

IECEE. TAKING CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FURTHER

WORLDWIDE SYSTEM FOR
CONFORMITY TESTING AND CERTIFICATION
OF ELECTROTECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS (IECEE)





IECEE



ABOUT CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

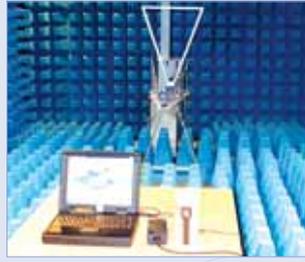
The IECEE offers the potential of one test (based on a standard), one certification (to prove the conformity), and one or more marks as appropriate (the visual symbol for proof of conformity). The IEC's worldwide conformity assessment systems cover all scenarios: the one-stop shop.

The IEC sees three main underlying reasons for carrying out conformity assessment.

The first is safety: governments want to protect the population, particularly consumers and workers in high risk areas.

The second is performance: buyers (usually wholesale) want to ensure quality and safety of products.

The third is interoperability: other manufacturers want to know that their product will work correctly with the one being assessed.



Conformity assessment produces tangible benefits for many players:

For governments, it helps reduce trade barriers caused by different certification criteria in various countries and helps countries meet their obligations as stipulated in the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. It is important to understand that conformity assessment covers the regulated and non-regulated world.

For industry, it reduces delays and costs of multiple testing and approval since a product or process can be certified once and that certification can be accepted by

others all over the world without the need to assess the product or system again. This means that products can get to market more quickly and with less expense (that is, fewer tests), and that products can have access to a larger market (potentially the entire world).

Conformity assessment also provides assurance that the goods being purchased will perform to expectations and be safe to use.

www.iecee.org





The fundamental principle of conformity assessment is to determine whether a product adheres to a standard.

There are three types of assessment:

First party, or the seller: the manufacturer does its testing of its own products in its in-house test laboratory and provides a supplier's declaration of conformity.

Second party, or the buyer: the company buying the product does its own testing.

Third party, neither seller nor buyer: an independent party carries out the test.

IECEE conformity assessment offers third party services as the best means of providing independency

and impartiality. Having a worldwide system to recognise certificates provides the greatest gains. The IECEE is a system for mutual recognition of certificates of conformity and also a tool to access the worldwide markets directly, when National Authorities and Regulators, retailers, buyers and vendors accept the CB Test Certificate and associated Test Report. Mutual recognition rests on the confidence built through having the competence of each member laboratory and certifier assessed by its member peers.

Openness is an important aspect of the IECEE systems. For users, the systems are open to any manufacturer anywhere in the world. Manufacturers can be located anywhere in the world and still benefit from using the CB Scheme, even in non-IEC member countries.



THE IECEE

What is the IECEE?

The IECEE is a multilateral certification system based on standards prepared by the International Electrotechnical Commission. The abbreviation stands for IEC System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrotechnical Equipment and Components. Its members use the principle of mutual recognition (reciprocal acceptance) of test results to obtain certification or approval at national levels around the world.

The IECEE's multilateral conformity assessment schemes, based on IEC International Standards, are truly global in concept and in practice, thereby reducing trade barriers caused by different certification criteria in different countries and helping industry to access new markets. Removing the significant delays and costs of multiple testing and approval allows industry to market its products

faster, whilst reducing financial costs. With increasing market demand, the IECEE is expanding its activities into new fields.

As the world of electrotechnology is exploding, people are relying daily on products whose design and construction they do not understand. Reassurance is needed for such users and consumers that their product is reliable and will meet their expectations in terms of performance, safety, durability and other criteria.

How can the industrial user and the final consumer be sure that the product they buy conforms to the criteria of an IEC Standard?

The IECEE Schemes exist to provide just this reassurance.



Using IEC Standards for certification at the national level ensures that a certified product has been manufactured and type-tested to well-established International Standards. The end user can be sure that the product complies with the requirements of the relevant international standard in all respects.

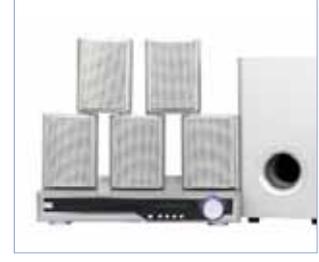
What does it do?

The IECEE makes international trade in electrotechnical equipment and components easier and less costly by reducing technical barriers to trade. A typical example of a technical barrier is differing certification requirements across various countries. IEC International Standards and the IECEE help to eliminate these technical barriers because electrical equipment manufactured to IEC Standards and tested within the IECEE system ensure the same high level of safety no matter where these products are made and tested.

Quality and performance are also built into these products because they are based on IEC Standards.

Why should I be interested?

