- microbiological hazard,
- chemical hazard (additives, solvents, etc.)
- physical hazard (hair, particles, dust, pests, etc.)

The 5-criteria method applied at each stage of the manufacturing diagram (see Para. 2) is one of the tools that can be used to detect these hazards and their causes. This method involves defining the various factors to be taken into consideration:

- Raw Materials (what): identification of the raw materials and their condition (bulk pellets, pellets in sacks, etc.),
- Means (with what): identification of the tools used,
- Method (how): identification of procedures, instructions and types of operation used,
- Environment (where): identification of surrounding conditions (temperature, external parameters, etc.),
- Manpower (who): identification of the responsibilities and training of the personnel.

However, any other tool may be used to define the various factors to be taken into consideration.

B. Manufacturing diagram

A manufacturing diagram must be drawn up in order to define the production stages precisely.

C. Definitions

Corrective action: any action to be undertaken when the results of CCP monitoring indicate a loss of control.

Hazard: biological, chemical or physical agent, or state of the material or packaging intended for food contact, with a potentially harmful effect on health.

Stage: point, procedure, operation or phase of the production process of a material or packaging intended for food contact.

HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point): system defining, evaluating and controlling the hazards that threaten the health safety or salubrity of materials and packaging intended for food contact.

Critical limit: criterion that distinguishes acceptability from non-acceptability.

HACCP plan: document drawn up in conformity with the HACCP principles in order to control the significant hazards with regard to the health safety or salubrity of materials and packaging intended for food contact.

Critical control points (CCP): point at which monitoring can be carried out and is essential for avoiding or eliminating a hazard threatening the health safety or salubrity of the material or packaging or for reducing it to an acceptable level.

D. Principles

D1. Conduct a hazard analysis

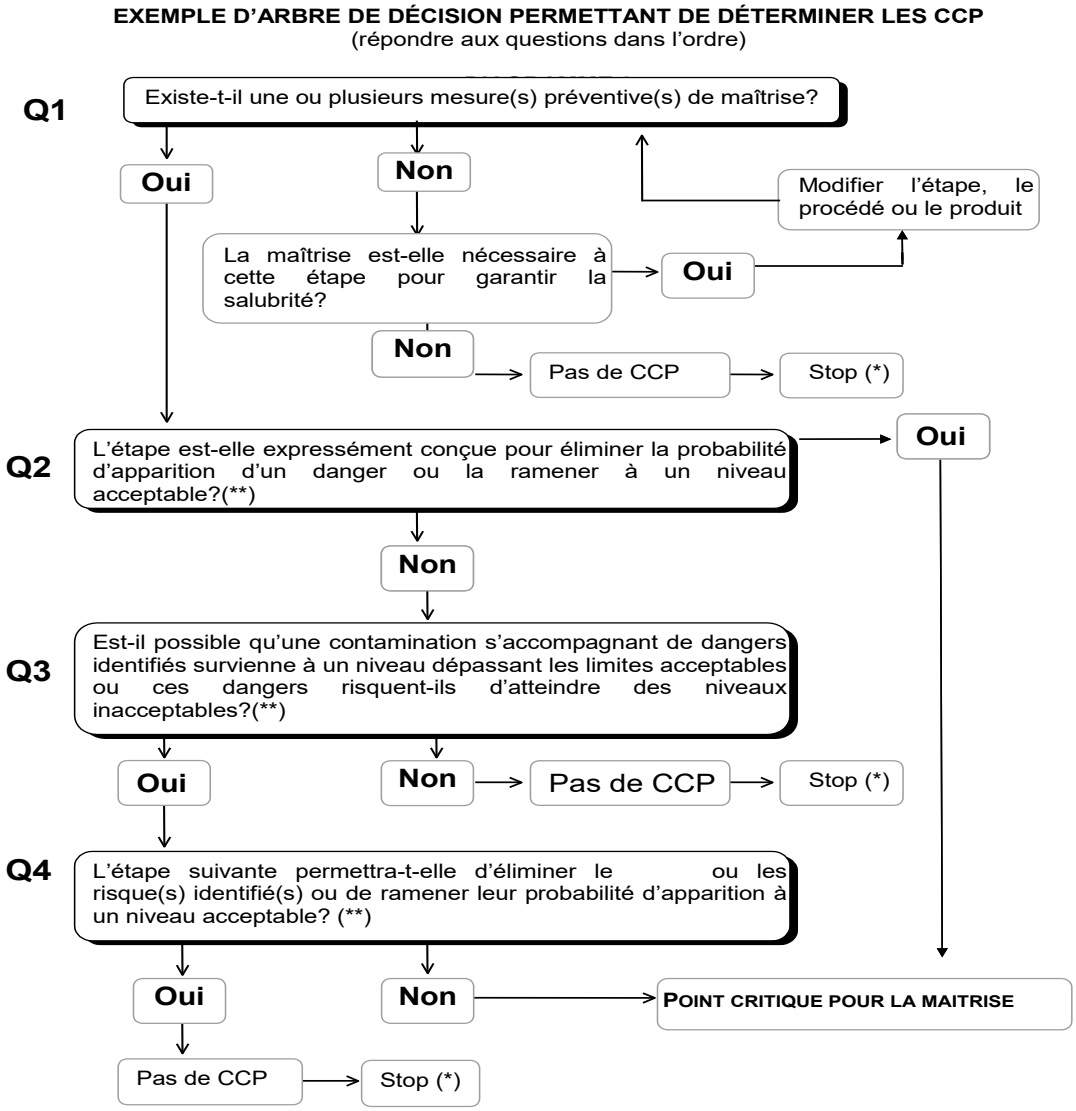
The hazard analysis must include:
- a survey of potential hazards that could occur and their cause(s);
- an evaluation of the risk associated with each hazard taking into account the seriousness of consequences, frequency of occurrence and probability of not detecting the hazard;
- determination of preventive actions for each hazard identified.

The LNE recommends the use of the two tables in Appendix 1 as a HACCP plan. However for companies that have already begun the HACCP process, the use of a different medium is acceptable.

D2. Determine the critical control points (CCP)

The critical points can be determined using the decision tree below. Critical points are stages at which adequate and effective monitoring must be set up. For each critical point this is based on appropriate indicators.

Decision tree from the Codex Alimentarius



(*) Passer au prochain danger identifié dans le processus décrit.

(**) Il est nécessaire de définir les niveaux acceptables et inacceptables en tenant compte des objectifs généraux lors de la détermination des CCP dans le plan HACCP.

D3. Set the critical limit(s) for each CCP identified

Critical limits must be established for each indicator identified.

D4. Set up a monitoring system providing control of CCP

A monitoring system must be set up to constantly check that critical limits are not exceeded. The results of this monitoring must be recorded.

D5. Determine the corrective actions to be taken if monitoring shows that a given CCP is not controlled

Corrective actions must be planned in case the critical limits are exceeded, allowing control of the critical point to be re-established.

D6. Apply the verification procedures

The hygiene control system must be reviewed regularly or at each significant modification of the product or process, to ensure that it is correctly applied and effective.

D7. Set up a document system

Documentation established for the risk analysis must be available and kept up to date.

APPENDIX 1

Example of HACCP plan for the extrusion phase of freezer bag manufacture

PRINCIPLES 1 AND 2: HAZARD ANALYSIS – IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL POINTS			
Manufacturing stage: EXTRUSION			
Potential hazards identified (Physical, Chemical, Microbiological)	Causes of hazard	Preventive action	CCP (number)
Dust on the bag (P)	Material: - Method: - Means: dirty air duct Environment: polluted air Manpower: poor cleaning by operator	 Cleaning plan (including the duct) Air filtering method to be defined Operator training	NO
Unmelted material capable of causing foreign matter to be present in the bag (P) or a hole in the bag likely to represent a microbiological hazard for the contents (M)	Material: molten polyethylene in the screw or excessive amounts of unmelted material Method: unsuitable temperature or pressure in the extrusion head Means: clogged filters Poor cleaning of the extrusion heads Incorrect calibration of the temperature and/or pressure Environment: - Manpower: poor cleaning by operator Incorrect machine setting	Adaptation of supplier specifications Regulation of the die temperature Adaptation of machine set-points Cleaning plan (including the filters and extrusion heads) Machine maintenance plan Operator training (machine cleaning and settings)	CCP X (for hazard M)

