



NSAI
Agrément

NSAI Agrément Certification

Information & Guidelines



NSAI

Agrément

GENERAL INFORMATION

NSAI is an independent State Agency and was established as an independent statutory body in 1997 under the National Standards Authority of Ireland Act of 1996.

NSAI offers a wide range of services to industry and these may be in the regulated or voluntary arena. These range from the development of National Standards and Agrément Board services to ISO 9000 quality systems certification and product certification services. NSAI is also the Irish Notified Body under certain EU Directives and discharges obligations it assumes under these Directives.

Mission Statement

NSAI's mission is to establish the national infrastructure for the development and application of technical and management standards which will contribute in tangible terms to economic prosperity.

NSAI aims to deliver in partnership with industry, government and consumer interests, a definitive and timely resource of internationally based standards, and is committed to the provision of internationally accredited certification services which will enhance the reputation of Irish goods and services on world-wide markets. NSAI also provides world-class services for foreign enterprise setting up in Ireland through FDI.

NSAI, through Agrément, publishes national Technical Approvals for innovative construction and civil engineering products to comply with the Irish Building Regulations.



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This form of certification establishes proof of conformance with Irish Building Regulations requirements. National Technical Approvals are undertaken for certificate applicants and are of proven benefit in expanding European and world markets through the multi-lateral Agrément confirmation process. To date over 400 products have been approved, including wastewater treatment systems; radon barriers; cross-linked polyethylene pipes; and insulated metal cladding panels, external wall insulation systems and building systems etc.

NSAI Agrément is Ireland's nominated body to issue European Organization of Technical Approvals and is a full member of EOTA, the European Technical Approvals. The purpose of Agrément Certification is to raise standards in the building industry particularly in respect of innovative products. Certification under Agrément is certification as to fitness for a specific purpose where no current standard exists. The onus is on the applicant to adduce evidence to support their performance claims for the product/material in respect of which Agrément is sought. As such, Agrément, is not conducive to rigid procedures or time limits and applicants should make themselves aware of this.

An application for assessment is categorised by Agrément under one of two categories:

- (a) New application
- (b) Application for revision to existing certificate

It is important to determine which of these two is the process required for your product.

As can be seen from the documents attached, the process consists of two major areas, the first being the submittal of the application and its initial assessment.

The second major part of the process consists of the evaluation of the product against the Technical Assessment Specification (TAS).

An Application Fee applies to the first part and this fee is noted on the application form and varies depending on whether it is (a) or (b). At the end of the first part of the process, both parties enter into a contract for the carrying out of the evaluation. The consideration in this contract is determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the direct costs and is inclusive of the Application Fee mentioned in the previous paragraph.

To initiate the application process, we would ask that you fill in the appropriate forms available on NSAI.ie and return with the fee (including VAT where applicable) pertaining to the application.



CONSULTATION & CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Introduction

NSAI Agrément's function is to assess and where appropriate, issue Agrément Certificates in respect of materials, products, systems and techniques used in the construction industry, particularly those of an innovative nature, in order to facilitate their ready acceptance and their safe and effective use.

Agrément Certificates provide the NSAI's opinion of the fitness for specified purposes of materials, products, systems and techniques, taking into account the context in which they are to be used.

Each Certification process involves:

- Application processing
- Technical assessment contract is issued to the applicant, and returned signed with fee
- Development of a Technical Assessment Specification, The TAS forms the basis on which each product is assessed. Agrément Certification is based on the results of this assessment
- Test and assessment of the product conforming to the TAS
- Inspection of manufacturing plant to ensure quality and consistency of manufacture
- Site visit to ensure quality of installation

- Drafting of a NSAI Agrément Certificate
- Publishing the Certificate on the NSAI website
- Ongoing surveillance
- 5 year review

Assessment

NSAI Agrément's assessment services are available to the applicant on the payment of the appropriate fee. Assessments are carried out in strict confidence and consultations with other parties or work subcontracted are subject to this requirement being observed.