The IECEE saves you both time and money – reducing overall manufacturing costs. Different certification requirements in various countries mean that manufacturers have to test their electrical equipment over and over each time they wish to export to a new market. Each test takes time and costs money. Because the IECEE operates according to the principle of mutual recognition, type-testing only has to be done once.



WHAT KIND OF EQUIPMENT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

There are 19 categories of electrical equipment covered by the IECCE:



BATT
Batteries



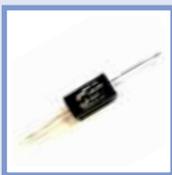
HOUS
Household and similar equipment



CABL
Cables and Cords



INST
Installation accessories and connection devices



CAP
Capacitors as components



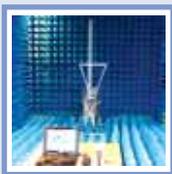
LITE
Luminaires



CONT
Switches for appliances and automatic controls for electrical household appliances



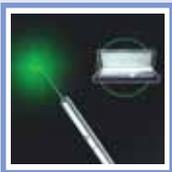
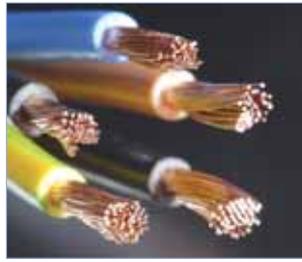
MEAS
Measuring instruments



EMC
Electromagnetic Compatibility



MED
Electrical equipment for medical use



MISC
Miscellaneous



SAFE
Safety transformers and similar equipment



OFF
IT and office equipment



TOOL
Portable tools



POW
Low voltage, high power switching equipment



TOYS
Electric Toys



PROT
Installation protective equipment



TRON
Electronics, entertainment



PV
Photovoltaics

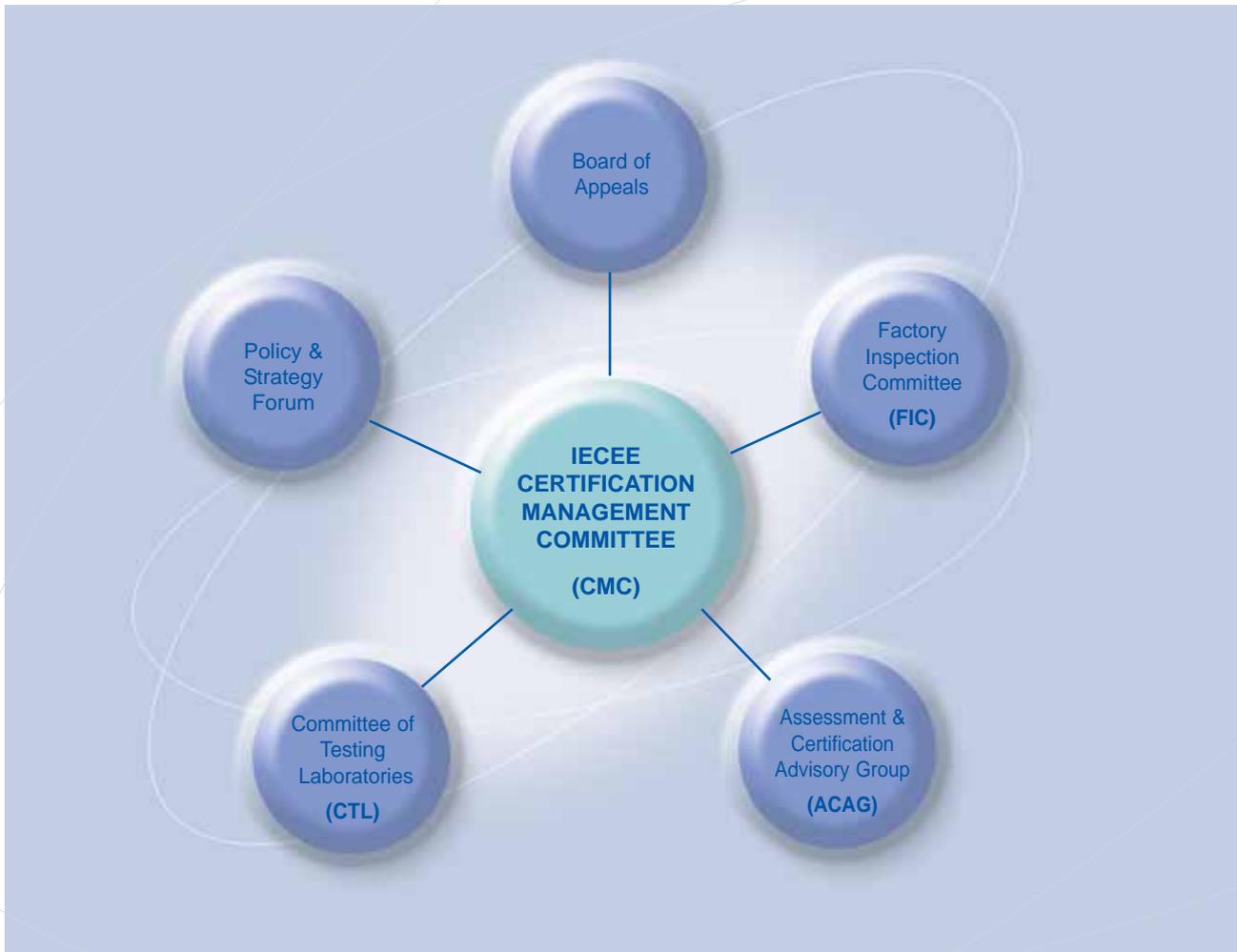
You can find a full list of categories, products and the IEC Standards that relate to them on our website (www.iecee.org).