PRINCIPLES 1 AND 2: HAZARD ANALYSIS – IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL POINTS (continued)			
Uneven thickness: - Areas that are too thin, possibly causing tearing of the bag and microbiological contamination of the contents (M) - Areas that are too thick resulting in increased migration potential (C)	Material: poor polyethylene viscosity Method: unsuitable die gap Unsuitable heating temperature Means: dirty die Calibration fault affecting temperature or gap Environment: - Manpower: error in gap setting	Regulation of the die temperature Adaptation of machine set-points Cleaning plan (including the dies) Machine maintenance plan Operator training (machine settings)	NO
Unauthorised substance in the polyethylene that could migrate into the bag contents (C)	Material: residues from previous manufacturing Method: unsuitable purging time Means: residues from products used for purging Environment: - Manpower: failure by operators to follow purging instructions	Definition and implementation of a suitable purging time Adaptation of machine set-points Use of products suitable for contact with food Operator training (cleaning, purging)	NO

Example of HACCP plan for the extrusion phase of freezer bag manufacture

PRINCIPLES 3-4-5: CRITICAL LIMITS - SURVEILLANCE – CORRECTIVE ACTIONS						
Critical point	Critical limit	Surveillance actions	Frequency	In charge	Corrective actions	In charge
CCP X EXTRUSION	An unacceptable sample (compared with defined control piece)	Systematic comparison of the product sample with a control piece (and record)	At start-up and for each reel	Foreman	- Change of material or review of supplier specifications - Modification of machine setting	Quality/Purchasing manager Production manager

2.2.12.2. Compulsory measures

A. Personnel

In a document, the manufacturer shall establish, describe and keep up-to-date the requirements concerning health, cleanliness and personnel clothing in the cases where a contact of the personnel with the product or the environment can have a negative incidence on the product. In particular for:

- the suitable clothing (including the cap and if need be shoes),
- the handling of bags,
- the disposal of contaminated rollers,
- specific provisions for the suffering staff.

B. Control of the environment for manufacturing

The manufacturer shall establish and describe the requirements concerning the environment to which the product is exposed in a document. If needed, the environmental conditions shall be controlled and/or supervised, particularly for:

the sealing with regard to any pollution (lubricant for example) during the manufacturing process,
- the protection (internal and external) of the bag against dust and particles (fragments for example),
- the protection of raw materials and semi-finished products during storage and handling,
- the implementation of insect and rodent controls,
- the regular cleaning of the workshops,
- the use (in bags) of adapted cutting tools.

C. Packaging

The manufacturer shall establish and keep up-to-date procedures to ensure that the product is presented in a packaging which maintains the aptitude for contact with foodstuffs, particularly for:

- the storage of empty packaging.

D. Maintenance.

The manufacturer shall write and describe in a document the requirements relating to the maintenance activities when these may have a negative effect on the product quality, particularly for the regular change of the air filters at extrusion level.

Records concerning this maintenance shall be kept.

E. Training

The manufacturer shall ensure that any member of personnel who must work under specific environmental conditions has either been trained in a suitable way or supervised by a trained person.

2.3. REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING MARKING

Marking is an integral part of the certification of a product.

Beyond the identification of a certified product and its traceability, the marking of a product with the NF logo ensures better protection of the users and enables holders to be protected against unauthorised use and forgery.

Without prejudice of the sanctions laid down in the General Rules of the NF mark, any incorrect announcement of the certified features and any fraudulent use of the NF logo expose the holder to lawsuits for frauds and/or misleading advertising.

Copying of and marking with the logos of AFNOR, AFNOR Certification, and the LNE is strictly forbidden without prior authorisation from these bodies.

The holder undertakes to respect the graphic charter of the NF mark.

The NF certified product must bear a designation and identification distinct from non-NF certified products. The holder must only use the NF logo to distinguish NF certified products, without risk of any possible confusion with other products, particularly with non-NF certified products.

The holder is recommended to submit all of the documents relating to the NF mark to the LNE beforehand.

REMINDER:
Article R 115-2 of the French Consumer Code stipulates that:
"When reference is made to certification in advertising, labelling or presentation of any product or service or in associated commercial documents of any kind, the following information must always be brought to the consumer's or user's attention:

- *the name or corporate name of the certifying body or the collective certification mark,*
- *the denomination of the certification reference standard used,*

the modalities according to which the certification reference standard can be consulted or obtained."

2.3.1. MARKING FOR FREEZER BAGS

Every certified freezer bag should be visibly and permanently marked with:

- the monogram of the NF Mark freezer bags. As an exception, when the use of the NF logo in compliance with graphic charter incurs technical and / or physical difficulties, the working "CERTIFIE PAR LNE" as well as the title of the application "SACS CONGELATION" can be omitted. This logo is defined in Para. 1.3 of these certification rules.
- - the identification number of the company which holds the mark, with possibly the number of the manufacturing plant (close to the NF monogram) if the holder has several sites.

E.g.:

-1 for the authorisation identified NF 229 01/01 and if holder no. 1 has only one approved manufacturing site

-2/3 for the authorisation identified NF 229 02/03 for site no. 3 of holder no. 2.

This identification number is assigned by the LNE at the time of notification of the right to use the NF mark for a model.

- the batch number,

- the contract thickness, possibly encoded (in this case, the codification shall be sent to LNE).

The English version "certified by LNE" is available from LNE.

2.3.2. MARKING MODES OF SETS (primary packaging)

The following indications shall be given:

- the monogram of the NF Mark (indicating the certifying body and the title of the application), in addition to the wording "hygiene quality" most be affixed to packaging in a readable and visible way. Packaging shall be marked according to the following model:

The indication “hygiene quality” can be translated into the language of the country where the bags are marketed.

Dimensions of the "Hygiene Quality" logo shall be homothetic as the dimensions of the model above.

- the dimensions of the bag (total length – width for drawtight bags), (useful length – width for zip freezer bags)
- the appropriate indication "small/medium/large model"
- the number of bags
- the identification number of the authorisation which includes: the reference of these certification rules and the company number.

E.g.: NF 229 01. This identification number is assigned by the mandated body at the time of notification of the right to use the NF mark for a model.

- the indication "Main certified characteristics: resistance (punch, tear, seam) and tightness"
- the indication “in conformity with standard NF EN 14867”.
- the reference of the website "www.marque-nf.com"

On the packaging, the following indications shall not appear:

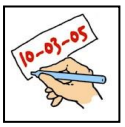
- the possible use in microwaves or double boiler,

- positive temperatures of use.

The following pictograms can be affixed on the packaging, either in colour or in black and white, with the minimum size of 1 cm X 1 cm:

- "Close the bag": with ties:  or zip: 

- "Push the air out when closing": 

- "Write down the freezing date": 

- "Do not refreeze after defrosting": 

The pictograms are represented on a 1.5 cm X 1.5 cm scale.

The pictograms "Close the bag" (with ties or zip), "Push the air out when closing", "Write the date of freezing" and "Do not refreeze after defrosting" cannot be affixed separately on the packaging.

Reference may be made to negative temperatures of use (down to - 40°C).
If the marking of the sets refers to temperatures ranging between - 30°C and - 40°C, the manufacturer must write and describe in a document the requirements ensuring the aptitude to use bags for these temperatures.

2.3.3. MARKING ON DOCUMENTATION (technical and commercial documents, posters, advertising, websites, etc. ...)

References to the NF Mark in documentation (order confirmations, invoices, delivery slips, advertising leaflets, catalogues, etc.) must be made in compliance with the graphic charter of the NF mark logo, and in a way that avoids any risk of confusing certified products with others.

The NF mark must be reproduced on documents and advertising in compliance with the requirements defined within graphic charter of the NF mark.

2.4 APPLICANT'S/HOLDER'S COMMITMENTS

The applicant/holder endeavours generally to give the LNE the means to proceed in the operations necessary to the good process of the evaluation and the monitoring of his file and in particular to:

- constantly meet the requirements defined by these certification rules, and to implement the necessary changes in the timeframes set by the LNE in the event that the certification rules change,

- give the representatives authorised by the LNE the information and working documents necessary to the good progress of the evaluation;
- only give information which the applicant/holder ensures is true and accurate;
- designate a manager as the LNE's special contact person;
- designate the recipient of the test and audit report from the LNE and to inform the LNE of any change of recipient within the company or any change in the mail addresses.
- introduce to LNE's authorised representatives the personnel assigned to the different missions;
- give its personnel all the instructions required so that it collaborates with the LNE's authorised representatives and accepts to participate in whatever interview;
- provide authorised LNE representatives with means of access and transportation within the sites and buildings being audited, including sites of sub-contractors if necessary;
- inform authorised LNE representatives of the provisions and health safety instructions applicable to the sites and buildings being audited and its personnel and put at their disposal whatever relevant equipment;
- pay the LNE the amounts due for evaluation, in accordance with the financial conditions defined and accepted by the applicant/holder.
- authorise the presence of an observer who is required to respect confidentiality. This observer may be imposed upon the LNE by standards or agreements of which it is a signatory. The applicant/holder is systematically informed of the presence of this observer by the LNE prior to the audit.
- take the necessary measures if non-conformities are noted, within the timeframe stipulated by the LNE,
- return to the audit manager the duly filled out non-conformity sheets, within 3 weeks from the last day of the audit.
- implement the actions required to enable the certificate to be granted within 11 months of the initial audit. Once this deadline has passed, a new initial audit will have to take place before certification,
- Send to the mark laboratory the samples taken in the conditions defined in parts 3 and 4.

