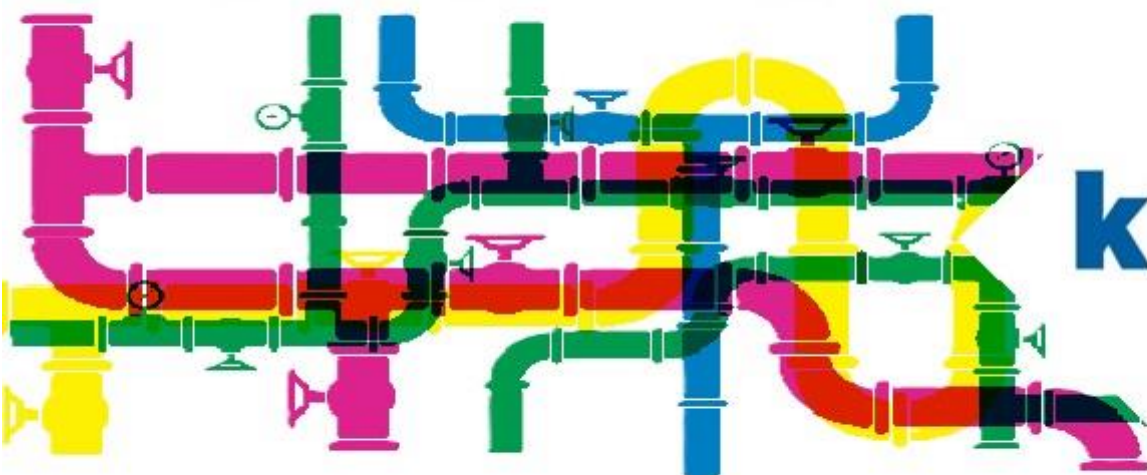


BRL 6300
2024-06-07

Assessment Directive

for the KOMO® certificate for

General requirements for
products applied in plastic piping systems



**Partner
for
Progress**



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BRL 6300

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ASSESSMENT DIRECTIVE

**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR
PRODUCTS APPLIED IN PLASTIC PIPE SYSTEMS**

Validated by the BoE on 03-04-2024

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Preface

This KOMO Assessment Directive (BRL) has been drawn up by the Kiwa Board of Experts "Leidingsystemen van Kunststof" (LSK), in which the relevant parties in the field of plastic piping and fittings are represented. This Board also supervises the certification activities based on this BRL and where necessary requires this BRL to be revised.

All references to the Board of Experts in this BRL pertain to the above mentioned Board of Experts.

This BRL contains the general requirements that apply generically to various BRLs in the field of plastic piping systems, in which reference is made to this BRL. Any additional or deviating requirements are described in the "applicable" BRL.

This BRL, together with the "applicable" BRL, will be used by certification bodies, who have a license agreement with the KOMO Foundation, in connection with their established certification procedures. This BRL specifies the requirements that an applicant or existing holder of a KOMO certificate shall comply with, and the method employed by the evaluating certification institute. The certification procedure established by the certification institute includes a description of the working method as employed by the certification institute in the implementation of:

- (pre)certification tests required for granting and renewing a KOMO certificate based on the present BRL;
- periodic assessments for the maintenance of a previously issued KOMO certificate based on the present BRL.

NOTE: THIS IS AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE DUTCH VERSION OF THIS ASSESSMENT DIRECTIVE. IN CASE OF A DISPUTE, THE DUTCH VERSION SHALL BE BINDING.

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1 Introduction, general provisions, and general requirements

1.1 Introduction

Based on the requirements specified in the “applicable” KOMO BRL, whereby reference is made to this BRL, a KOMO certificate is issued for products used in plastic piping systems. The “applicable” BRL specifies what type of KOMO certificate shall be issued – see § 1.6 of the “applicable” BRL. This KOMO certificate enables the certificate holder to establish that an independent authorized certification institute supervises the certificate holder's production and quality control processes and the quality of the product produced under certificate. It may therefore be assumed that the product has the characteristics as established in the “applicable” BRL.

