The added value of the ***GASTEC QA*** quality mark



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In the gas industry, the GASTEC QA quality mark is considered the ideal way to demonstrate the quality and safety of a product in a fully independent manner. All GASTEC QA testing requirements are developed and approved by companies representing the full breadth of the industry and closely follow Dutch regulations for gas installations.

What is GASTEC QA?

If a gas product carries the GASTEC QA (Quality Approved) quality mark, this means that the manufacturer has had the product independently assessed and that it has been found to meet the highest requirements for quality, functionality and safety. If you want absolute certainty when using gas products, choose GASTEC QA-approved products.

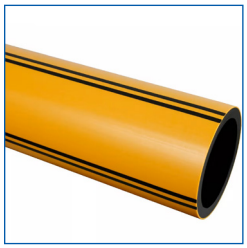
GASTEC QA is a voluntary quality mark issued exclusively by Kiwa Nederland B.V. Kiwa has extensive expertise in gas applications, ranging from gas installations and gas appliances to pipelines, components and sustainable gaseous energy sources such as biogas and hydrogen. We test, inspect and certify products and installations in accordance with applicable standards and regulations.

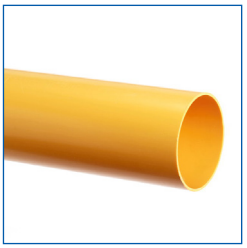
GASTEC QA is available for, among others, the following products:

- Indoor and outdoor piping
- Fittings
- Valves and taps
- Installation materials

The GASTEC QA testing requirements are developed and approved by representatives from across the gas industry, including manufacturers, users and government authorities. The complete list of testing requirements is available on the Kiwa website. GASTEC QA testing programs are carried out in Kiwa's accredited laboratories.

The GASTEC QA testing and certification scheme and its associated procedures are overseen by the Dutch accreditation council RvA (Raad voor Accreditatie). This ensures the independence of the certification process. The Board of Experts (College van Deskundigen, CvD), which includes representatives from across the gas industry, monitors the quality of the GASTEC QA quality mark and its associated testing requirements. The Board of Experts also oversees GASTEC QA's activities. In the event of technical issues, the Board of Experts may establish a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). This committee investigates the issue and provides advice to the Board of Experts.




Obtaining the GASTEC QA Quality Mark

To obtain a GASTEC QA product certificate, Kiwa uses two documents. The first is the General GASTEC QA Requirements, which set out the procedure for obtaining and maintaining the certificate, as well as the requirements for the certification body (Kiwa). The second is the GASTEC QA Testing Requirement, which describes the requirements that the product must meet. Together, these two documents form the GASTEC QA certification scheme.

Certification under the GASTEC QA scheme covers not only the quality and safety of the product itself, but also the manufacturing process. This is essential because it ensures continuous monitoring of the entire production process and helps prevent the manufacture of products that do not meet the required quality standards.

Interested in obtaining the GASTEC QA quality mark for your product? Submit your application to nl.gastecqa@kiwa.com. Based on your application, we will provide you with a proposal containing all relevant information, including the testing program to be followed, the samples required and the schedule. If you already have test results from other accredited institutes, these will be taken into account in the proposal.

Once all tests have been completed successfully, you will receive a certification report and a GASTEC QA contract. After you have signed the contract, you will receive the certificate based on the certification report. Your certification will also be listed on the Kiwa website. From that point on, you may display the GASTEC QA logo or word mark on all your GASTEC QA-approved products.

The main agreements and amendments are set out in the following documents:

- General Terms and Conditions for the Performance of Assignments 2014
- Kiwa Certification Regulations 2017
- Amendments to Testing Requirements and Assessment Guidelines (BRLs)

Production and product inspection

An important part of the GASTEC QA contract is production and product inspection. As part of this process, Kiwa Nederland B.V. visits the supplier and/or production site to audit the manufacturing process of the certified products.

The following program is carried out annually across these visits:

- Verification of the calibration status of testing equipment
- Incoming inspection of raw materials and components
- Final product inspection (tests and measurements)
- In-process inspections (tests and measurements)
- Procedures for handling nonconforming products
- Product storage and internal transportation
- Complaint handling

Products are also selected on a random basis during these visits. These products are then tested by Kiwa Nederland B.V. in accordance with the testing program specified in the relevant testing requirement.

The number of inspection visits/audits per year is specified in the general GASTEC QA requirements. These also describe the requirements for the quality management system.



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