It is also incumbent on the certificate holder to:

- affix the NF mark on only the products covered by the certificates issued by the LNE and which conform with the applicable requirements;
- reserve the commercial name of the product for only the products covered by the certificates issued by the LNE and which conform with the applicable requirements;

- inform the LNE beforehand of any modification to the product and any information likely to affect compliance with the requirements of these rules, the assessment methods being defined in part 4,

- provide the LNE with any data or information necessary to draw up and maintain the certificate;

- keep a record of all complaints of which holder has been aware concerning the compliance of (a) product(s) with certification requirements and to provide the LNE with these recordings upon request, and
    - take any appropriate action regarding these complaints and imperfections noted in the products which impact upon their compliance with the certification requirements,
    - document the actions taken.

- stop making any reference to the certification of the products concerned and to stop using all of the means of communication making reference thereto in the event of suspension, reduction, withdrawal or refusal of renewal of the certificate,

- Authorise follow-up authorisations to be carried out during the period of validity of the certificate, based on the frequency specified in part 4, in addition to any other duly justified supplementary evaluation.

- make declarations on the certifications in line with the scope of the certificate,

- not use the certification granted by the LNE in a way which could damage the LNE, nor make a statement on the certification of its products which the LNE could consider as misleading or non-authorised;

- reproduce the certificates in their entirety, including appendices in the event of provision to a third party.

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK FREEZER BAGS

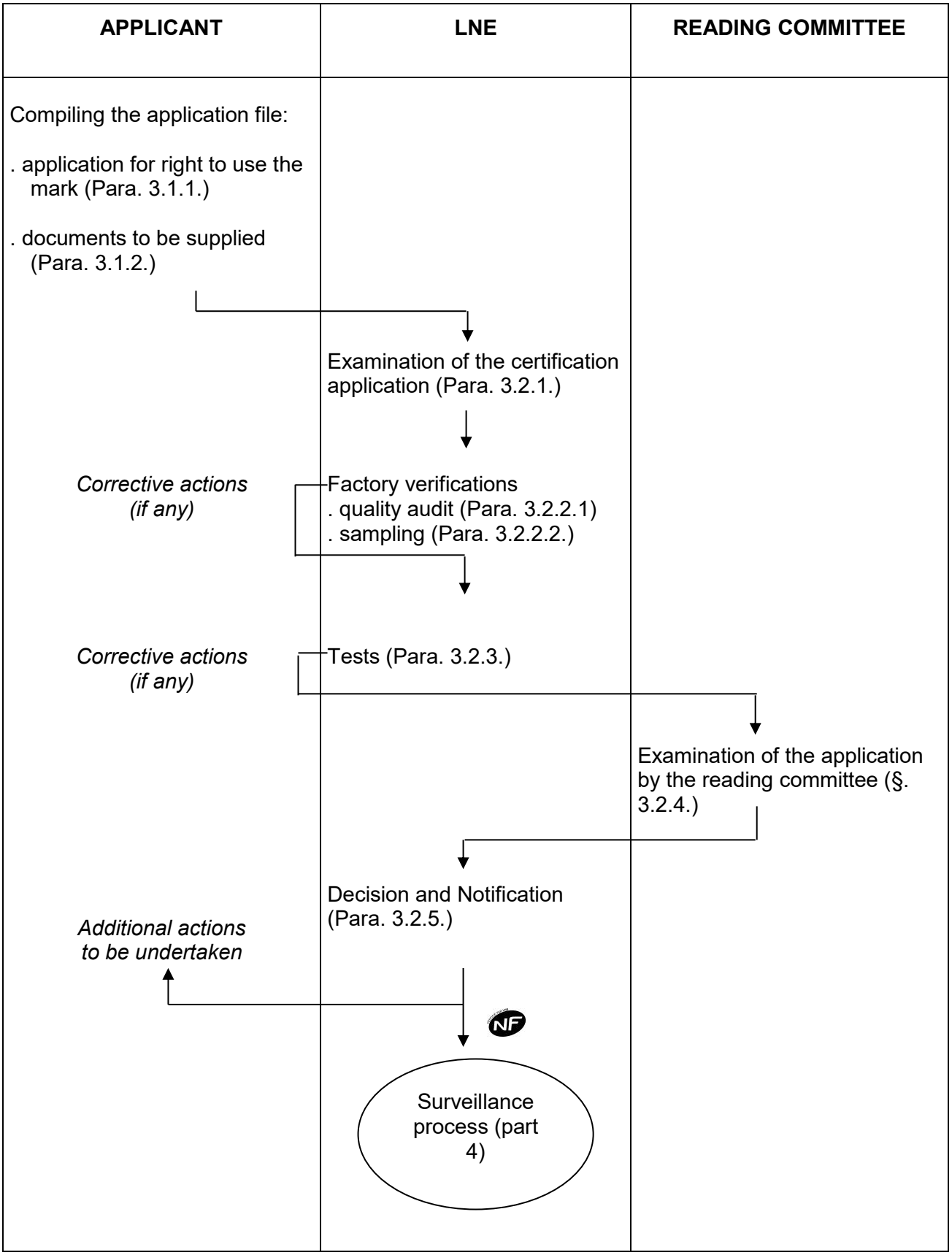
PART 3

OBTAINING CERTIFICATION

CONTENTS

Rev. 10 – January 2024

PROCESS FOR OBTAINING CERTIFICATION



Before making the application, the applicant must be sure to meet, at the time of the application, the conditions defined in these Certification Rules (reference standard), especially those in Part 2, regarding his corresponding product and sites.

He must undertake to comply with said conditions throughout the period of using the NF mark.

If he fails to respect these rules, the applicant/holder exposes himself to the interruption or suspension of the processing of his file. Notably, it is not possible in any circumstances to make reference to the NF mark before obtaining the right to use the NF mark, or to present forged products for certification.

3.1. COMPILING THE APPLICATION FILE

Any company manufacturing one or more products covered by this application of the NF mark can request the right to use the mark. A request of this kind is known in this document as an "application" and the person formulating it as the "applicant".

3.1.1. APPLICATION FOR THE RIGHT TO USE THE NF MARK

Any manufacturer wishing to obtain the NF certification on a product he/she manufactures must first read carefully the certification rules for the Mark and declare his/her acceptance of them.

The application is drawn up on the manufacturer's headed paper as shown in the model (form no. 1a) and must be sent to the LNE.

It must specify the models presented for certification application.

Definitions:

A bag model is defined by:

- its nominal indicated dimensions, in millimetres
- its family: with tie or zip
- its type: with or without side gusset
- its contract nominal thickness, in micrometers, more than or equal to the approved minimum value and less than or equal to the approved maximum value
- its formulation.

The different types of formulation are defined by the manufacturer. A same type of formulation can include different formulations which are considered identical by the manufacturer.

Any modification of one or more of the aforementioned characteristics gives rise to a new model.

The applicant undertakes to back his application up with a file containing, for each factory that manufactures the products for which certification is being sought, the documents or information specified in § 3.1.2. below.

The application can only be received if the inspections described in part 2 of these Certification Rules have been carried out regularly on the products concerned for at least three months.

All the documents must be written in French or English.

The application must be accompanied by full payment of the corresponding fees determined at the processing of the file and the initial audit.

If the applicant is not from a country within the European Economic Area, he must present his application jointly with an agent set up within the European Economic Area, duly accredited and responsible for all the production for which acceptance to the NF mark is being sought and marketed on French soil. He is known as the "agent".

Prior to affixing the NF Mark, any modification made to the range defined for acceptance must be pointed out to the LNE which will decide whether or not additional tests need to be carried out.