If there are any deviations and/or additions to this BRL, these will be recorded in the relevant paragraph in the “applicable” BRL.

Certification bodies that have been accredited for this BRL, in combination with the “applicable” BRL, by the Dutch Accreditation Council (or have applied for such accreditation) and that have a license agreement with the KOMO Foundation shall use the requirements of this BRL along with the “applicable” BRL when processing an application for the issuance and maintenance of a KOMO certificate for products used in plastic pipe systems.

In addition to the requirements of this BRL, certification bodies impose additional requirements concerning the general certification procedure, as detailed in their Regulations for Product certification.

1.2 Scope and application

The products are used in plastic pipe systems.

A detailed description of the scope and the area of application are detailed in the “applicable” BRL.

1.3 Validity

The KOMO certificate issued based on this version of the BRL does not expire. Validity may be limited (terminated), among other reasons, because of:

- A modification of this BRL,
- Failure of the certificate holder to comply with his obligations.

1.4 Relation with legislation and regulations

The relation with the relevant legislation and regulations is specified in the “applicable” BRL.

1.5 Requirements to be imposed on conformity assessing institutions

With regard to the requirements laid down in the “applicable” BRL, the applicant may submit, in the scope of external audits, reports issued by conformity assessing institutions to prove that the requirements of this and the “applicable” BRL are being met. It shall be demonstrated that the respective analysis/audit/test and/or evaluation reports have been drawn up by a body that complies with the respective applicable accreditation norm with regard to the subject matter, namely:

- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection institutions;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17021-1 for institutions that certify management systems;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17065 for institutions certifying products, processes, and service.

An organization will be considered as compliant with these criteria if an accreditation certificate, for the respective subject matter, can be submitted which has been issued by the Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA) or another accreditation organization which has been accepted as a member of a multilateral agreement on the subject of mutual recognition and acceptance of accreditation, which have been drawn up within the EA, IAF and ILAC. If no accreditation certificate can be submitted, the certification organization itself will assess if compliance is given to the accreditation.

1.6 KOMO-certificate

The type of quality declaration issued against this and the “applicable” BRL is detailed in the “applicable” BRL.



1.7 Marking

The following shall be indelibly applied to the products:

- KOMO logo or KOMO word mark followed by the certificate number, without specifying the version;
- Name of certified company;
- Manufacturer's name or trademark*;
- Production period or production code;
- Other information specified in the "applicable" BRL.

* If there is limited space available on the products, these marks may be affixed to the smallest packaging unit.

The KOMO logo shall be applied as follows:



The KOMO word mark shall be applied as follows:

KOMO®

If the KOMO mark cannot be applied to the products and/or packaging, the delivery documents shall in any case contain the following information:

- The KOMO logo/KOMO word mark followed by the certificate number without specifying the version;
- Manufacturer's name or trademark;
- Production period or production code.

Furthermore, a QR code may be applied which links to the information of the respective KOMO certificate on the KOMO website.

After issuing the KOMO certificate the KOMO logo/KOMO word mark may also be used by the certificate holder in public communications regarding their certified activities, as specified in the "Rules and Regulations for the use of the KOMO marks" as published on the KOMO website.



2 Terminology

For an explanation of the terminology used in this BRL for certification, please go the glossary on the website of the KOMO Foundation (www.komo.nl).

Additions if any shall be included in the “applicable” BRL.

2.1 General terminology and definitions

- **Manufacturer**
The party responsible for the fabrication of the products covered by this BRL and the “applicable” BRL.

2.2 Abbreviations

- **BRL**
Assessment Directive
- **CI**
Certification institute
- **CvD**
Board of Experts
- **IKB**
Internal Quality Control





3 Requirements for the design and products and/or materials to be processed

The requirements are detailed in the “applicable” BRL.

4 Requirements related to the performance in the application

The requirements are detailed in the “applicable” BRL.

