



BRL K14100

Date validated July 7th, 2025

Assessment Directive

General requirements for
Products in contact with drinking water and hot tap
water

kiwa

Preface

This Assessment Directive (BRL) has been accepted by the Kiwa's Board of Experts for the Water Cycle (CWK), in which all parties in the field of "Products in contact with drinking water and hot tap water" are represented. This Board of Experts also supervises the certification activities and where necessary requires the BRL to be revised. All references to 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 "products in contact with drinking water and hot tap water," whereby reference is made to this BRL. Any additional or deviating requirements are described in the "applicable" BRL.

Kiwa will use this BRL, along with the "applicable" BRL, in conjunction with the Kiwa Regulations for Certification, which lay down Kiwa's general rules for certification.

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.

Kiwa Nederland B.V.

Sir Winston Churchilllaan 273

P.O. Box 70

2280 AB RIJSWIJK

Tel. 088 998 44 00

NL.Kiwa.info@Kiwa.com

www.kiwa.nl

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The use of this assessment directive by third parties, for any purpose whatsoever, is only allowed after a written agreement is made with Kiwa to this end.

Validation

This assessment directive has been validated by Kiwa on July 7th, 2025

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1 Introduction

1.1 General

For the processing of an application and/or the maintenance of a Kiwa certificate for products in contact with drinking water and hot tap water, Kiwa will make use of the following:

- The “applicable” assessment directive;
- BRL K14100 'General requirements for products in contact with drinking water and hot tap water';
- BRL K14101 'Hygienic aspects for products in contact with drinking water and hot tap water';
- The Kiwa Regulations for Certification.

For the performance of its certification work, Kiwa is bound to the requirements as included in NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17065.

Measurement inaccuracies were accounted for when establishing the requirements in this BRL. Therefore, when drawing conclusions about whether the requirements are being met, these inaccuracies no longer need to be considered.

1.2 Scope

The products are intended for use in drinking water and hot tap water.

A detailed description of the scope of application is described in the 'applicable' BRL.

1.3 Acceptance of test reports provided by the supplier

If the supplier provides reports from test institutions or laboratories to prove that the products meet the requirements of this BRL, the supplier shall prove that these reports have been drawn up by an institution that complies with the applicable accreditation standards, namely:

- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17020 for inspection bodies;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17021-1 for certification bodies certifying systems;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17024 for certification bodies certifying persons;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17025 for laboratories;
- NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17065 for certification bodies certifying products.

This requirement is considered to be fulfilled when a certificate of accreditation can be shown, issued either by the Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA) or by one of the institutions with which an agreement of mutual acceptance has been concluded by the RvA. The accreditation shall refer to the examinations as required in this BRL. When no certificate of accreditation can be shown, Kiwa shall verify whether the requirements of the accreditation standard is fulfilled.

1.4 Quality declaration

The quality declaration to be issued by Kiwa is described in the 'applicable' BRL.

A model of this certificate is published on de Kiwa website for information purposes.

2 Terminology

2.1 Definitions

In this BRL, the following definitions apply:

- **Assessment Directive (BRL):** The agreements made within the Board of Experts on the subject of certification.
- **Board of Experts:** The Board of Experts Water Cycle (CWK).
- **Domestic water:** Tap water that does not meet drinking water requirements and is intended exclusively for toilet flushing (source: Drinking Water Decree).
- **Drinking water:** Water intended or partly intended for drinking, cooking or food preparation or other domestic purposes, but does not include hot water, and is made available by pipeline to consumers or other customers (Source: Drinking Water Legislation).
- **Hot tap water:** Water intended or partly intended for drinking, cooking or preparing food or for other household purposes, which is heated before it is made available for those applications (source: Drinking Water Legislation).
- **Initial investigation:** The initial tests carried out in order to ascertain that all the requirements recorded in the BRL are being met.
- **Installation:** Assembly of pipes, accessories, fittings, and appliances.
- **IQC scheme (IQC):** A description of the quality inspections carried out by the supplier as part of his internal quality system.
- **Private Label Certificate:** A certificate that only pertains to products that are also included in the certificate of a supplier that has been certified by Kiwa, the only difference being that the products and product information of the private label holder bear a brand name that belongs to the private label holder.
- **Product certificate:** A document containing a declaration by Kiwa that the products listed in that document and manufactured by the supplier can be deemed to comply with the requirements applicable to those products upon delivery.
- **Product requirements:** Requirements specified in dimensions or numbers, focussing on (identifiable) characteristics of products and containing a limiting value to be achieved, which can be calculated or measured in an unambiguous manner.
- **Quality Declaration:** A document declaring that the products listed in that document and manufactured by the supplier can be deemed to comply with the applicable requirements upon delivery.
- **Supplier:** The party that is responsible for ensuring that the products meet and continue to meet the requirements on which the certification is based.
- **Tap water:** water intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation, or other household purposes.