In order to carry out the assessment, it is necessary to establish criteria, requirements and tests, for every product submitted, which are derived from considerations of factors including:

- Safety in use
- Habitability
- Durability
- Maintenance
- Practicability



Stage 1 Application

Online application form with applicable fee submitted online via www.n Sai.ie (Note 1: Form is located under the Agrément Certification Heading at Application for Agrément or Application for Agrément Revision).

NSAI conducts a preliminary review of the data submitted for your system/product, ascertains suitability for Agrément Certification, meets with the client to address any queries and agrees the project scope.

NSAI issues an assessment contract to the client with assessment scope, fees and terms and conditions.

Contract accepted or rejected within 3 months. If accepted, Lead Assessor assigned to the project for stage 2. If rejected or expired, project closed.

Stage 2 – Technical Assessment Specification

Project research and literature review conducted by the Lead Assessor on the project/system to inform a Technical Assessment Specification (TAS)

TAS developed by NSAI Agrément personnel and agreed at assessor, department and other applicable levels. Note: 6 months is an indicative timeframe for the issue of the TAS from contract acceptance and payment to allow for project scheduling TAS development and approval processes.

Technical Assessment Specification issued to the client.

Meeting between NSAI and the Client to address any TAS or assessment queries. Dossier to demonstrate compliance with the TAS to be submitted in one submission within 9 months.

Stage 3 – Assessment

Assessment dossier received in on submission from the client within 9 months of the TAS issue.

Data issues any queries/outcomes of the assessment to the client.

Client responds to the queries in one submission within 3 months.

Manufacturing Audit and Site Visit scheduled and conducted to verify Quality Plan and Installation Manual.

Queries/Issues arising from the audit and site visit satisfactorily addressed within 3 months.

Certificate drafted with client input. (1 month)

Technical Dossier, Assessors report and Certificate finalised for stage 4.

Stage 4 – Certification

NSAI reviews all information related to the assessment.

Queries arising from the review are issued to the Assessor and addressed by the manufacture. (3 months)

Upon satisfactory review, the project is passed to the NSAI internal personnel for a decision (4 weeks)

NSAI decides to certify or not to certify. If certification is granted, the Certificate is passed for publication. (4 weeks)

Certificate undergoes checks before publication. Published on NSAI Directory. Client notified of publication. (2 weeks)

SCHEDULE OF FEES

A. Application for a NSAI Agrément Certificate €1800 + VAT

(to assess application made by client)

B. Application for Revision of Existing Certificate €900 + VAT

(application fees will be deducted from Assessment Contract Fee if assessment proceeds)

C. Product Assessment fee will differ and depends on nature of product to be certified.

- C1. • Product Certification fees will differ from one product to another. Generally, they will depend on the scope of the assessment, the test information available and the amount of assessment required to comply with controlling regulations.
- Development of product Technical Assessment Specification, TAS.
 - Factory audit and site visit.
 - Project management of the assessment and certification programme against the TAS.
 - Production and editing of the Agrément Certificate.
 - Publishing the certificate.

Annual Fees

D1. Annual Product Registration Fee

Category A	€4,400
Category B	€3,575
Category C	€2,750

D2. Surveillance Audit (onsite FPC audit)

Fee - per day	€1,800
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E. Notes:

E1. Prices are quoted exclusive of VAT @ 23% and travelling expenses for audits outside Ireland.

E2. The publication costs of graphic development for Agrément Certificates are not included in the above rate. The client is responsible for the production of graphics for certificates.

E3. Where a scope change is agreed with NSAI during the assessment a revised assessment contract fee may be required by NSAI.

E4. Discount on multiple certificate annual registration fee

If company holds 2 certificates, the total annual registration fee will be reduced by 10%.

If company holds 3 certificates, the total annual registration fee will be reduced by 20%.

If company holds 4 or more certificates, the total annual registration fee will be reduced by 30%.

The maximum annual registration fee charged to any certificate holder will not exceed €12,000 (+ VAT where applicable).