3.1.2. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED

- Standard acceptance application letter (forms no. 1a) written on the manufacturer's headed paper as shown in the enclosed model (with its appendix co-signed and the associated mandate co-signed) (as shown in form no. 1a) for applications from outside the European Economic Area.

- the general information sheets (forms 1b)

- the list of models for which the NF mark application is being made (form 1c)

- Description of quality management measures in place:
    - Quality manual and/or plan(s) if possible (if these documents are not distributed outside the site, they must always be made available to the auditor during the audit).
    - description of the various processes with definition of input and output components and activities involved in each process (with reference to standard ISO 9001:2015)
    - Certificate of conformity of the quality management system (if appropriate)
    - - Description of the manufacturing sequence and the inspection plan used (indicating measurements and tests carried out and their frequency).
    - Risk analysis (see the requirements of Part 2 of these Certification Regulations)

- Technical file:
    - Nomenclature of the formulation of products and technical sheet of the components
    - Results of design validation tests carried out by the manufacturer on the product concerned by the application
    - Description of the final test benches
    - Records less than six months from the date of performance of the inspections in Part 2 of these rules made for each reference in the application,
    - Precise definition of a production batch (see definition in Part 1, § 1.2) followed by the applicant
    - Product and packaging project marking draft

All the documents must be written in French or English.

.

FORM No. 1a
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
(to be drawn up on the manufacturer's headed paper)

Monsieur le Directeur Général du
LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE METROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS
Pôle Certification Plurisectorielle
1, rue Gaston Boissier
75724 PARIS Cedex 15 - France

PURPOSE: Application for the right to use Mark NF-Freezer bags

Dear Sir,

I the undersigned (name and position) .....
representing the company (identification of the company - head office).....
request the LNE to carry out the verifications required for obtaining the right to use the NF Mark for the products specified in the enclosed table, complying with standard NF EN 14867 and supplementary specifications of part 2 of the Certification Regulations.

These products are manufactured in the factory of (company identification and full address of the factory) ..... .

I declare that I am familiar with the reference standards, the general rules of the NF “Sacs congélation” Mark and the certification regulations and I undertake to comply with them throughout the period of use of the NF Mark.

I attest that these products satisfy the regulatory requirements applicable to them and I undertake not to present forged products for certification.

Date
Stamp and signature
of the applicant

APPENDIX TO THE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION (1)

Furthermore, I authorize the company (2)..... .....
represented by Mr (name and capacity)..... .....

who accepts the terms of the attached mandate, to act on my behalf on the French territory for all matters relating to the use of the NF mark - Freezer bags.

For such purposes, I ask that the fees incumbent on me be invoiced directly to him. He hereby undertakes to settle the invoices on receipt.

I undertake to notify the LNE immediately if I appoint a new agent to replace the agent named above.

Yours faithfully,

Date
Stamp and signature
of the agent’s representative (3)

Stamp and signature
of the applicant’s representative (3)

(1) This annex is only to be completed by applicants located outside the European Economic Area. It must be accompanied by a co-signed mandate (see sample form 1d)
(2) The designation of the representing company must include: company name, legal form, head-office and Companies Register number.
(3) The signatures of the applicant and his agent must be preceded respectively by the hand-written words "Proxy agreed" and "Acceptance of proxy agreed".

FORM no. 1b

GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET

Applicant's corporate name:
Address of the applicant:
Contact:
Telephone:
E-mail:

Contact information of the correspondent(s) for receiving the test and audit reports from LNE via email:

Name of the contact	Job-position	E-mail	Audit report	Test report

Billing address (if different from the address mentioned for the corporate name of the applicant), with undertaking if different from the applicant:

_____

_____

Location of the various steps of manufacturing

	Address and contacts of the site responsible for each stage (2)
Design	
Manufacture (details, if applicable, of the outsourced manufacturing)	
Assembly	
Marking	
Final check	
Packaging	

(1) Details (if necessary) of the manufacturing stages or of outsourced manufacturing.
(2) Indicate the company name, address, contact person, phone number and e-mail address if different from the applicant.

Any aspect not covered by the applicant is subject to a contract defining the respective responsibilities with its provider

Authorised agent's name and address in France, if applicable:

Issued at
on
Signature

Marque commerciale :

Propriétaire de la marque commerciale * :

Liste des distributeurs, responsables de la mise sur le marché, dont le nom figure sur l'emballage * :

Fait à

le

Signature

*** indiquer la raison sociale, l'adresse, l'interlocuteur, le téléphone, l'e-mail si différent du demandeur.**

FORM no. 1c

REFERENCE OF THE PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

CLOSURE SYSTEM (1)	MODEL (2)	MINIMUM THICKNESS / MAXIMUM THICKNESS (in micrometers)	DETAILED FORMULATION

Applicant's name

Date

Stamp and signature

(1) DRAWTIGHT BAGS (without gusset) – DRAWTIGHT BAGS (with gusset)
ZIP BAG (without gusset).

(2) Small, Medium, Large

FORM no. 1d
EXAMPLE OF A MANDATE
(to be drawn up on the applicant/agent's headed paper)

List of information to be supplied:

- Corporate name: _____
- Address: _____
- Country: _____
- Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
- SIRET No.: _____ NAF code: _____
- Name and profession of the legal representative: _____
- Name and profession of the correspondent (if different): _____
- VAT ID number: _____
- Email address of contact person: _____
- Email address of the Company: _____
- Website: _____

Identification of the functions of the authorised agent to be included in the mandate between applicant / holder and agent

Applicant/Holder: .....

Authorised agent:.....

Minimum requirements which must be shown in the mandate:

- assignments and associated responsibilities
- financial aspects (invoicing relating to the NF mark)
- complaints
- certifying body contact

Mandate:

The mandate should be mentioned in the applicant/holder's quality system.

A copy of the mandate in French or English should be attached to the co-signed admission application.

The respect of the mandate arrangements is checked during audits.

Date of the initial mandate

Signatures of the representative of the agent and the applicant

3.2. INITIAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

3.2.1. EXAMINATION OF THE CERTIFICATION APPLICATION

The application and enclosed file sent to the LNE are examined before factory verifications and tests are carried out.

Upon receiving the application, the LNE checks that:
- all the requested documents are enclosed in the application file according to Para. 3.1.2.,
- the elements in the file respect the requirements of the certification rules.
- The fees have been paid,

The LNE checks that it has all the means for responding to the application and may request additional information required for the admissibility of the file when this is incomplete.

Once the application is admissible, the LNE organises the inspections, and informs the applicant about the organisation methods (auditor, duration of the audit, audited sites, laboratories, sampled products, etc.) and, if applicable, the agreed lead time for the additional items.

The checks carried out in connection with the NF mark are as follows:
- audits so as to be able to cover the various participants in the design, manufacture, assembly, quality control, marking and packaging of the products (see Para. 3.2.2).
- tests on the products (see Para. 3.2.3),

The test samples are taken during the initial audit and sent by the applicant to the appointed laboratory.

3.2.2. AUDIT

Examination of the application includes an initial audit of the factory where the products presented in the application are manufactured. It also includes, if applicable, an audit of the various sites participating and described in the certification application, on the basis of the same standard. It is conducted by auditors qualified by the LNE who have given an undertaking to observe professional secrecy.

The language of the audit is French or English. If this is not the case, it is up to the company being audited to make available an interpreter to the auditor. In this case the duration of the audit may be increased (prior agreement with the company).

The NF auditor must have at his disposal all the resources necessary (documents, offices, installations, facilities) to perform his assignment, including competent people to carry it out.

3.2.2.1. Quality audit

This audit is conducted according to the general principles defined in standard ISO 19011 for conducting a quality audit. In particular, the scope of the audit and details of the procedure are specified in an audit plan sent to the company before the audit

The auditor:

- Conducts a quality audit with the purpose of verifying the existence and effective implementation of the quality management system set up by the manufacturer and its conformity with the quality requirements in Part 2 of these regulations.

- Verifies that the inspections stipulated in Part 2 have been carried out regularly for at least 3 months, in order to verify the application of frequencies, operating procedures and criteria defined by NF certification rules
- Has conformity tests carried out in his/her presence on the products subject to the certification application. The tests are preferably carried out on the type of sample taken for the standard's laboratory tests,
- Takes the samples required for initial testing,
- If appropriate, examine the scope of the contract with the agent and/or with the different sites involved and described in the application for certification.

NOTE: test results obtained during the audit do not prejudge results obtained by the mark laboratory.

With the company's agreement, the auditor can take a copy of any document he/she considers necessary.

