



NSF International Certification Scheme	Doc. No. BGD 05
	ISSUE NO : 2
Title: Requirements for the independent witnessing of Manufacturer's Laboratory testing	DATE : 01-MAY-2017

NOTE : This NSF Guidance Document should be read in conjunction with BGD 01 (Guidance for laboratories seeking registration with NSF), as this has additional information pertinent to laboratories.

The integrity of NSF Certification relies upon its third party independence. One tenet of this requires that testing carried out for certification must have third party independence. This is ensured by either a third party laboratory carrying out the testing or, where a manufacturer's test facility is used, the testing is witnessed by an independent third party.

Where a manufacturer is intending to use its own test laboratory, the following requirements apply :

1. Completion and return of a NSF Application Form for the applicable Scheme;
2. NSF will assign a unique NSF reference number for the application;
3. NSF will stipulate the testing schedule to be used;
4. NSF will stipulate the products required for testing;
5. NSF will clarify any outstanding issues that require confirmation and / or verification in order to fulfil the requirements of the Scheme as necessary.
6. If the test laboratory stated on the Application Form is a manufacturer's test laboratory, NSF will copy the information detailed in 2, 3, 4 and 5 above to the nominated 'independent witness' for their information. The 'independent witness' will then liaise with the manufacturer's testing laboratory to determine a schedule for sample selection and witnessing of testing as detailed below.
7. The 'independent witness' will oversee the unpacking of the selected samples prior to testing commencing in accordance with the relevant Scheme's procedures (e.g. Form TMV1), BGD 01 and in 4. above. The 'independent witness' will ensure that the samples or packaging have not been tampered with or exchanged (the 'witness may also select the samples, however this is not necessary if the samples have already been selected and packaged by another independent person).
8. The 'independent witness' will use a tamper evident tag to mark the products to be tested.
9. The 'independent witness' will witness the setting up and dismantling of any endurance tests or automated tests.
10. The 'independent witness' will witness any tests which involves continuous technician intervention or operation (i.e. when a test technician is not required to be present during testing the 'independent witness' is also not required to be present).



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11. The 'independent witness' will ensure that the test samples have not been exchanged or tampered with during endurance tests or automated tests, and in the periods between tests.
12. The 'independent witness' will check the record logs associated with endurance and automated testing and note any stoppages or unexpected delays in completion of testing. This shall be brought to the attention of NSF.
13. For TMV testing, the 'independent witness' will oversee the packing and dispatch of the B Sample to NSF (the B sample is the valve that has undertaken the endurance test).
14. The 'independent witness' will report to NSF any variations of test conditions or parameters either observed by or notified to them by the test laboratory.
15. The 'independent witness' will countersign and date the hard copy of the Test Report and any associated notes to confirm that they witnessed the testing being carried out.
16. The manufacturer's laboratory will send a copy (electronic and paper) of the Test Report (including full test results) to NSF for review by the Technical Assessment Panel (TAP).
17. NSF and the members of the TAP will verify the Test Report and all the requirements of the relevant Scheme are satisfied prior to issuing an approval certificate.
18. The 'independent witness' will invoice NSF for their work. Invoices should include reference to the NSF reference number.

Revision History					
AESOP Issue #	NSF Issue #	Page #s	Description of Change	Author	Effective Date
--	2	1-2	Company name change	A Jones	01.05.17