5 Product requirements

The requirements are detailed in the “applicable” BRL.

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6 Requirements for certificate holders and internal quality control

6.1 General

The management of the certificate holder is responsible at all times for the quality of the production process, internal quality control, and the quality of the product. The internal quality control shall meet the requirements laid down in this chapter.

6.2 Internal quality control scheme

The certificate holder shall have an internal quality control scheme used by them (IQC-scheme).

This scheme shall clearly establish:

- Which aspects are subject to audits carried out by the organization of the certificate holder or an external organization contracted by them,
- Which methods are employed to carry out these audits,
- The frequency of these audits,
- How these audit results are recorded and archived.

The IQC-scheme shall at least include the following main groups:

- Control of measuring equipment,
- Incoming (material) audit,
- Process control,
- Product audit,
- Internal transportation and storage,
- Delivery,
- Procedures for:
 - The handling of non-conforming products;
 - Processing of non-conformities and the follow-up of corrective measures;
 - Processing of complaints;
 - Control of the work instructions and audit forms used.

This IQC-scheme shall use the model IQC-scheme published on the website of the CI and detailed such that the CI has sufficient confidence in that the requirements laid down in this BRL and the “applicable” BRL are being continuously met.

6.3 Management of test and measuring equipment

The manufacturer shall determine which test and measuring equipment is required in order to demonstrate that the product meets the requirements of this BRL and the “applicable” BRL. Where applicable, traceability to international standards shall be demonstrated.

The relevant test and measuring equipment shall be provided with an identification with which the calibration status can be determined.

When necessary, the test and measuring equipment shall be calibrated at specified intervals. The manufacturer shall register the results of the calibrations.



7 External conformity assessments

7.1 General

The certification institute will carry out pre-certification tests for the purpose of granting a KOMO certificate. After issuance of the KOMO certificate, the certification institute will carry out periodic audits.

7.2 Pre-certification tests

The applicant for the KOMO certificate shall specify which products shall be included in the KOMO certificate. The applicant provides all relevant information on these products for the formulation of the product specification and the declaration on the product characteristics that will be included in the KOMO certificate to be issued.

The certification institute will perform pre-certification tests for the purpose of issuing a KOMO certificate in which:

- The certification institute carries out an initial assessment of the performance of the product to be certified in accordance with the requirements of § 4,
- The certification institute will evaluate whether the applicant is able, by means of its internal quality control, to continuously guarantee that the products have the properties or deliver the performance as laid down in § 3, § 4 and § 5. Assessment of the production process and the finished product are part of evaluation,
- The certification institute assesses whether the operational system of internal quality control meets the requirements of § 6,
- The certification institute assesses the available processing instructions (§ 3) and installation instructions (§ 5),
- Determination of the product characteristics as specified in this BRL.

Where applicable, the certification institute will check whether the documents provided with regard to the product and/or internal quality control and the results stated therein meet the requirements of this BRL and the “applicable” BRL.

A report will be made of the pre-certification tests on the basis of which the KOMO certificate may or may not be granted.

In case that CE marking is applicable, the following is required:

The certification institute determines whether the relevant requirements of this BRL, as covered in the internal quality control of the applicant, meet the essential product characteristics as listed in Annex ZA of the harmonized European standard.

A report will be made of the pre-certification tests on the basis of which the KOMO certificate may or may not be granted.

The internal quality assurance shall have demonstrably been functioning for at least 6 months prior to the start of the pre-certification tests.

7.3 Nature and frequency of periodic audits

After issuing the KOMO certificate, the certification institute shall carry out periodic audits of the certificate holder in order to verify compliance with their obligations. The Board of Experts decides on the nature, scope and frequency of the periodic assessments to be carried out.

7.3.1 Office assessment

At the time this BRL 6300 came into effect, the frequency has been set at 1 periodic audit every 2 years.