THE STRUCTURE OF THE IECEE

The IECEE governing structure rests with the Certification Management Committee supported by the Committee of Testing Laboratories (CTL) for technical issues, by the Assessment & Certification Advisory Group (ACAG) for the Peer Assessment Programme and by the Factory Inspection Committee (FIC) for the Factory Audit/Inspection.

The Board of Appeals has the responsibility to arbitrate disputes and formal complaints filed by members and stakeholders. The Policy & Strategy forum is an appointed group of Senior Industry and Certification experts that ensures the IECEE is always up-to-date with the current and future market trends.





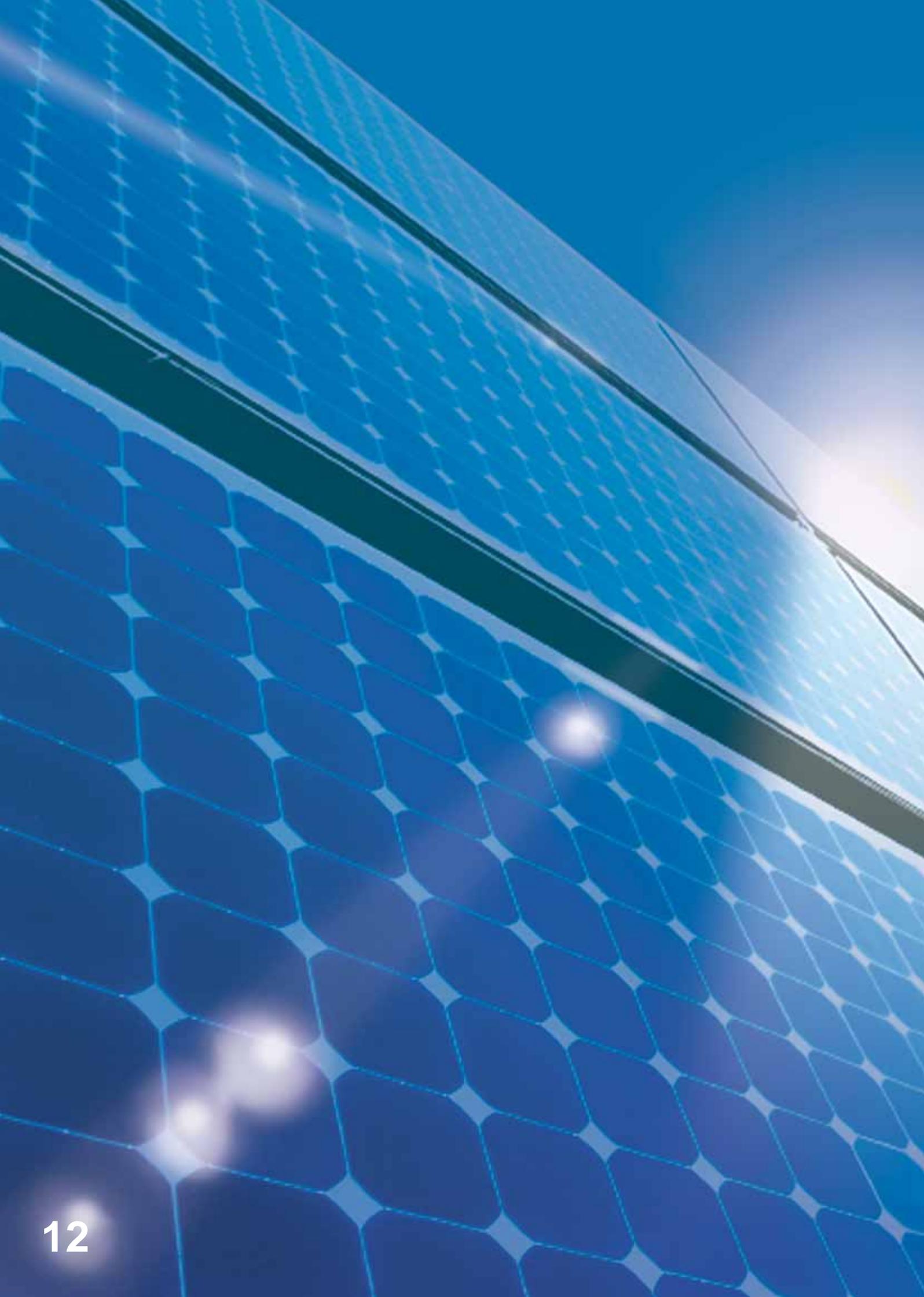
HOW DO THE IECEE SCHEMES WORK?

