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## PRODUCT CERTIFICATION SCHEME FOR WATER PRODUCTS

### 1. Objective:

This procedure describes the criteria implemented by RACS as Notified Body of Emirates Authority of Standardization and Metrology (ESMA) to assure that **Water** products intended for certification with ESMA are complying the relevant mandatory schemes and applicable Standards.

Furthermore, this document identifies the steps taken by RACS Clients (Manufacturers, Traders, importers, retailers, business owners or any other client) to get their products/processes certified prior to its commercializing in UAE market, and registered by through RACS Quality certificates issuing services as ESMA Notified Body by issuing certificates of conformity in accordance with ESMA Regulations:

### 2. Definitions:

- **ESMA:** Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology.
- **RACS:** RACS Quality Certificates Issuing Services
- **Scheme:** Certification system related to specified products, to which the same specified requirements, specific rules and procedures apply.
- **Certification:** Third-party attestation related to products, processes, systems or persons.
- **Notified Body:** a conformity assessment body designated by ESMA to conduct conformity assessment process on products and processes in accordance with related schemes/standards/regulations mandated by ESMA.
- **Conformity Certificate:** Formal document issued by RACS as notified body under approval of ESMA stating that certification is being granted for the product/process in accordance with applicable scheme/standards as per ESMA Requirements.

### 3. Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of RACS as ESMA Notified Body to establish and maintain the appropriate system to satisfy both ESMA and clients requirements in accordance to the notification system mandated by ESMA.

It is the responsibility of ESMA clients and RACS clients to provide all needed requirements as per ESMA Notification system to ensure their products compliance to the applicable schemes and standards.

### 4. Introduction about RACS Notified Body to provide Certification:

RACS is an accredited certification body & ESMA approved notified Body under its notification system mandated by UAE decree No (35) Of the year 2015 & UAE Cabinet Resolution No (36).

RACS is an authorized conformity assessment body by ESMA that it is technically competent to perform the specific tasks of certification to ESMA clients.

### 5. Service Type:

As per Scheme owner rules, RACS certifies Water Products and issues Certificate of conformity under:

- **Emirates Quality Mark (EQM):** EQM is a mark of conformity granted to the products that can demonstrate compliance with the relevant UAE National Standards, Regional and/or International Standards and are manufactured by an organization implementing an effective Quality Management System to ensure continuous compliance. The process of achieving the license to use the Emirates Quality Mark involves a comprehensive evaluation of the product as well as the quality system used by the manufacturer in production through testing, inspection.

Issuance of certificate of conformity by RACS as ESMA's Notified Body assures the compliance of products/production process with the requirements of the approved schemes, standards and others specified in the technical regulation by Emirates Authority for Standardization and Metrology (ESMA).

### 6. Scope of certified products by RACS –ESMA Notified Body:

This document cover Water products with below details of Sector, scope of certified products, products categories, and applicable type of certification: FACILITY CERTIFICATE

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Sector (Product Group)	Scope of Certification (Scope of Products)	Product categories	Type of Certification
FOOD	WATER	1. Natural Mineral Water	1.Process Certification -Full Quality Assurance (EQM)
		2. Bottled Drinking Water	

**7. Mandatory Schemes and Applicable Standards:**

Scheme applicable is the UAE Scheme to control water, No.26 of the year 2013.

If needed, Client refers to RACS to identify applicable Scheme and Standards.

RACS Staff to refer to RACS/REC/79 Scope of Certified Products by RACS to identify Certification Applicable schemes and standards

**8. Requirements for Certification:**

Requirements varies depending on the scope of certified products; Details of the documents required for certification for the scope of Water Product as per ESMA requirements are detailed as following:

- 8.1. Application for Certification (Application Form):** Application to be filled by the client will contain all the necessary information needed by RACS Quality for conducting the certification Process, such important information are:
- Type of Product to be certified: Product, facility (Process) to identify the related scheme implemented by ESMA.
  - Relevant standard/ or normative documents clients is seeking certification for.
  - General information: Applicant Business activities & related business facilities & relationship between their facilities, in relevance to the certification scheme applied for information about outsourced Processes relevant to Product conformity.
  - Any other information needed related to certification requirements.  
By signing the application form, the applicant and the manufacturer agrees to comply with these General Rules and with the Specific Product Standard for the product covered by Registration / CB Certification