Note: Tap water can be drinking water, hot tap water, or domestic water.

3 Procedure for granting a Kiwa-product certificate

3.1 Initial investigation

The initial investigation to be performed is based on the (product) requirements as contained in the 'applicable' BRL, including the test methods, and depending on the product to be certified, comprises the following:

- type testing (of a sample) in order to determine whether the products comply with the product and/or functional requirements;
- production process assessment;
- assessment of the quality system and the IQC-scheme;
- assessment on the presence and functioning of the other applicable procedures.

3.2 Granting the Kiwa-product certificate

After finishing the initial investigation, the results are presented to the Decision Maker (see §9.2). The Decision Maker evaluates the results and decides whether the certificate can be granted or if additional data and/or tests are necessary.

3.3 Investigation of the product and/or performance requirements

Kiwa will investigate the products to be certified against the certification requirements as stated in this BRL.

The necessary samples will be drawn by or on behalf of Kiwa.

For the approval, relevant test reports not older than 5 years and performed by an NEN-ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratory for the relevant procedure may be used.

3.4 Production process assessment

When assessing the production process, it is investigated whether the manufacturer is capable of continuously manufacturing products that meet the certification requirements.

The evaluation of the production process takes place during the ongoing work at the manufacturer.

The assessment also includes at least:

- The quality of raw materials, half-finished products and end products;
- Internal transport and storage.

3.5 Contract assessment

This written agreement, which is available for review by Kiwa, shall stipulate at least that the accreditation body scheme manager and Kiwa shall be granted access to the manufacturers' production facilities in order to observe the certification activities being carried out on these products.

4 Product requirements

The requirements are detailed in the 'applicable' BRL.

5 Test methods

The requirements are detailed in the 'applicable' BRL.

6 Marking

The requirements are detailed in the 'applicable' BRL.

7 Requirements in respect of the quality system

This chapter contains the requirements which shall be met by the supplier's quality system.

7.1 Manager of the quality system

Within the organizational structure, an official shall be designated to manage the supplier's quality system.

7.2 Internal quality control/quality scheme

The supplier shall have an internal quality control scheme (IQC scheme) which has been implemented within the organisation.

The following shall be demonstrably recorded in this IQC scheme:

- the aspects that are checked by the supplier;
- the methods used to perform such inspections;
- the frequency of these inspections;
- the manner of recording and archiving the inspection results.

This IQC scheme shall be in the format of the model IQC scheme as published on the website of the scheme manager and shall be implemented in such a way that it gives Kiwa sufficient confidence that the requirements set out in the 'applicable' BRL are continuously met.

7.3 Control of test and measuring equipment

The supplier shall verify the availability of the required test and measuring equipment for demonstrating product conformity with the requirements.

When required the equipment shall be calibrated periodically.

The calibration status of each equipment shall be traceable by means of a unique identification number.

The supplier shall keep records of the calibration results.

7.4 Procedures and working instructions

The supplier shall be able to submit the following:

- procedures for:
 - dealing with products showing deviations;
 - corrective actions to be taken if non-conformities are found;
 - dealing with complaints about products and/or services delivered;
- the working instructions and inspection forms used.