Take the example of a personal computer (PC) manufactured in Japan. The manufacturer makes an application to a Japanese IECEE Certification Body seeking a CB* Test Certificate and its associated Test Report. The NCBs** associated laboratory will carry out the relevant tests based on the relevant IEC Standards and issue a Test Report that will be reviewed and validated by the Certification Body who will subsequently issue a CB Test Certificate. Wishing to sell the PC in the USA, Brazil, and in Germany, for example, the manufacturer sends the CB Test Certificate and associated Test Report to the IECEE Certification Bodies located in these countries. After an administrative review of the CB Test Certificate and Test Report the relevant

Certification Bodies will issue their certification mark without re-testing the personal computer because they recognise the Japanese NCB as one of their peers in the IECEE and have full confidence in the testing and assessment that have already been done. The Japanese manufacturer may now affix the national mark of conformity of the American, Brazilian and German bodies to the PC and is free to export it to these countries.

* CB stands for Certification Body.

** NCB stands for National Certification Body.



How do these bodies participate?

The IECEE is represented worldwide and qualifies the NCBs within each country that will be responsible for recognising and issuing CB Test Reports and Certificates. Membership in the IECEE is open to any certification body anywhere in the world.

Many NCBs in countries where the IECEE does not exist will accept CB Test Certificates and CB Test Reports.

You can find a full list of IECEE members, NCBs and associated testing laboratories on our website: www.iecee.org

What if I'm in a country where the IECEE does not exist?

No problem at all. For testing and certification, you are free to choose any NCB in the world to send your product/equipment to.

COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL WORLDWIDE CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT SCHEME... AND MORE TO COME

 ARGENTINA	 FRANCE	 MEXICO	 SLOVENIA
 AUSTRALIA	 GERMANY	 NETHERLANDS	 SOUTH AFRICA
 AUSTRIA	 GREECE	 NEW ZEALAND	 SPAIN
 BELARUS	 HUNGARY	 NORWAY	 SWEDEN
 BELGIUM	 INDIA	 POLAND	 SWITZERLAND
 BRAZIL	 INDONESIA	 PORTUGAL	 THAILAND
 BULGARIA	 IRELAND	 ROMANIA	 TURKEY
 CANADA	 ISRAEL	 RUSSIAN FEDERATION	 UKRAINE
 CHINA	 ITALY	 SAUDI ARABIA	 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
 CROATIA	 JAPAN	 SERBIA, REP. OF	 UNITED KINGDOM
 CZECH REPUBLIC	 KENYA	 SINGAPORE	 URUGUAY
 DENMARK	 KOREA, REP. OF	 SLOVAKIA	 USA
 FINLAND	 MALAYSIA		