At the end of the closing meeting, the audit leader prepares an audit report which he/she gives to the applicant, drawing special attention to the effectiveness of the quality system set up, the strong points, the points to be improved and a commented report of non-conformities. It also includes the report of tests carried out during the audit and the sampling sheet.

A non-conformity is classified as major when, on the basis of objective proof:

- there is a significant risk as concerns the conformity of the product in relation to the specified requirements (requirements set out by the reference standard, the company or its clients), or
- there is a significant risk in terms of the management system's ability to control product conformity for a specified requirement, or
- there is systematic or repeated non-compliance with a given requirement.

In all other cases, the non-conformity is classified as minor.

The applicant must respond to any notified non-conformity with a causal analysis, corrections and corrective actions. An action plan to address major or minor non-conformities is sent to the Audit Manager for assessment within three weeks following the end of the audit.

In the case of a major non-conformity:

- Tangible evidence must be sent together with the action plan to prove that the correction to eliminate this non-conformity has been implemented.
- Tangible evidence must be sent to LNE within the timeframes specified by LNE to prove the implementation of the corrective action associated with this non-conformity.

In the case of a minor non-conformity, the LNE must receive tangible evidence of implementation of the correction to eliminate this non-conformity along with the associated corrective action at the latest during the next audit, in order for it to be checked on site, unless otherwise specified by LNE.

The complete report is sent by LNE by email to the correspondent(s) designated by the applicant, with a copy (where applicable) to the authorised agent.

The duration of the on-site audit is:

NF marks audited	Duration of on-site audit (in days)
NF Freezer bags	2.5
NF Freezer bags NF Plastic waste sacks	3.5
NF Freezer bags NF Plastic waste sacks NF Environment - Refuse bags	4

The duration of the audit can be adapted to the sites to be audited (with prior consent of the applicant).

3.2.2.2. Sampling

The manufacturer must make available to the lead auditor all models of the product covered by the certification application needed for the sample.

Auditors collect the samples needed for testing having been validated by the manufacturer's inspection plan.
.

The sample is made up of 3 different sizes (small, medium, large model) of bags covering the minimum thickness presented in the application, for each type of different formulation (*).

The samples taken are marked by the auditors with a distinctive sign used to authenticate them later, and must be accompanied by information allowing the samples taken to be identified.

The samples taken are sent within 15 days by the manufacturer, and under his responsibility, to the mark laboratory (see Part 5 of these rules) in charge of carrying out the tests, accompanied by the sampling form, unless the auditors decide to take charge of them.

(*) The different types of formulation are defined by the manufacturer. A same type of formulation can include different formulations which are considered identical by the manufacturer.

3.2.3. TESTS

The tests to be carried out by the mark laboratory on the products sampled during the audit are defined in the table below.

MEASUREMENTS OR TESTS	SAMPLES TESTED
Visual inspection	3 different sizes (small, medium, large model) of bags covering the minimum thickness presented for acceptance, for each different formulation type
Descriptive characteristics	
Physical characteristics, except for shock resistance at -30°C	
Shock resistance at -30°C	1 bag model of the minimum thickness presented for acceptance and for each type of formulation
Global migration	1 bag model of the minimum thickness presented for acceptance and for each type of formulation
Organoleptic criterion	1 model and for each type of formulation
Residual quantity of solvent	1 model (the most printed in ink grams per square meter)

The controls and tests specified are carried out on the samples taken and are performed according to standardised methods and specifications defined in standard NF EN 14867 and in the additional specifications of Part 2 of these Certification Regulations.

The average thickness of the film making up the bags tested for athe application shall be close:

- for drawtight bags, to 8 % (thickness more than or equal to 20 µm) or to 10 % (thickness less than 20 µm) of the announced contract nominal thickness.

- for zip freezer bags, to 12.5 %.

If it is not possible, the nominal thickness will be the average thickness (rounded to the lower micron) obtained during tests.

The tests are the subject of a test report that is sent by LNE by email to the correspondent(s) designated by the applicant; a copy is sent to the authorized agent where applicable.

In case of non compliance, the manufacturer shall inform the LNE of its analysis of the causes and corrective actions taken while specifying the time taken.

3.2.4. DECISION AND NOTIFICATION

On the basis of the results obtained during examination of the application and the recommendation of the reading committee, the LNE notifies the applicant of one of the following decisions:

a) Certification agreed [2]
This decision may be accompanied by suspensive conditions which define the conditions to be met by the applicant before the certificate is awarded.
b) Certification refused.

The certification decision must be made no later than one year after the initial audit.

[2] The first manufacturing of each accepted model of a new holder must be inspected by the LNE before being marketed. Marketing can only be performed after compliant results have been obtained and after written agreement by the LNE.

In virtue of the certification decision notified by the LNE, AFNOR Certification grants the right to use the NF mark.

If the right to use the NF Mark is awarded, the beneficiary is known as the "holder". Maintaining this right is subject to the results of the verifications defined in Part 4.

The exercise of the right to use the NF Mark is strictly limited to the products for which it was awarded, in other words the duly defined products from the duly defined factories, and manufactured under the conditions set out in these Regulations.

After the right to use the NF mark is awarded to the holder, the first fabrication of each certified model must be tested by the LNE before its commercialization, commercialization that can only be led after the LNE confirms the conformity of the samples and when the LEN grants its written agreement.

3.2.6. APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION

The applicant may appeal against the decision taken. The procedure is set out in Article 11 of the General Rules of the NF mark. The appeal is filed by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt within 15 working days.

LNE firstly proceeds with the re-examination of the file in view of the factors justifying this challenge. It notifies confirmation of the decision or the new decision to the applicant within 30 working days.

Should the applicant wish to maintain its challenge, an appeal may be made by the applicant or certification beneficiary against the decision of LNE.

Explanations for this appeal, which does not have a suspensive effect, must be given. It is lodged by sending a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt within 15 working days.

It is examined by LNE within 30 days of receipt and, if it concerns the certification decision or certification rules, gives rise to an examination by the Mark committee. LNE informs the plaintiff, within this time limit, as to whether or not it maintains its decision.

If the appeal is maintained after processing and submission to the mark committee for their opinion, the appeal is presented to the Certification and Impartiality Preservation Committee of LNE, which proposes its conclusions after examination.

This last appeal is subject to a lump-sum payment by the applicant.

The company will be informed of the final decision by LNE.

