
VACUUM INSULATION PANEL



GLOBAL ASSOCIATION

VIPA Quality Certification Scheme

Presentation for Board meeting, 14 September 2020

Why set up a VIPA quality certification scheme?



A quality certification scheme to show commitment to quality towards customers:

*A quality scheme gives clear specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure **quality, safety and efficiency**.*

Already agreed requirements:

1. Need for a **global scheme**: RAL is only/mainly known in Germany
2. Need for a scheme that covers **all applications**

How to set up a Certification scheme?

Preparatory work

- Gather information on several key questions, such as:
 - *What standards and marks on VIPs exist? EN, ISO*
 - *What exact legal requirement exist in order to set up a global certification scheme?*
- **This action started over Summer and is currently ongoing**

Info gathering + Decisionmaking

- Find agreement within VIPA membership on exact expectations
- Clear understanding on customer/market expectations of a quality scheme
- Develop an implementation plan for the set up of the quality scheme
 - Option 1: VIPA creates own certification mark (see slide 4-5)
 - Option 2: extend RAL globally (see slide 6)
 - Option 3: European keymark, with international additions (see slide 7)

Actual Setup of the scheme

- Roll out – following Board approval

Option 1: VIPA creates own certification mark



What are certification marks (in EU Law)?

The [EU trade mark Regulation](#) defines an EU certification mark as a mark that is 'capable of distinguishing goods or services which are certified by the proprietor of the mark in respect of material, mode of manufacture of goods or performance of services, quality, accuracy or other characteristics, with the exception of geographical origin, from goods and services which are not so certified.' (Article 83(1) EUTMR).

- Duty of neutrality
- Geographical Origin excluded

Option 1: VIPA creates own certification mark



Certification mark is a guarantee of specific characteristics of certain goods and services.

- The mark indicates that the goods and services bearing the mark **comply with a given standard set out in the regulations of use and controlled under the responsibility of the certification mark owner**, irrespective of the identity of the undertaking that actually produces or provides the goods and services at issue and actually uses the certification mark.
- The regulations of use constitute the essence of the certification mark . These must be filed within two months of the application and need to contain, in particular:
 - the characteristics of the goods or services to be certified;
 - the conditions governing the use of the certification mark;
 - the testing and supervision measures to be applied by the certification mark owner.
- More information on how to apply in the Annex I (EU Certification Marks - RoU)

Option 2: extend RAL globally



RAL VIP Quality Label:

- Quality label of VIPs – verifies performance and increases the trust and confidence on the product
- Linked with standardisation: RAL award certificate may also confirm a conformity with requirements of **EN 17140**
- Focus on **all applications**

Problem

- German focused



Potential solution:

- RAL is in principle European => opening discussions with GSH and RAL could result in a truly **European perception**.
- Moreover, discussions with GSH and RAL could also result in even a **global scope**, by (potentially) allowing testing – and thus certification – globally.

Option 3: European keymark, with international additions

European Keymark:

- The voluntary European certification mark demonstrating conformity with European Standards
- It is owned by the European standardization organizations CEN and CENELEC and is issued by empowered Certification Bodies.

Benefits for Manufacturers and Service Providers:

- Lower costs for testing, inspection and certification
- Easier access to European market
- Increased consumer confidence
- Certified product quality
- Increased sales opportunities
- Improved company image



Problem:

- The keymark is very much linked to **European** Standards

Potential Solution:

- Allow **testing globally**, in case laboratory would apply for 'keymark laboratory group'
- Complement with **ISO standards** for a global certification

Overview of Pros and Cons

	PRO	CON
Option 1: VIPA own Quality Mark	• Open to include all applications • Creation of own 'brand'	• Need to draft clear RoUs • Communication and marketing will be needed
Option 2: extend RAL globally	• Can potentially be extended globally • Already existing (and more or less accepted) Regulations – all applications	• All depending on outcome of negotiations with GSH/RAL
Option 3: European Keymark	• Easy to implement • Can potentially be complemented with ISO standards	• Would initially be only based on EN17140 – only building applicatio • European focus

Certification Working Group

Increasing knowledge and working out the preferred requirements and options can potentially be done through a Certification Working Group.

Expected outcomes:

- Propose and work out best option for developing the certification mark
- Define draft proposals for technical requirements

The Working Group would report on a regular basis to the Board. All key decisions taken in this Working Group will serve as a guidance for the Board, who holds the authority to make all final decisions.

NOTE 1: This WG would be highly recommended when going for option 1 (VIPA own Quality Mark)

NOTE 2: Potentially, the issue of the Quality Certification Mark can be discussed in the already existing Technical Working Group

DISCUSSION

- Which option(s) seems most attractive?
 - Do you see additional Pros or Cons?
- Will the setup of a Certification Working Group be useful and needed?
- Will VIPA need to open discussion with customers of your products (or their associations) to assess their needs and expectations?
 - If so: Which? How? When?



What concrete next steps to take?