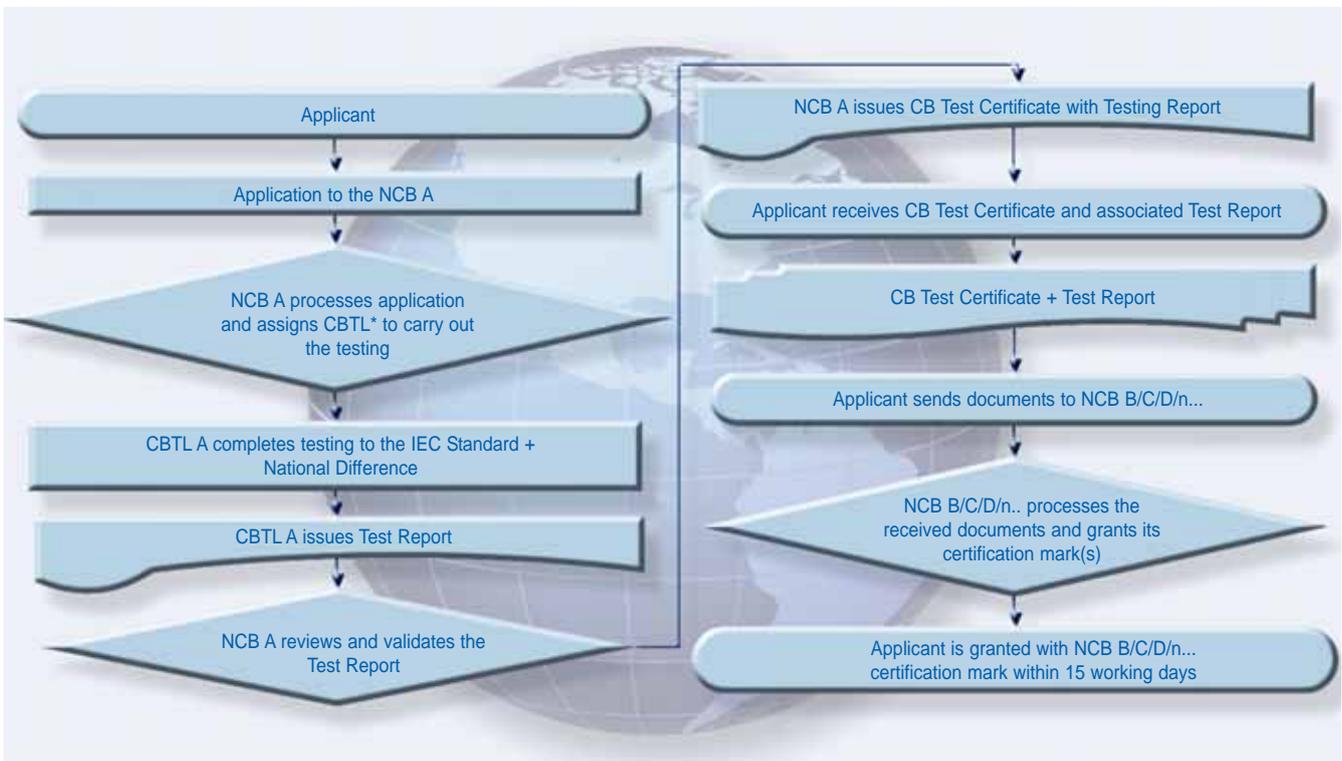
MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF CB TEST CERTIFICATES BY THE MEMBERS

The IECEE Processes

The CB Scheme is applicable to Electrotechnical Equipment and Components primarily intended for use in homes, offices, workshops, healthcare facilities and similar locations.

The CB Scheme is based on the use of CB Test Certificates which provide evidence that representative

specimens of the product have successfully passed tests to show compliance with the requirements of the relevant IEC Standard. A supplementary report providing evidence of compliance with declared national differences in order to obtain national certification or approval may also be attached to the CB Test Report.