The audit program includes the nature and frequency of the periodic audits. These are related to:

- The results of the product checks carried out by the certificate holder in accordance with § 3, § 4 and § 5;
- Assessment of the continued and effective application of the internal quality control system in accordance with the requirements of § 6;
- The correct marking of the certified products;
- The certificate holder's IQC-scheme,



whereby compliance with the requirements of this BRL and the “applicable” BRL is verified.

The results of each assessment carried out, will be recorded in a report drawn up by the certification institute.

In case that CE marking is applicable, the following is required:

The CI determines whether the relevant requirements of this BRL, as covered in the internal quality control of the applicant, meet the essential product characteristics as listed in Annex ZA of the harmonized European standard.

7.3.2 Assessment of the product's performance

The performance(s) of the product in the application is/are redetermined at least once every 5 years. Circumstances such as a changed design, other raw materials, etc. could also result in a re-evaluation of the performance(s) of the product. The requirements of § 3 and § 4 are applicable. In addition, an interim check of the registered complaints can be carried out.

7.3.3 Assessment of the production location and finished product

The certificate holder shall give the CI access to all the production locations in order to assess the implementation of the production processes.

At the time this BRL came into effect, the frequency for carrying out production location audits was set at 4 periodic audits per year.

If the supplier has a certified NEN-EN-ISO 9001 management system in accordance with the scope of the “applicable” BRL, then this frequency is set at 2 audits per year. (including sampling, reporting, etc.).

The audits at the production locations shall cover:

- Measurements taken during the production process;
- Measurements taken on the finished product;
- Availability of qualified personnel (such as for quality control, sampling, etc.);
- Compliance with the relevant procedures.

The findings of each audit carried out will be recorded traceably in a report by the certification institute.

For the purpose of verification, samples are examined in accordance with the test matrix in § 5.

7.4 Non-conformities

7.4.1 Weighing of non-conformities

When weighing a non-conformity during a periodic audit, a distinction is made between:

- Non-conformities that can directly affect the quality of the product (critical shortcomings, category “Critical”;
- “Other” non-conformities (non-critical non-conformities, category “Non Critical”.

The aspects that are classified as Critical are listed in the interpretation document accompanying this BRL. This document is published on the website of the CI.

7.4.2 Follow-up of non-conformities

The follow-up of non-conformities by a certification institute is as follows:

- The certification institute shall be able to handle a “critical” non-conformity within a maximum period of 3 months,
- The certification institute shall be able to handle a “non-critical” non-conformity within a maximum period of 6 months.

7.4.3 Sanction procedure

The sanctions policy is laid down in an interpretation document accompanying this BRL, which is published on the website of the certification institute.



7.5 Temporary production or delivery stop

In the event that no certified products can be (temporarily) produced and/or delivered for a period longer than 12 months, the validity of his KOMO certificate can be (temporarily) suspended at the request of the certificate holder. Such a suspension may be granted by the certification institute for a maximum total period of 2 years.

After the suspension has been granted, a certificate holder can request that his suspension be terminated earlier than the agreed period.

Prior to the resumption of production and delivery under a previously suspended KOMO certificate, an additional assessment shall be carried out to determine whether all the requirements in § 3, § 4, § 5 and § 6 of this BRL are still being met with and that the suspended status can be converted to a valid status.

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8 Requirements for the certification institute

8.1 General

The certification institute shall have a procedure that establishes the general rules employed for certification processes.

8.2 Certification staff

Certification staff involved can be classified as follows:

- **Certification assessor/Reviewer:** in charge of preparing the design and documentation assessments, assessment of applications, and review of the conformity assessments,
- **Location assessor:** in charge of external conformity assessments at the certificate holders' location,
- **Decision maker:** in charge of making decisions with regard to pre-certification tests carried out and about continuity of certification based on audits performed.

8.2.1 Competency criteria for certification staff

Qualification requirements for the certification staff consist of qualification requirements for the staff executing the certification activities as laid down in the following table. The competency of the certification staff involved shall be demonstrably established.

