

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Task 57 – Solar Standards and Certification

THE ISSUE

When manufacturers of solar thermal products – for example, solar collectors – enter new markets they often need to do re-testing of their products and to have a re-inspection of their production facilities. This is needed in order to obtain local certification and have access to these new markets.

To avoid this waste of time and money, international standards for testing are being developed and promoted and a network of professionals has been established with the aim to harmonize certification requirements at the “global level”.

OUR WORK

The purpose and objectives of Task 57 are:

- to support the operation of the Global Solar Certification Network (GSCN) with the aim to harmonize certification schemes and have mutual accept of test and inspection reports,
- to support ISO TC/180 in developing and improving ISO standards on test procedures and requirements for solar thermal products, and
- to promote the use of ISO standards in all countries and assist in implementation of standards and certification schemes.

Participating Countries/Partners

Australia

Austria

China

Germany

Denmark

France

Portugal

RCREEE

Spain

Switzerland



Task Period 2016 - 2018
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KEY RESULTS IN 2017

Global Solar Certification Network

The Global Solar Certification Network (GSCN) has established itself with working rules, elected Board, annual meetings and website: <http://gscn.solar/>.

Four large global active solar collector manufacturers have formally joined the network, as well as two test labs, two inspection bodies and one certification body. See list of members on the [website](#).



Most important is now to get more members and try out the concept of mutual recognition of test reports and inspection reports.

How it works for manufacturers

A manufacturer with a certificate accepted by the GSCN simply applies directly to the certification body issuing the next wanted certificate (also accepted within the GSCN) and shows his existing certificate and related test and inspection reports and other relevant documentation.

The “new” certification body will then tell the manufacturer if any additional testing/inspection is needed.

If no additional testing/inspection is required – or when such additional testing/inspection has been completed – the manufacturer is granted the license to mark his product with the “new” certificate too. Fees will apply for using the system.

Support to ISO Standardization

Four new standards are being drafted:

1. Test methods for mechanical load on support of close-coupled solar water heating systems
2. Test methods for close-coupled solar water heating systems reliability and safety
3. Test methods and requirements for building integrated collectors and systems
4. Performance check of large collector fields / DK

It is expected that these proposals will be handed over to ISO in September 2018 for finalization and publication. A proposal for test procedures for accelerated ageing of collectors is also being considered.

Promotion of ISO Standards and Implementation of Certification Schemes

Final version of “GUIDE TO STANDARD ISO 9806:2017 - A Resource for Manufacturers, Testing, Laboratories, Certification Bodies and Regulatory Bodies” was published and is available on the Task 57 webpage.

A “Guideline for Implementing Certification Schemes for Solar Heating and Cooling Products” will be published at the end of the Task (end of 2018).

A survey on ISO 9806 was conducted and results will be available in mid 2018.