Application form also contain Self-assessment checklist which aligns all requirements of the specific standard to which client wishes to be certified and which has to be submitted along with the application), as following:

**FACILITY CERTIFICATE:**

- Application form (Online)
- Valid Industry/Trade License (For Companies within UAE)
- Declaration of Conformity by the Applicant on the Product(s) for Registration using the Applicant's Official Letterhead
- Controlled Copy of relevant QMS/HACCP Manual (Soft Copy/in CD/DVD)
- Brief Description of Manufacturing process
- Test Report from recognized Testing Laboratory
- Plant Equipment Lay-out (scaled 1:50)
- Vicinity Map of the Factory
- Quality Plan showing how to comply with Specific Standard
- Copies of labels, markings, logos as required by Specific Standard

**8.2. Legal Agreements:**

- Certification Agreement:
- Non-Disclosure Agreement

**8.3. Fees** as detailed in RACS Schedule of Fees (RACS/REC/46)

**9. Certification Procedures:**

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Based on its role as ESMA Notified body, Procedure will be performed as following:

**9.1. Preparatory Steps:**

- 9.1.1. Application Form shall be submitted by applicant to RACS, submission can be done via RACS affordable communication methods (mail, emails, hard copy, website, E-System)
- 9.1.2. Sales and Marketing Executive/Administrative assistant will review it to check documents availability on a primary basis
- 9.1.3. A quotation will be sent to applicant by Head of Sales and Marketing; containing the scope of certification and fees related to each step of the certification process.
- 9.1.4. Payment shall be done by applicant.

**9.2. Application Review**

- 9.2.1. Upon acceptance of quotation by client, he is requested to Sign the Certification agreement.
- 9.2.2. Application along with related supportive documents will be received by RACS Conformity Manager who shall assign one of RACS technical team members (Conformity Officer-(Evaluator or Auditor)).

**9.3. Application Evaluation**

- 9.3.1. Conformity Officer (Evaluator or Auditor) shall perform conformity assessment (Evaluation) steps related to the certification scheme (FACILITY CERTIFICATE):

**FACILITY CERTIFICATE:**

- Detailed documents review for all the documents
- Document review includes the check up for Test Reports parameters and results, done by 3rd party Laboratory according to the specific technical regulations and applicable standards.
- On-Site Audit to the facility where the product is being manufactured to assure the quality management system adopted in full compliance with applicable standards and technical regulations.
- Evaluation of product the eligibility of the Product for certification.

Note: No of Samples to be selected for testing is defined by the specific technical requirements and as per scheme owner

**9.3.2. Evaluation Outcome results:**

- If evaluation is pending for missing or invalid documents or other needed information to complete evaluation; Additional Supportive Documents will be requested by Applicant.
- Evaluation includes Product Safety Verification through test reports provided on all safety Test parameters requested by applicable scheme/standards, test reports shall be issued by 3rd party accredited Laboratory sub-contracted according to the approved Standards and applicable technical requirements.
- If test reports are not complying with Standards; Conformity Officer/Assessor requests rectification of the non-complying aspects, then based on applicant confirmation of rectification, Collection of samples will be done to conduct the same laboratory tests again and for once.
- Evaluation will be repeated upon applicant re-submission of needed documents/information.

**9.4. Decision of Certification:** Upon submission of this information, and as per the result of documents review and completing product evaluation process,**9.4.1. Recommendation of approval of Product certification:** Product evaluation shows full compliance with applicable schemes/standards:

- Application is initially approved by Conformity Officer/Assessor
- Recommendation for certification approval will be made by Conformity Manager
- Certification decision will be done by Decision Committee
- Granting the issuance of Certificate of conformity, recognized by ESMA
- Certified Products will be listed in RACS Certified Products registry.