Table 1: Competency criteria for certification staff

Competencies	Certification assessor Reviewer	Location assessor	Decision maker
Basic competencies			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of business processes • Be able to assess professionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Vocational Education • 1 year of relevant experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary Vocational Education • 1 years of relevant experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Vocational Education • 5 years of relevant experience of which at least 1 year in certification activities
Auditing competencies	Not applicable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in auditing competencies • Participation in at least 4 periodic audits, with a minimum of 1 periodic audit carried out independently under supervision 	Not applicable
Technical competencies			
Relevant knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technology for the manufacture of the products to be inspected, the execution of the processes and the providing of services • The way products are applied, processes carried out and services provided. • Existing defects that appear when using the product, during the execution of the processes as well as shortcomings in provision of services. 	Knowledge of one of the following disciplines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Technical Higher Vocational Education • Minimum of 1 year of experience in production, testing, audit and/or installation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 audit under supervision • Or internal training program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 audit under supervision 	Knowledge of one of the following disciplines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Technical Secondary Vocational Education • Minimum of 1 year of experience in production, testing, audit and/or installation, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 audit under supervision - 1 independent audit • Or internal training program including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 audit under supervision - 1 independent audit 	Not applicable
Specific technical competencies	Specific knowledge of BRL at a detailed level on the specific BRL or on BRLs that are related to each other	Specific knowledge of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • witness audit • the BRL chapters related to the quality system and testing 	Not applicable



8.2.2 Qualification of certification personnel

Certification personnel shall be demonstrably qualified by testing their knowledge and skills against the abovementioned requirements. If qualification takes place based on other criteria, this shall be documented.

The authority regarding qualification shall be established in the quality system of the certification institute.

8.3 Communications about the pre-certification test and periodic audits

The certification institute will record the results of the pre-certification tests and periodic audits in an unequivocal report. Such report shall satisfy the following requirements:

- **Completeness:** the report will include a substantiated report of the determined grade of conformity with regard to the requirements laid down in this BRL and the “applicable” BRL,
- **Traceability:** the results on which statements are based shall be recorded in a traceable way.

The report of the pre-certification test shall be made available to the applicant. The report of the periodic assessment shall be made available to the production location.

8.4 Decisions about the KOMO certificate

The decision to grant a KOMO certificate or imposing measures regarding the KOMO certificate shall be based on the results documented in the file.

The results of a pre-certification test and a periodic audit (in case of a critical non-conformity) shall be assessed by a reviewer.

Based on the review carried out, the decision maker will determine if:

- The KOMO certificate can be granted,
- Sanctions shall be imposed,
- The KOMO certificate shall be suspended or withdrawn.

The reviewer and the decision makers shall not have been involved in the process of preparing the results, based on which the decision is being made.

The decision shall be recorded in a traceable manner.

8.5 Reporting to the Board of Experts

The certification institute will annually present a report to the Board of Experts about the activities carried out and the respective results regarding the KOMO certificates based on this BRL and the “applicable” BRL. This report shall include at least the following matters:

- The number of audits performed versus the determined frequency,
- The number of performed pre-certification tests,
- Results of assessments,
- Measures imposed in case of detected non-conformities,
- Complaints received from third parties about certified products.

8.6 Interpretation of requirements

The Board of Experts may establish the interpretation of the requirements of this BRL and the “applicable” BRL in one or more interpretation document(s). Interpretation documents are available for/from members of the Board of Experts, certification bodies and the certificate holders who carry out activities based on this BRL.

Interpretation documents are published on the website of the certification institute.

Every certification institute that makes use of this BRL and the “applicable” BRL is under the obligation to employ the interpretations laid down in such documents.



9 List of documents

The “applicable” BRL lists additional documents.

9.1 Normative documents

This BRL refers to the following normative documents:

NEN-EN-ISO 9001:2015 Quality management systems – Requirements

Note: An annual check regarding the validity of the normative documents is carried out. Changes to the normative documents shall be published on the services page on the website of the certification institute responsible for this assessment directive.

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