

Expert group: Harmonization of Product Family Grouping and Acceptance of Equipment Certificates in European Level

Draft discussed at the GC ESC on 22 September 2021

Chair: TBD

Vice-Chair: TBD

Problem Statement

On XX 2021, the Grid Connection European Stakeholder Committee (GC ESC) has decided to establish an expert group on Harmonization of product family grouping and acceptance of equipment certificates.

Since the publication of NC RfG, all EU member states have adopted the ENTSO-E guidelines and have defined accordingly compliance testing and certification requirements. The practical implementation proves that the certification process is a good method for grid code monitoring and quality control. However, each nation has an individual approach, thus the manufactures are obliged to repeat tests and involve themselves in multiple testing and certification processes which can prove both time consuming and expensive, having a negative impact on project plausibility and causing considerable delays to connection permission.

Based on survey results and priority ranking vote, stakeholders of the GC ESC created this EG to elaborate on the topics concerning the harmonization of certification in regarding to key functions of PGM and of product family grouping issues.

Target (objectives)

The first milestone of the EG is to:

1. Understand the existing EU certification schemes which includes:
 - Certification requirements and specifications applicable in the member states (including certification, test procedures and test validation criteria)
 - Existing schemes for conformity with EU-Directives in other fields, such as the new approach for the CE-Directives.
 - Existing application of product certification in regarding to GC-Network codes in the member states.
 - Existing schemes of product family certification for generating equipment e.g. Germany FGW TG8
 - Existing usage of simulation models and simulation model validity e.g. FGW TG4 or IEC 61400-27
 - Existing and currently developed schemes in IEC RE

Based on a common understanding of the items listed above, the objective of the EG is to:

1. Provide a path for the creation of EU harmonized testing strategies and proof of compliance methods as well as a proposal on key criteria to meet requirements in RfG, taking into account existing strategies in other sectors of EU regulation.
2. Define a common product family definition and grouping criteria for an equipment certificate

3. Provide a path for a harmonized European approach to accept validated simulation models and define their recommended scope of use to substitute equipment testing.

Legislative background

Links with current CNC provisions

REGULATION (EC) No 765/2008 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93 NC RfG Article 1 Item 47: equipment certificate definition, and Title IV article 40 to article 59

Corresponding country grid codes with relevant information

Deliverables

- Report about existing certification schemes in member states
- Recommendation on testing scope for compliance verification
- Recommendation on family grouping criteria and definition
- Recommendation on certification specification and procedure
- Recommendation on acceptance of equipment certificates at EU level
- Proposals to be taken by IGD on Compliance Testing and Monitoring
- Proposals on how to modify upcoming versions of the NC RfG

Timing

- estimated X months from XX 2021.

Team (update XX.XX.2021)

The following nominations to participate in EG XX have been received (name and association):

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Representation at GC ESC</i>

Estimated workload

- biweekly webinars;
- commitment of XX days per member.

Target audience

- GC ESC
- Relevant and/or interested stakeholders on the Connection Network Codes