**9.4.2. Recommendation of rejection of Product certification:** Product evaluation shows non-compliance with applicable schemes/standards, due to any reason preventing product from Certification:

- Application is declined by Conformity Officer/Assessor
- Recommendation for certification rejection will be made by Conformity Manager
- Rejection decision will be done by Decision Committee
- RACS will inform client by an Official rejection statement (Letter of certification Status) by e-mail stating the reason of rejection.

**Please refer to Available on RACS Website→Publicly available information→ RACS Notified Body  
→Required Docs→**

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- **WTR/REC/04:** Legal & Quality Documents-List of certification requirements per UAE Scheme – Drinking Water
- **WTR/REC/02:** Application Form: Drinking Water
- **RACS/Ag/01:** Certification Agreement/ RACS Quality- Client
- **RACS/Ag/03:** NDA/RACS Quality - Client/Subcontractor
- **RACS/Ag/10:** General Conditions for Certification Services

**Notes for clients:**

For some scopes where it is required to have a quality system available, clients seeking to be certified for any of their (Products or services or facility/Process) to UAE Schemes and applicable standards through RACS are requested to implement relevant Quality System including documentation in a way to meet all requirements of this standard and all relevant specific standards depending on the nature of service (certified Product& Process).

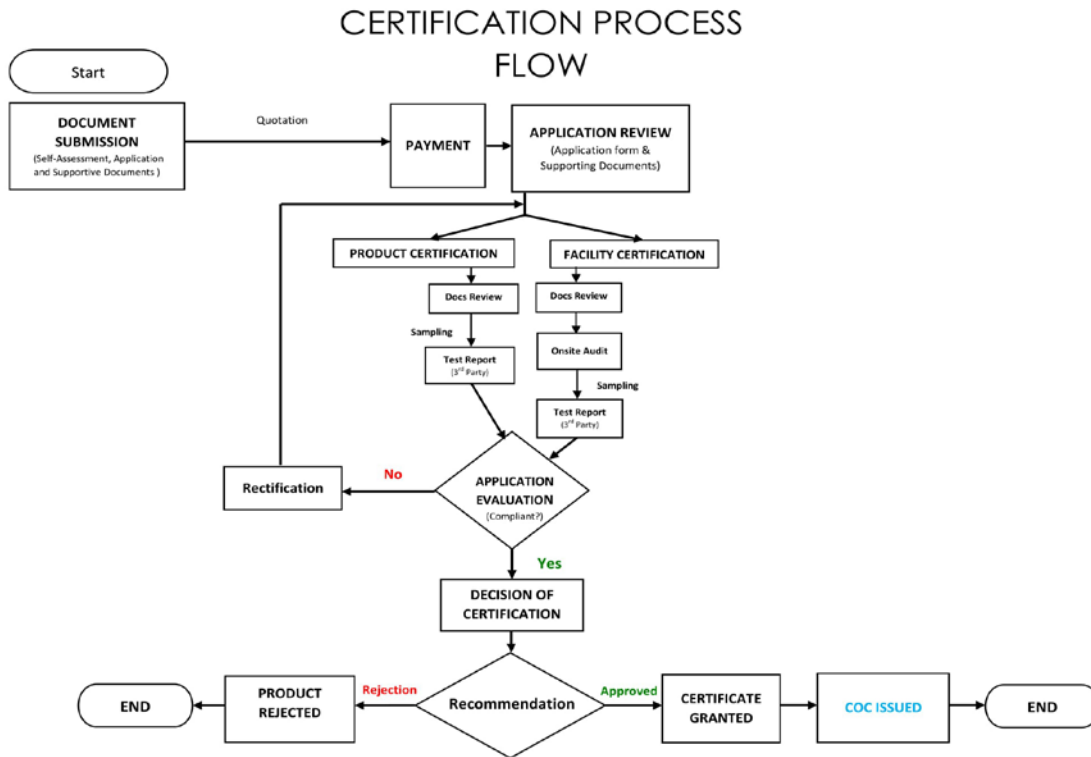
- In case of a Client newly operating, and seeking to be certified, Client is required to demonstrate more than 3 months compliance against the standard immediately preceding the date of the Pre-Assessment performed by RACS. This will prove the efficacy and sustainability of the implemented system. After which RACS will be contacted to make arrangements for required audits and Certification.
- Client seeking extension or renewal of Certification scope shall as well submit the Application form specifying the extension or renewal of the Certification scope.
- Whenever applicable, Additional Certification requirements per Certification schemes: Legal & Quality documents (such as Client Quality Manual) and supportive documents (records and checklists used by applicant), are to be attached to the Application form.