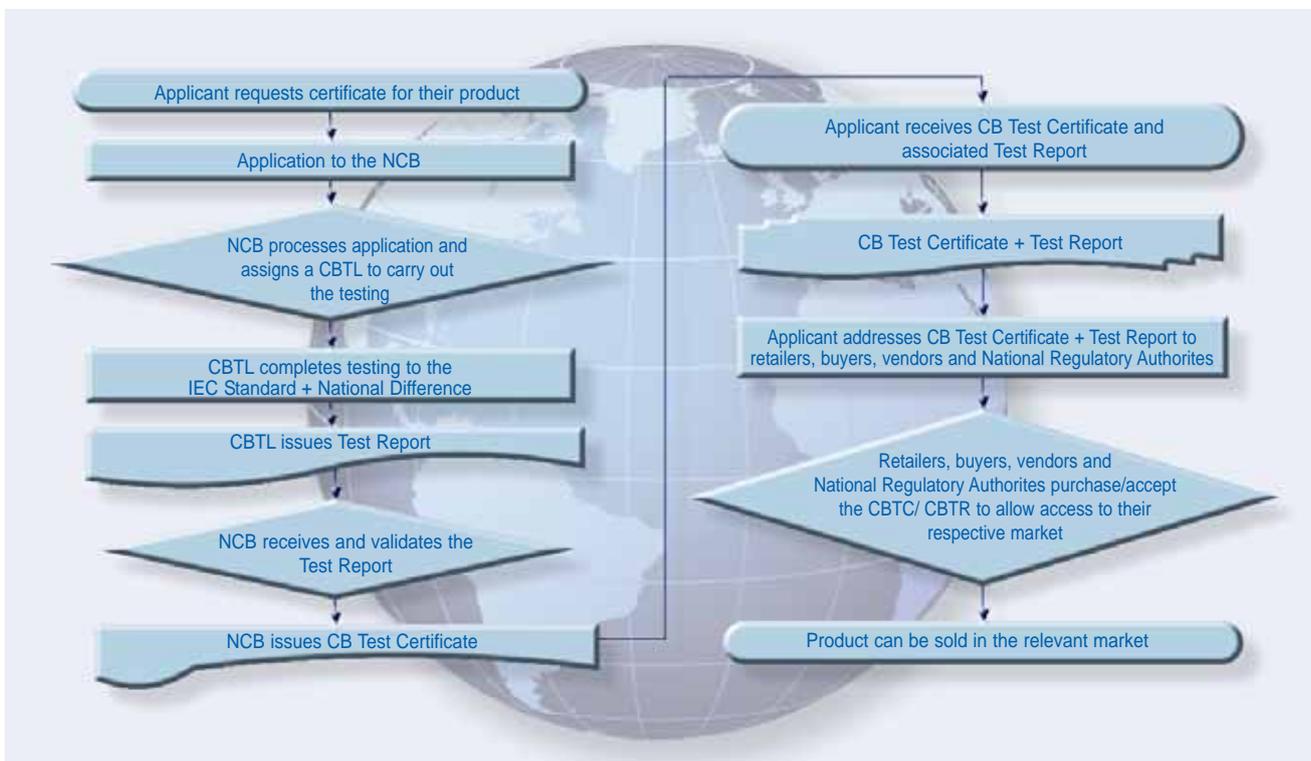
* CBTL stands for CB Testing Laboratory



CB Scheme direct acceptance by the market place

The success of the IECEE CB Scheme is also due to its popularity in the various worldwide marketplace where CB Test Certificates and Test Reports are considered as proof of compliance with the safety requirements according to the IEC Standards.

As a matter of fact, CB Test Certificate and Test Reports are commonly accepted by National Regulatory Authorities, retailers, buyers and vendors for accessing the relevant markets directly.