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK – FREEZER BAGS

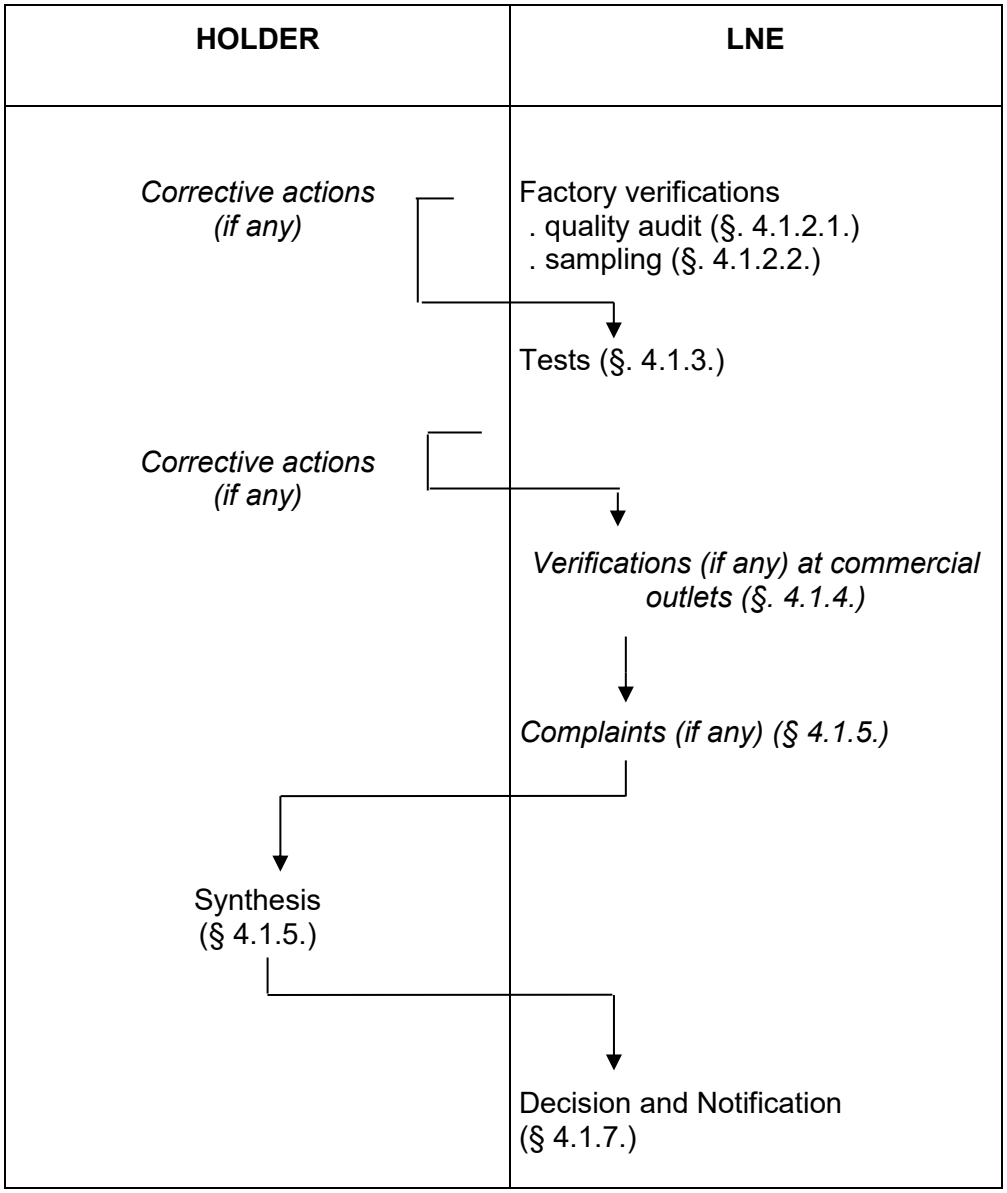
PART 4

CERTIFIED PRODUCT SURVEILLANCE PROCESS MODIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

CONTENTS

Rev. 10 – January 2024

SURVEILLANCE PROCESS



Throughout the duration of the certification, the holder must:
- comply with the requirements defined and the marking methods described in Part 2,
- systematically inform the LNE of any change in the specifications of the certified product, and/or organisation that may have an impact on the certification:
    - modifications concerning the holder (Para. 4.2.1.)
    - transfer of production site (Para. 4.2.2.)
    - modification of the accepted product, new products (Para. 4.2.3.)
    - Temporary stoppage of production (Para. 4.2.4.)
    - definitive stoppage of production or surrendering the right of use (Para. 4.2.5.)

In addition, the LNE reserves the right to carry out any checks it deems necessary following:
- to change in the certified product or the quality organisation of the various intervening sites and described in the original certification application file.
- complaints, challenges, disputes of which it has been informed and relating to the use of the NF Mark.

4.1. CERTIFIED PRODUCT SURVEILLANCE PROCESS

The LNE organises surveillance of certified products. The purpose of this surveillance is to monitor compliance by the manufacturer with the requirements of these certification rules.

The first follow-up audit occurs no later than six months after the certification decision.

Monitoring procedures also depend on the decisions made as a result of previous inspections.

4.1.1. AUDIT

At least one audit is conducted per year at the main production site and at the site in charge of final inspection of certified products.

The LNE defines, case by case or which sites to be audited in addition and the associated frequency among different intervening sites and described in the original certification application.

The duration of the audit can be adapted:
- depending on the sites to be audited in accordance with the requirements of Para. 3.2.1 (with prior consent of the holder)
- if a holder has several authorised agents,
- if several holders use the same subcontractor.

The examinations carried out concern primarily any modifications made since the previous audit that affect manufacturing, inspection methods or organisation of the quality management system.

This quality audit is conducted according to the general principles defined in standard ISO 19011 for conducting a quality audit. In particular, the scope of the audit and details of the procedure are specified in an audit plan sent to the company before the audit.

During each audit, products are sampled for laboratory testing of the mark (see Para. 4.1.2.2.).

During the audit, the auditor has conformity tests carried out in his presence on admitted freezer bags, in order to verify the conditions under which inspections are carried out by the

manufacturer. It is preferable to carry out these tests on the type sampled for tests in the Mark laboratory.

NOTE: test results obtained during the audit do not prejudge results obtained by the mark laboratory.

With the manufacturer's agreement, the auditor can take a copy of any document he/she considers necessary.

4.1.1.1. Quality audit

At the end of the closing meeting, the lead auditor prepares an audit report which he/she gives to the holder drawing special attention to the effectiveness of the quality system set up, the strong points, the points to be improved and a commented report of non-conformities. It also includes the report of tests carried out during the audit and the sampling sheet (see § 4.1.1.2).

If one or more non-compliant points have been noted, the holder completes the headings of the non-compliance sheets and sends them within the time agreed with the lead auditor to the latter for assessment.
A non-conformity is classified as major when, on the basis of objective proof:

- there is a significant risk as concerns the conformity of the product in relation to the specified requirements (requirements set out by the reference standard, the company or its clients), or
- there is a significant risk in terms of the management system's ability to control product conformity for a specified requirement, or
- there is systematic or repeated non-compliance with a given requirement.

In all other cases, the non-conformity is classified as minor.

The applicant must respond to any notified non-conformity with a causal analysis, corrections and corrective actions. An action plan to address major or minor non-conformities is sent to the Audit Manager for assessment within three weeks following the end of the audit.

In the case of a major non-conformity:

- Tangible evidence must be sent together with the action plan to prove that the correction to eliminate this non-conformity has been implemented.
- Tangible evidence must be sent to LNE within the timeframes specified by LNE to prove the implementation of the corrective action associated with this non-conformity.

In the case of a minor non-conformity, the LNE must receive tangible evidence of implementation of the correction to eliminate this non-conformity along with the associated corrective action at the latest during the next audit, in order for it to be checked on site, unless otherwise specified by LNE.

The complete report is sent by LNE by email to the correspondent(s) designated by the applicant, with a copy (where applicable) to the authorised agent.

a) Case of companies with a certified quality management system

If the conformity of the quality management system has up-to-date certification of which the scope includes the sites and activities concerned by the NF mark.

This certification is awarded by an accredited certifying body, as per ISO/IEC 17021 by COFRAC, or failing that, a member of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) or a

body which is a member of an association that has entered into international multilateral mutual recognition agreements found on COFRAC's website (www.cofrac.fr). In this case, the frequency of quality management system checks is reduced.

The audit reports drawn up by the quality management system certifying body must be sent to the auditor or consulted on site.

This audit includes obligatory verification of the following requirements in § 2.2. (Part 2):
- 2.2.3 Document management
- 2.2.4 Purchases
- 2.2.5 Identification and traceability
- 2.2.6 Production management
- 2.2.7 Testing
- 2.2.8 Management of testing and measurement equipment
- 2.2.9 Management of non-compliant products
- 2.2.10 Corrective actions
- 2.2.11 Product preservation

The duration of the audit is:

NF marks audited	Duration of on-site audit (in days)
NF Freezer bags	1
NF Freezer bags NF Plastic waste sacks	2
NF Freezer bags NF Plastic waste sacks NF Environment - Refuse bags	2.5

b) Case of companies without a certified quality management system

The quality management system checks involve verifications during the audit to ensure compliance with the requirements, which are specific to the NF mark (see § 2.2., Part 2).

In this case, the duration of the on-site audit is:

In this case, the on-site audit duration is:

NF marks audited	Duration of on-site audit (in days)
NF Freezer bags	1.5
NF Freezer bags NF Plastic waste sacks	2.5
NF Freezer bags NF Plastic waste sacks NF Environment - Refuse bags	3

4.1.1.2. Sampling

Samples are taken from batches inspected by the manufacturer who must provide a copy of the corresponding inspection records.

The samples taken must be accompanied by information allowing the manufacturing batch to be identified.

They are marked by the auditor with a distinctive sign used to authenticate them later and sent within less than 15 days by the manufacturer, and under his responsibility, to the Mark laboratory charged with carrying out the tests, unless the auditors decide to take charge of them.

4.1.2. ANNUAL SAMPLES

In addition to the aforementioned provisions, LNE take samples from the distribution circuit. The test results are sent by e-mail to the contact person or people designated by the holder. If applicable, a copy shall be sent to the agent.
Annual samples (January – December) taken from the distribution circuit are associated with the tyoe of NF marked bags sampled the previous year.

LNE samples the references available from an intermediary (reseller) or directly available on the market (distributor, user, municipalities). Manufacturers thus inform LNE, upon request, of possible sampling locations. Possible sampling locations are as follow:

- storage locations (on company premises or off-site);
- intermediary;
- points of sale.

The address of these sampling locations is specified together with the details for the contact person (name, telephone).