7.5 Other requirements for the quality system

The supplier shall be able to provide the following:

- the organogram of the organisation;
- the qualification requirements of the personnel involved.

8 Investigations required for type testing and inspections

The requirements are detailed in the 'applicable' BRL.

9 Agreements on the implementation of certification

9.1 General

The certification body shall have a procedure that sets out the general rules used for certification.

9.2 Certification staff

The staff involved in the certification have the following responsibilities:

- Certification assessor (**CAS/RV**): responsible for carrying out the pre-certification tests and assessing the site assessors' reports;
- Site assessor (**SAS**): responsible for carrying out external inspections at the supplier's works;
- Decision maker (**DM**): responsible for deciding whether the supplier can be certified on the basis of the pre-certification tests carried out and for the continuation of the certification based on the external inspections carried out and for taking decisions on the need for corrective actions.

9.2.1 Qualification requirements

The qualification requirements for the certification personnel are detailed in the table below. The qualification of the certification personnel involved shall be demonstrably documented.

Basic requirements	Evaluation criteria
Knowledge of NEN-ISO/IEC 17065, certification, testing, Kiwa policy and internal interne procedures.	General: Exam NEN-ISO/IEC 17065 ≥ 6
Knowledge of company processes. Requirements for conducting professional audits.	<i>Relevant experience:</i> PM, SAS, CAS, RV: 1 year DM: 5 years including 1 year with respect to certification <i>Relevant technical knowledge and experience on the level of:</i> SAS: Vocational education (MBO) PM, CAS, RV, DM: Bachelor (HBO)
Requirements for the execution of site assessments: Adequate communication skills (e.g., reports, presentation skills and interviewing techniques).	SAS: Kiwa Audit training or similar and 4 site assessments including 1 independent site assessment under supervision.
Execution of initial assessment	CAS: 3 initial assessments under supervision
Execution of review	RV: evaluation of 3 reviews

Technical competences	Evaluation Criteria
Knowledge of the BRL's	General: Exam of Productgroep ≥ 6
Education	General: Education in one of the following fields: • Civil Engineering; • Mechanical Engineering; Or equivalent.
Relevant testing knowledge	SAS, CAS: • Introduction to relevant laboratories
Experience - Specific	CAS • 3 certification applications (excluding the audit of a production location) under supervision of an PM or CAS+RV . • 1 complete independently conducted certification application (evaluated by PM). • 3 certification assessments at a production location under supervision of a SAS . SAS • 4 assessments together with a qualified SAS . • 1 inspection assessment conducted independently (evaluated by a CSAS).
Skills in performing witnessing	PM/SAS: Kiwa basic training in 'witness testing'

Legenda:

- Product manager (**PM**)
- Site assessor (**SAS**)
- Certification assessor (**CAS**)
- Reviewer (**RV**)
- Decision maker (**DM**)

9.2.2 Qualification of certification staff

The qualification of the Certification staff shall be demonstrated by means of assessing the education and experience in accordance with the above requirements. In case the certification staff is qualified on the basis of alternative criteria, written records shall be kept.

The authority to qualify staff shall be stipulated in the quality system of the certification body.

9.3 Report initial investigation

The certification body records the results of the initial investigation in a report. This report shall comply with the following requirements:

- completeness: the report provides conclusions on all requirements included in the BRL;
- traceability: the findings on which the conclusions have been based shall be recorded and traceable;
- basis for decision: the DM shall be able to base his decision on the findings included in the report.

9.4 Decision for granting the certificate and/or imposition of corrective actions

The decision to grant a certificate and/or to impose corrective actions shall be based on the findings recorded in the file.

The results of an initial assessment and a periodic review (in the event of a critical non-conformity) shall be assessed by a reviewer.

Based on the review, the decision-maker will determine whether:

- The certificate can be granted,
- Sanctions should be imposed,
- The certificate should be suspended or revoked.

The reviewer and decision-maker shall not have been involved in the findings on which the decision is based.

The decision shall be recorded in a traceable manner.

9.5 Nature and frequency of third party audits

The certification body shall carry out surveillance audits on site at the supplier at regular intervals to check whether the supplier complies with his obligations. The Board of Experts decides on the frequency of audits.