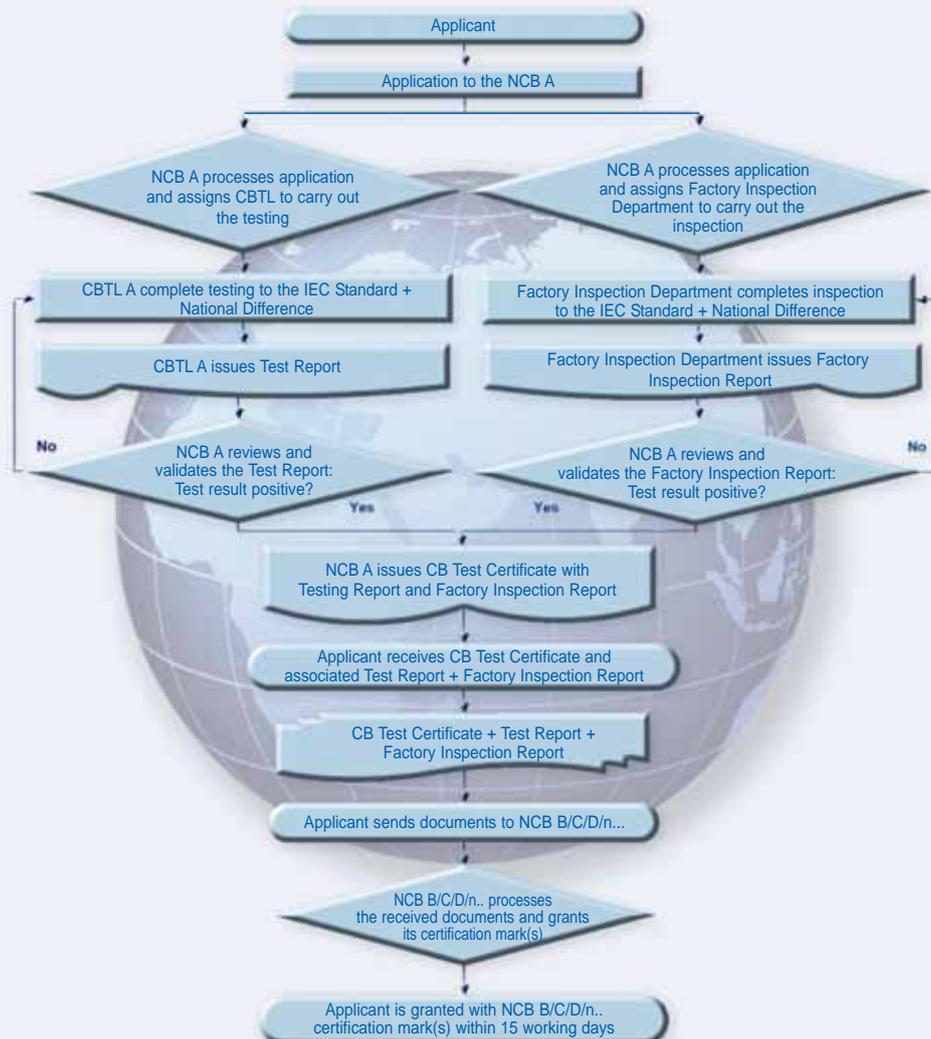


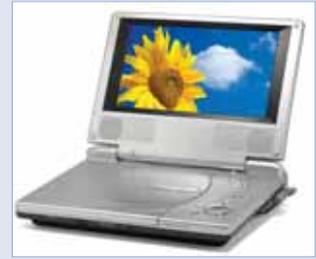


IECEE CB-FCS Process

The IECEE CB Full Certification Scheme (CB-FCS) is an extension of the IECEE CB Scheme as it also includes Factory Audit/Inspection and re-testing which ensures that the overall production line is consistently compliant with the initial testing/certification.

Use of CB-FCS to its fullest extent promotes the exchange of information necessary and assists manufacturers around the world to obtain certification or approval at a national level in one or multiple countries and regions.

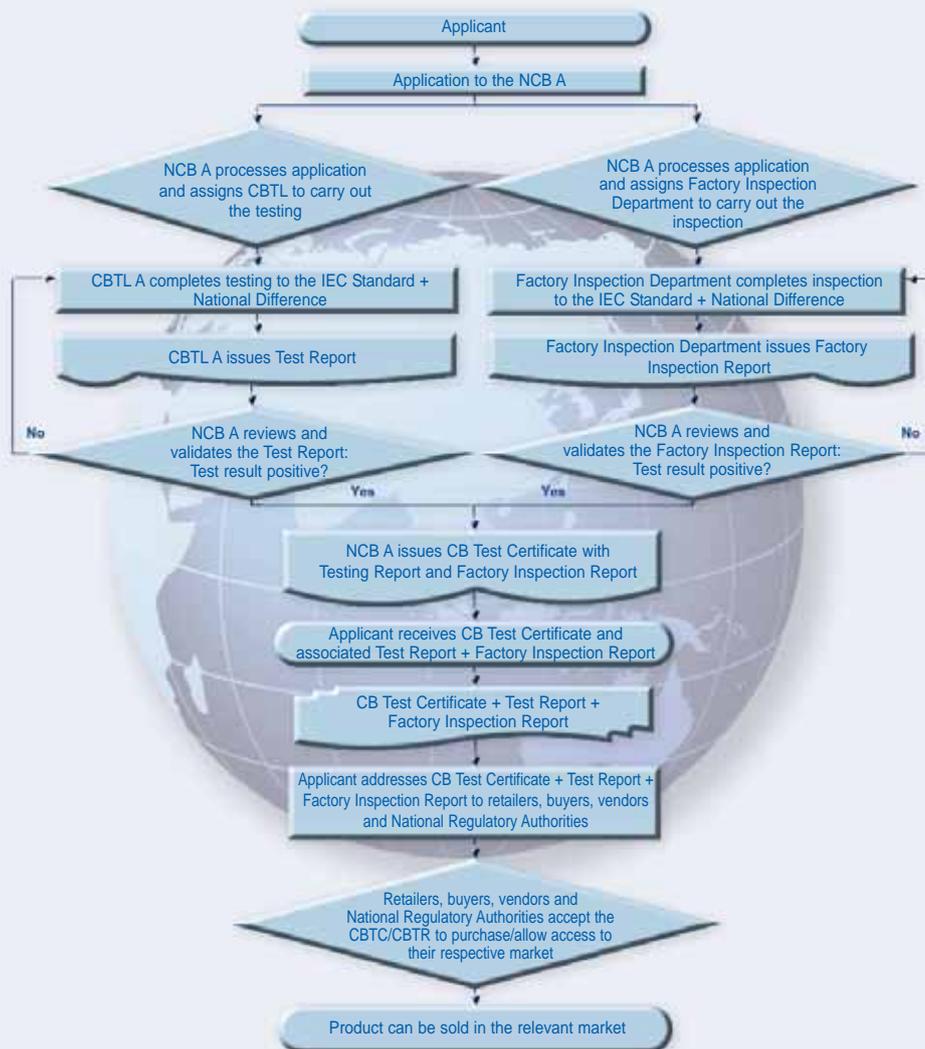




IECEE CB-FCS direct acceptance by the market place

The Conformity Assessment Certificate and the Conformity Assessment Report, being proof of compliance with the safety requirements according to the IEC Standards, are commonly accepted by

National Regulatory Authorities, retailers, buyers and vendors to access the relevant markets directly.