**10. Renewal:****FACILITY CERTIFICATE:**

- Validity of certificate is three years, subject to surveillance visits every year during the certification to assure maintenance of conformity.
- COC should be renewed 3 months prior expiry.

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**11. Process Map:**



**12. Market Monitoring:**

RACS Will be conducting Market Surveillance campaigns in the local markets to assure continuous compliance of certified products and inform Scheme owner on immediate basis on the non-conformity products to take the appropriate action.

**13. Related Forms:**

Listed Agreements, SOPs, Records related to the **SOP31** as follows:

**General Forms:**

TITLE OF DOCUMENT	IDENTIFICATION
Quality Master List	RACS/REC/01
Certification Agreement/ RACS Quality- Client	RACS/AG/01
NDA/RACS Quality - Client/Subcontractor	RACS/AG/03
Scope of Certified Products	RACS/REC/79
Schedule of Fees	RACS/REC/46

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**Specific Records related to the Scope:**

Assessment Checklist -UAE.S/GSO 1025: 2014 Bottled drinking water	WTR/REC/01
Application Form	WTR/REC/02
Assessment Checklist-UAE.S/GSO 2232: 2012 Labeling for drinking water	WTR/REC/03
Legal & Quality Documents-List of certification requirements per UAE Scheme–Drinking Water	WTR/REC/04
Assessment Checklist- UAE.S/GSO 987 :2013 Bottled natural mineral water	WTR/REC/05
Assessment Checklist- UAE.S/GSO 1694 :2007 General Principles of Food Hygiene CODEX STANDARD CAC/RCP 48-1985 UAE S. GSO 21:1984	WTR/REC/06
Assessment Checklist- UAE.S/GSO 1694 :2007 General Principles of Food Hygiene CODEX STANDARD CAC/RCP 33-1985 UAE S. GSO 21:1984	WTR/REC/07
Assessment Checklist- UAE.S GSO 384/1994 Ice for Human Consumption	WTR/REC/09
Water Facility Certification-Certificate of Conformity	WTR/REC/10
Assessment Checklist- UAE.S GSO 384/1994 Ice for Human Consumption	WTR/REC/11

**14. References:**

- ISO/IEC 17065, Conformity Assessment - Requirements for bodies certifying Products, Processes and services.
- ISO/IEC 17021, Conformity Assessment — Requirements for bodies Providing audit and Certification of management systems.
- UAE. GSO 2055-2 Halal products- Part two: General Requirements for Halal Certification Bodies.
- GAC Document: FAD- 4.0: Supplementary accreditation requirements for Product certification Bodies.
- GAC document: FAD-12: Supplementary accreditation requirements for Halal certification Bodies , in addition to applicable scheme and Standards
- R105: Requirements when making reference to A2LA Accredited Status
- R307: General Requirements Accreditation of ISO /IEC 17065 Product Certification Bodies
- R334: Specific Requirements: HALAL Certification Body Program.
- IAF Mandatory Document: Determination of Audit Time of Quality and Environmental Management System.
- ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity Assessment — Vocabulary and general principles.
- ISO/IEC 17020, Conformity Assessment— Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection.
- ISO/IEC 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- ISO17067, in combination with ISO Guide 28 and ISO Guide 53
- ISO/IEC 17030, Conformity Assessment — General requirements for third-party marks of conformity.
- ISO Guide 23:1982 Methods of indicating conformity with Standards for third-Party certification Systems
- ISO Guide 27:1983 Guidelines for corrective action to be taken by a certification body in the event of misuse of its mark of conformity
- General Requirements for Notified Bodies issued by Emirates Authority For Standardization and Metrology (ESMA).
- RACS Quality Manual RACS/QM/01
- All controlled QMS records-Please refer to RACS/REC/01-Quality Master List.

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