At the time of validation of this BRL, the audit frequency has been fixed at 4 audits per year.

For suppliers who have implemented a quality management system for their production in accordance with NEN-EN-ISO 9001 that is certified by an accredited body (according to NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17021) in accordance with the scope of the 'applicable' BRL and where the IQC scheme is an integrated part of the quality management system, the frequency is reduced to 2 inspection visits per year.

The inspections to be carried out by the certification body are listed in the inspection matrix of the 'applicable' BRL and will cover at least:

- the product specifications specified in the certificate;
- the product production process;
- the supplier's IQC scheme and the results of the supplier's inspections;
- the correct marking of certified products;
- compliance with the required procedures;
- handling of complaints about delivered products.

For suppliers with a private label certificate, the frequency of inspections for the products listed on the certificate is set at one inspection visit per year. If the supplier has a certified NEN-EN-ISO 9001 system, in accordance with the scope of the "applicable" BRL, the frequency is set at one inspection visit every two years.

These audits are performed at the private label holder's premises and focus on the quality aspects stipulated in an IQC scheme and the results of the internal audits performed by the certificate holder. The private label holder's IQC scheme shall cover at least the following:

- the correct way of marking the certified products;
- compliance with required procedures for receiving and final inspection;
- the storage of products and goods;
- the handling of complaints received over the products delivered.

The results of each audit shall be recorded by Kiwa in a traceable manner in a report.

9.6 Non-conformities

When the certification requirements are not met, measures are taken by Kiwa in accordance with the sanctions policy as written in the Kiwa Regulation for Certification. This Regulation is available on the Kiwa website.

The following applies with regard to the severity, follow-up of non-conformities and the sanctions policy.

9.6.1 Severity of the non-conformity

When assessing a nonconformity, as part of the supervision after the certification body has issued the product certificate, a distinction is made between:

- Non-conformities are considered to be critical when they can directly affect the quality and/or performance of the product.
- All "Other" non-conformities are considered to be non-critical non-conformities.

9.6.2 Follow-up of non-conformities

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

- The certification body shall be able to handle critical non-conformities within the set timeframe and with a maximum period of 10 working days.
- The certification body shall be able to handle non-critical non-conformities within the set timeframe and with a maximum period of 3 months.

9.6.3 Sanction procedure

When applicable, the sanction procedure shall be as detailed in 'applicable' BRL.

9.7 Temporary stop in production and/or delivery

In the event of a (temporary) suspension of production and/or delivery of products, the certificate holder may request the validity of their certificate to be declared (temporarily) dormant for a period exceeding 12 months. Such a dormant status can be granted by the certification body for a maximum of two years.

After granting the dormant status, a certificate holder may request the termination of the certificate earlier.

When the dormant period exceeds one year, and prior to resuming production and delivery under the product certificate, an additional assessment shall be carried out to verify whether all requirements in this BRL are still met and whether the dormant certificate can be reactivated. The conditions of the dormant period influence the required frequency of external audits, as specified in §9.5.

9.8 Report to the Board of Experts

The certification body shall report annually to the Board of Experts regarding the certification activities performed. In this report the following aspects are included:

- mutations in number of issued certificates (granted/withdrawn);
- number of audits executed in relation to the required minimum;
- results of the inspections;
- measures taken for established non-conformities;
- complaints received about certified products.

9.9 Interpretation of requirements

The Board of Experts may record the interpretation of requirements of this BRL in one or more separate interpretation document(s). The interpretation document(s) shall be available for the members of the Board of Experts, the certification body and the manufacturers certified in accordance with this BRL and shall be published on the Kiwa website.

10 Titles of standards

10.1 Normative documents

Number	Title
NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17020	Conformity assessment – General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection
NEN-EN ISO/IEC 17021	Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17024	Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons
NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17025	General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
NEN-EN-ISO/IEC 17065	Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services

Note: Normative documents that are dated will be checked annually for their validity. Changes to the applicable normative documents are published on the services page of the Kiwa website.