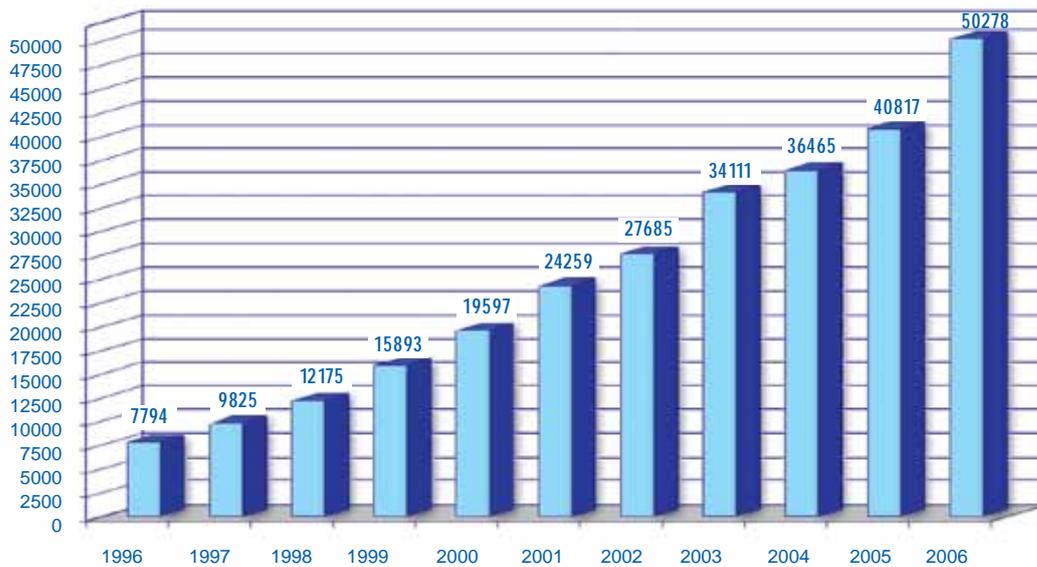


YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW... THE IECEE

IECEE Statistics

The spectacular growth of the number of CB Test Certificates shows clearly that the CB Scheme is properly answering the market needs.

NUMBER OF IECEE CERTIFICATES ISSUED FROM 1996 TO 2006





Future development of the IECEE

The IECEE is exploring developments in other fields of activity with new technologies to offer the market place services in SMART Home Equipment, Intelligent Sensors, Renewable Energy Devices, Supply Chain Management, Functional Safety, Energy Efficiency, Wireless Communication WiFi® and Bluetooth® and Machine to Machine Interoperability.



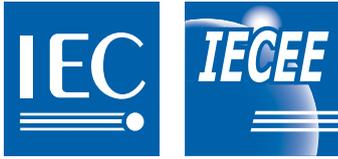
Globalising Conformity Assessment

Because Globalisation and Competition are leading to rapid changes, technical barriers to trade remain a serious concern and the industry is anxious about time to market, the shortening life-cycle of products and the need to reduce cost.

The CB Schemes offer the true “passport” for the needs of different countries.

The CB Schemes answer the market needs to have a Test Certificate tailored to be recognised worldwide.

The CB Schemes prove that certification and testing costs can be reduced.



IECEE. TAKING CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT FURTHER

Please feel free to contact the IECEE Secretariat:

Mr Pierre de Ruvo
Executive Secretary IECEE
Email: pro@iec.ch
Tel: +41 22 919 02 07

IECEE Secretariat's main areas of activity

Ms Cecilie Ingels Finstad
Assistant
Email: cfi@iec.ch
Tel: +41 22 919 02 23

CB Bulletin
Contact and Certificate changes
Finance
Manufacturer's Testing Laboratories (MTLs)
Marketing and promotion
Test Report Forms (TRFs)

Ms Tara Mitchell
Assistant and Webpublisher
Email: tsm@iec.ch
Tel: +41 22 919 02 52

CBTC On-Line System
CMC and other IECEE meetings/Workshops
CTL updates
Factory Inspection Committee (FIC)
General enquiries
IECEE Website

Ms Katharine Pearson
Assistant
Email: kpe@iec.ch
Tel: +41 22 919 02 47

Assessment & Certification Advisory Group (ACAG)
Assessor registration
CAB-ILAC / CAB-IAF meetings
Peer Assessment (applications, assessments)
Peer Assessment Training Courses
Proficiency Testing Programmes (PTPs)





WORLDWIDE SYSTEM FOR
CONFORMITY TESTING AND CERTIFICATION
OF ELECTROTECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND COMPONENTS (IECEE)

c/o IEC Central Office
3, rue de Varembé
P.O. Box 131
CH 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 919 02 52
Fax: +41 22 919 03 00
www.iecee.org

IECEE. Taking Conformity Assessment Further

Copyright © 2008 IEC-IECEE. All rights reserved.