4.1.3. TESTS

A report on the tests carried out on the samples taken during the monitoring audit and annual sampling is sent by e-mail by LNE to the contact person or people designated by the applicant. If applicable, a copy shall be sent to the agent.

The holder informs LNE of any corrective actions adopted following the detection of nonconformities.

- **Tests led on the samples taken during the audit**

The tests to be carried out by the mark laboratory on the products sampled during the annual follow-up audits are defined in the table below.

MEASUREMENTS AND TESTS	SAMPLES TESTED	FREQUENCY
Visual inspection	3 different sizes (small, medium, large model) with, if possible, different types of formulation	Every year
Descriptive characteristics		
Physical characteristics, except for shock resistance at -30°C		

- **Verifications at commercial outlets**

The tests to be carried out by the mark laboratory on the products sampled during the annual follow-up audits are defined in the table below.

MEASUREMENTS AND TESTS	SAMPLES TESTED	FREQUENCY
Visual inspection	3 different sizes (small, medium, large model) with, if possible, different types of formulation	Every year
Descriptive characteristics		
Physical characteristics, except for shock resistance at -30°C		
Shock resistance at – 30°C	1 model	Every 2 years
Aptitude for contact with foodstuffs: - global migration - residual quantity of solvent - organoleptic criterion.	1 model	Every 2 years

4.1.4. COMPLAINTS

If there are user complaints, the inspections may include sampling or tests at the places where accepted products are marketed or used (in this case the holder is invited to arrange for representation during the sampling and tests).

4.1.5. DECISION AND NOTIFICATION

On the basis of the results of the inspections carried out and the recommendations of the LNE reading committee, the LNE notifies the holder of one of the following decisions:

a) Maintaining the certification with a possible request for corrective actions

b) Maintaining the certification with formal notification to stop within a given time period any infringements observed, and possibly backed up with more inspections.

c) Suspension of the certification (suspension has a maximum duration of 6 months and is renewable once only. After this, withdrawal of the certification is pronounced.)

d) Withdrawal of certification.

For sanctions b), c) and d), the fees for additional verifications are charged to the holder, regardless of their results. The decisions are enforceable as from the date of notification.

If there is a serious breach of the Certification Rules, the LNE may, as a measure of conservation and after confirmation of the breach, make any of the decisions listed above. The decisions are reported to the holders.

Certificates are renewed by periods of 3 years.

4.1.6. APPEAL AGAINST A DECISION

The holder may appeal against the decision taken. The procedure is set out in Article 11 of the General Rules of the NF Mark. This appeal must be expressed to the LNE with a registered letter within 15 working days.

The LNE firstly proceeds with the re-examination of the file in view of the factors justifying this challenge. It notifies confirmation of the decision or the new decision to the holder within 15 working days.

Should the holder wish to maintain its challenge, an appeal may be made by the holder or certification beneficiary against the decision of the LNE.

This appeal, which does not have a suspensory effect, shall be motivated. It is lodged by sending a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt within 15 working days

It is examined by the LNE following its receipt. The appeal is presented to the Certification and Impartiality Preservation Committee of the LNE, which proposes its conclusions after examination.

The final decision is notified to the Company by the LNE.

4.2. MODIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPANY ORGANISATION OR CERTIFIED PRODUCT

4.2.1. MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE HOLDER

In the case of merger, liquidation or acquisition of the holder's company, any right to use the Mark that it might exercise shall cease automatically (see article 4 of the General Rules of the NF Mark). The holder must inform the LNE without delay of any decision likely to result at a later stage either in a modification of the company's legal status or a change in the company name.

Non-compliance with this obligation observed by the LNE can lead to suspension or withdrawal of the right to use the NF mark.

The LNE is empowered, after consulting the lecture committee if necessary, to examine the means by which any new certification might be accepted.

In case of merger or consolidation involving only a change of company name, without modification of the product, manufacturing process, material and human resources, quality organisation and methods of control, the NF certificate may be updated upon receipt of written notification of the new company name on the company's letterhead paper.

4.2.2. MODIFICATION CONCERNING SITES COVERED BY THE CERTIFICATION

Before total or partial transfer of an activity described in the application file, the holder shall inform the LNE in writing of any new arrangements envisaged. As of the date of transfer, no mention of the mark should be made until reception of the LNE's decision.

The LNE's decision comes after the audit of the new site and, where appropriate, presentation to the LNE reading committee (maintained certification or investigation of a new application, with reduced or complete tests as appropriate).

4.2.3. MODIFICATION OF THE ACCEPTED PRODUCT - NEW PRODUCTS

NF marked products shall conform to the technical file that was submitted with the application for acceptance, and shall take into account any observation made when the right to use the Mark was granted.

Consequently, any modification (including modifications concerning the manufacturing and inspection resources and the quality assurance system that could have a determining effect on production conformity) that the holder wishes to make on accepted products must also be communicated to the LNE in writing. In addition, the holder shall notify the corresponding "distributor" certificates, if appropriate.

An application for a new model and/or a new range takes the form of an application for extension of the right to use the NF Mark (forms 1a and 1c defined in Part 3 and updating of the file).

The modification is examined on the basis of the table below and cannot be implemented until the LNE has given its agreement. This response from the LNE (acceptance, preliminary inspections or referral to the Mark Committee) must be made within 15 days.

The samples required for carrying out tests are sent by the applicant and under his responsibility, to the Mark laboratory charged with carrying out the tests. They must be marked in a way that allows later authentication and be accompanied by information allowing the material batches used for their manufacture to be identified.

Type of change	Application to be sent to LNE	Examination of the application	Extension notification conditions
Change in authorised agent	Request as per Form 1a-b-c-d, Part 3	Complete procedure. The procedure can be simplified in view of the conclusions of the last audit or the last test results if the product covered by the application is identical to the previous certified model.	If the outcome of the evaluation is satisfactory, the LNE awards certification.
Designation of an additional authorised agent	Request as per Form 1a-b-c-d, Part 3	Complete procedure. The procedure can be simplified in view of the conclusions of the last audit or the last test results if the production and inspection conditions are unchanged with respect to the previously accepted model	If the outcome of the evaluation is satisfactory, the LNE awards certification.
Extension request for a new formulation (for types of freezer bags that are already certified)	Application according to form 1a -b -c part 3 with technical file, accompanied by the product data sheets for the authorised formulation and for the formulation submitted as an extension of admission	On file, with full admission tests	Notification by LNE, given the test and audit results (without consulting the LNE reading committee if no particular problems are found)
Extension request in order to raise the maximal nominal thickness of a freezer bag (for types of freezer bags that are already certified)	Application according to form 1a -b -c part 3	Partial extension tests upon each model in the application (cf. part 3 § 3.2.3) including : - Visual inspection - Descriptive characteristics - Physical characteristics, except for shock resistance at -30°C - Global migration	Notification by LNE, given the test and audit results (without consulting the LNE reading committee if no particular problems are found)
Extension request in order to lower the minimal nominal thickness of a freezer bag (for types of freezer bags that are already certified)	Application according to form 1a -b -c part 3	Partial extension tests upon each model in the application (cf. part 3 § 3.2.3) including : - Visual inspection - Descriptive characteristics - Physical characteristics, except for shock resistance at -30°C - Shock resistance at -30°C	Notification by LNE, given the test results (without consulting the LNE reading committee if no particular problems are found)

Type of change	Application to be sent to LNE	Examination of the application	Extension notification conditions
Extension request for a new product (new formulation and new thickness to certify)	Application according to form 1a -b -c part 3 with a complete file	On file, with full admission tests	Notification by LNE, given the test results (without consulting the LNE reading committee if no particular problems are found)
New commercial reference for a model which has already received the NF standard	Request for continuance as per appendix 1 and 2 of the current section	On file	Notification by LNE (without consulting the LNE reading committee if no particular problems are found)
Other cases	Report modifications	On a case-by-case basis	On a case-by-case basis

4.2.4. TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF PRODUCTION – MINIMUM OF PRODUCTION

The holder shall keep the LNE informed of any temporary stoppage of production of a product admitted if it is less than 6 months longs.

The holder must apply for a temporary suspension of the right to use the mark (maximum: 1 year) as it no longer has products bearing the NF mark in stock. After this period, the right of use is withdrawn.

Before the expiry of the suspension, if production is restarted, the holder must notify the LNE which will carry out an audit before the products are marketed under the NF Mark.

Minimum of production:

The tonnage of bags produced under the NF mark shall allow the holder to efficiently control compliance with the provisions of the certification regulations.