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USE OF AGRÉMENT SYMBOL

Use of the Symbol

Holders of Agrément certificates may, subject to the conditions set out below, display the Agrément symbol on, or adjacent to, the certified product. The symbol can be displayed on labels, swing tickets etc, or may be stamped on the product itself. The symbol can also be used in letter-headings, advertisements, technical literature and other promotional material.



Conditions of Use

An Agrément certificate relates solely to the product or system as defined in that document. Care must be taken in literature, advertising and packaging to avoid the association of the symbol with other products, system, or services.

For example, an omnibus catalogue covering several products should not display the symbol on the title page unless it clearly relates only to the actual product assessed by the NSAI.

Agrément Certification

Holder's Logo

Agrément certificate holders should ensure That the symbol is displayed as illustrated. The current certificate number must be included and the name of the product (as given in the certificate must appear immediately below the symbol).



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USE OF AGRÉMENT SYMBOL

Colour & Size of Symbol

It is preferable to print the symbol in the following colour: Pantone 356

Alternatively, when use of colour is not possible, black and white should be used as shown. For clarity a minimum height of 15mm must be adhered to.

Artwork

The logo is available from NSAI Agrément in electronic format.



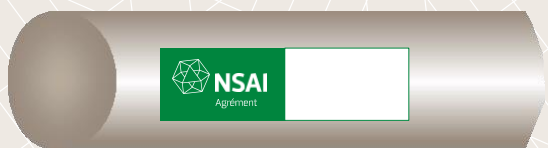
STICKER



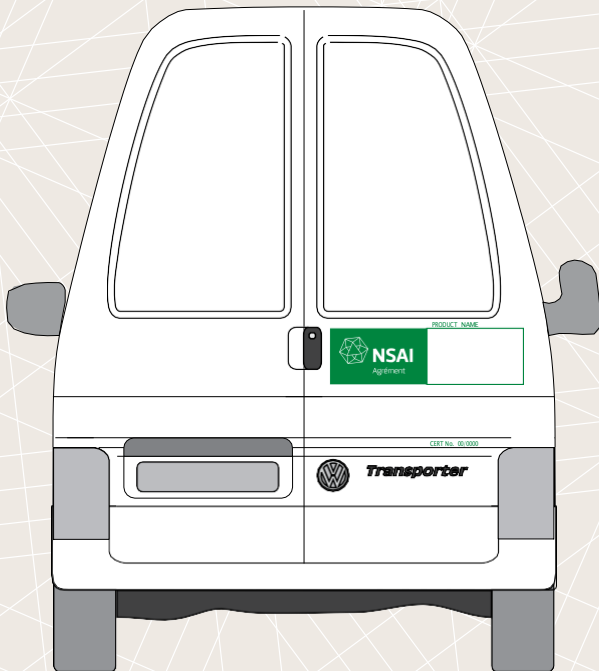
SWING TICKET



PACKAGING OF CERTIFIED PRODUCTS



PIPES, EXTRUSIONS ETC.



VAN STICKER



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Agrément Certificates & Irish Legislation affecting the Construction Industry

The importance of Agrément Certificates has been recognised by the incorporation of references to them in the Irish Building Regulations as a means of establishing the fitness for use of products in construction.

Under Part D of Technical Guidance Document (TGD) to the Irish Building Regulations building work must be carried out with proper materials and in a workmanlike manner.

Building Regulation-Part D Materials And Workmanship

D1. All works to which these Regulations apply shall be carried out with proper materials and in a workmanlike manner.

D2. A letter plate aperture shall be so positioned at a reasonable height above ground level so as not to endanger the health and safety of persons using such apertures.

D3. In this Part, 'proper materials' means materials which are fit for the use for which they are intended and for the conditions in which they are to be used, and includes materials which:

(a) bear a CE Mark in accordance with the provisions of the Construction Products Directive; or

(b) comply with an appropriate harmonised standard, European technical approval or national technical specification as defined in article 4(2) of the Construction Products Directive; or

(c) comply with an appropriate Irish Standard or NSAI Agrément Certificate or with an alternative national technical specification of any member state of the European Communities, which provides in use an equivalent level of safety and suitability.