One year after the mark NF Freezer Bags was admitted, a six-monthly NF manufacture for each reference is obligatory in order to preserve the right to use this mark.

4.2.5. DEFINITIVE STOPPAGE OF PRODUCTION OR SURRENDER OF THE RIGHT OF USE

If the holder ceases production of an accepted product definitively or if he surrenders the right to use the Mark, he must inform the LNE, indicating the time he considers necessary for depletion of the remaining stock of products bearing the Mark. The LNE lays down the conditions under which this stock can be depleted, after seeking the Reading Committee's opinion if necessary.

The certificate issued by the LNE remains valid as long as it remains with the holder of NF-marked product stock, as surveillance checks on certified products are maintained.

APPENDIX 1

FORM
MAINTENANCE APPLICATION FOR THE RIGHT TO USE

(to be prepared on the requesting manufacturer's letterhead paper or to be completed with the company stamp and signature of the company's legal representative).

For the attention of the General Manager of
LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE METROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS
Pôle Certification Plurisectorielle
1, rue Gaston Boissier
75724 PARIS Cedex 15 - France

Purpose: Request to maintain the right to use the NF-Packaging mark freezer bags.

Dear Sir,

In my capacity as..... (1), representing the company .....(2), I kindly ask you to maintain the right of use of the NF standard for the products listed below, in accordance with the NF Packaging certification rules for potentially infectious clinical waste with perforation risk.

which differ from the products admitted to the NF mark only by the brand and the commercial reference.

This application pertains to products sold through means of (3):

Reference of the basic model	with NF certification	New mark(s)
Trademark and commercial reference already approved	No. of the right to use the NF Mark already granted	and/or requested trade reference(s)

The commitment from the above mentioned distributor is attached (see Appendix 2).

Stamp and signature of Holder
or of authorised agent (*):

Date

---

(1) Position
(2) Identification of the company (head office)
(3) Distributor's name and address
(*) Concerns a manufacturer outside the European economic area

APPENDIX 2

DOCUMENT ENCLOSED WITH THE MAINTENANCE APPLICATION FOR THE OF USE OF THE NF STANDARD

(Distributor's undertaking to be written on the distributor's letterhead paper)

I the undersigned,

_____

acting as

_____

of the company:

_____

acknowledge that the substitution of the trademark _____ for that of the manufacturer on packaging for freezer bags of the above-mentioned models leads me to assume responsibility for them.

In particular, I declare that I hold an exclusive right to use these trademarks and references, having registered them in compliance with industrial property legislation in force,

and I agree to market the abovementioned model(s) for which this application is made without making any change of any type whatsoever.

Issued at on

Signature

Distributor's stamp:

Stamp and signature of producer or authorised agent:

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK – FREEZER BAGS

PART 5

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

CONTENTS

Rev. 10 – January 2024

5.1. AFNOR CERTIFICATION

AFNOR is the owner of the NF mark and has granted an exclusive operating licence to AFNOR CERTIFICATION. AFNOR CERTIFICATION manages and drives the NF certification system, which defines the rules of governance and the modalities of operation of the NF mark.

5.2. MANDATED BODY

AFNOR Certification entrusts management of the Mark application to the LNE.

Under this authorisation, the LNE is answerable to AFNOR Certification for all management operations entrusted to it, as set out in Article 3 of the General Rules of the NF Mark.

All persons involved in the NF mark process are bound to professional secrecy under Article 8 of the General Rules of the NF Mark. If necessary, on request from manufacturers, an agreement can be signed between the LNE and the manufacturer.

5.3. AUDIT BODY

The LNE entrusts audits to the following organisations:

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE METROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS (LNE)
1, rue Gaston Boissier
75724 PARIS Cedex 15 - France
Tel. 01 40 43 37 00

However, it may call upon the expertise of duly qualified external auditors according to LNE's procedures. This outsourcing of audits is formalised in the form of contracts (due to independence and confidentiality requirements).

The holder or applicant must facilitate the operations that agents in charge of audits are required to carry out in the context of their mission.

The LNE must be informed of any challenge concerning the members of an audit team within 10 days of receipt of the audit team notification in order for it to be taken into account.

5.4. TEST BODIES

The LNE entrusts the tests to the mark laboratory named below:

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE METROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS (LNE)
Direction des Essais et de la Certification
Pôle Chimie et Physico-Chimie des Matériaux
29, avenue Roger Hennequin
78197 TRAPPES Cedex
Tel. 01 30.69.10.00.

5.6. LNE READING COMMITTEE

The reading committee is responsible for rendering an opinion on the certification decision. It is composed of members that were not involved in the evaluation process.

The committee is chaired by the LNE management representative.

The reading committee is responsible for:

- reviewing the audit and test reports and formulating an opinion and a recommendation on the decisions to be taken,
- where appropriate, considering in the first instance appeals against decisions of the LNE and formulating an opinion on the follow-up,
- evaluating the quality of reports.

LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE MÉTROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS

Organisme certificateur mandaté par
AFNOR Certification

CERTIFICATION RULES

NF MARK – FREEZER BAGS

PART 6

APPLICABLE FEES – TERMS OF PAYMENT

CONTENTS

Rev. 10 – January

The pricing schedule for the current year is available free of charge on the website of the LNE (www.lne.fr) or on request from the LNE.

6.1. APPLICABLE FEES

Fees for the services involved in obtaining certification and surveillance of certified products are indicated in a list of charges which may be revised annually. The list of charges for the current year is sent to all holders of the mark.

A special budget, decided each year in discussion with the holders, is set aside for promotional actions.

The fees are given in Euros, excluding tax. With regard to test fees, samples must be delivered to the Mark laboratory carriage-free and customs-cleared if necessary.

6.1.1. LIVING AND TRAVELLING EXPENSES ARE INVOICED AS FOLLOWS:

Living and travelling costs are payable by the applicant or holder. They are invoiced as defined in the fee table.

6.1.2. CANCELLATION OF AN AUDIT

Cancellation of an audit whose date has been fixed by agreement between the LNE and the audited company is invoiced as follows:

- cancellation 15 days to 8 days before the scheduled date: 50 % of the audit fee
- cancellation 7 to 3 days before the scheduled date: 75 % of the audit fee
- cancellation 2 days before the scheduled date: 100 % of the audit fee.

Travelling expenses can be invoiced up to 100% if they are not reimbursable or subject to retention/penalties.

6.2. TERMS OF PAYMENT

6.2.1. COLLECTING PAYMENT

The LABORATOIRE NATIONAL DE METROLOGIE ET D'ESSAIS, the mandated body, is empowered to collect all payments.

Invoices issued by the LNE must be paid within 45 days.

The applicant or holder must settle these invoices under the terms set out: any failure on the part of the holder will prevent the LNE from exercising the inspection and operating responsibilities incumbent on it by virtue of these regulations.

If the first enforcement order, sent by recorded delivery, does not result in payment of the total amount due within one month, the LNE will be entitled to take measures of conservation with regard to the certifications issued under the NF mark, for all the holder's accepted products.

6.2.2. OBTAINING CERTIFICATION

The services correspond to examination of the files, the audits and tests, for each application.

The fee for examination of the file is paid as a single sum when the application is filed and covers file examination and the participation of the global functioning of the NF mark

No fees relating to examination of the application can be refunded, regardless of the result of the examination.

6.2.3. CERTIFIED PRODUCT SURVEILLANCE

Invoicing covers the right to use the NF mark, passed on to AFNOR Certification, file monitoring, the audit and tests.

If acceptance is granted during the course of the year, the amounts invoiced correspond to the services provided. File monitoring (technical examination of the file) is invoiced pro rata temporis.

After certification of a product, an annual right to use the NF Mark is invoiced to the holder and paid to AFNOR CERTIFICATION.

This licence fee is intended to cover:

- general operation of the NF mark (monitoring of bodies in the NF network, management of the NF Mark committee)
- - defence of the NF mark: filing and protecting the mark, legal advice, processing of unauthorised use of the NF mark, legal costs,
- contribution to the general promotion of the NF mark.

The amount relative to the file monitoring (technical examination of the file) remains due even if the certification is withdrawn following a decision by the LNE or at the holder’s request.

As long as it remains in the holder's stock of NF-marked products, inspections are maintained as is the billing of related costs, as file monitoring (technical investigation of the case) is invoiced pro rata temporis.

6.2.4. ADDITIONAL VERIFICATIONS

Costs resulting from additional verifications resulting from a decision by the LNE are payable by the applicant/holder, regardless of the results.