

**Charter for using the MARCOGAZ guidance
document related to a Quality Plan for PE Pipes,
Fittings and Valves**

1. Purpose

MARCOGAZ members have issued on a voluntary basis a guidance describing a minimum quality plan for the manufacturing of Polyethylene (PE) pipes, fittings and valves for use in natural gas supply system construction as well as the PE compounds to be used with.

The acceptance by the MARCOGAZ members of the PE pipes, fittings and valves as well as the compounds used to manufacture these products is based on the conformity of these to the requirements listed in the EN 1555 European standard.

At the European level there is no specific technical regulation concerning the use of PE products by gas distribution system operators. In some countries national certification schemes involving certification bodies exist and are commonly used by the gas distribution system operators.

The goal of MARCOGAZ is not to harmonise at the European level the national existing certification schemes.

MARCOGAZ members who have accepted this guidance document commit themselves to apply common requirements when purchasing PE products. The guidance document only describes the conditions for type testing (TT) and audit testing (AT) in mutual acceptance of test results between gas companies. The TT and AT programme is the one listed in the CEN/TS 1555-7.

Annex 1 of the guidance document includes an updated (whenever needed) list of laboratories presented by each MARCOGAZ member and under mutual acceptance of test results and the updated lists of tests proposed by each laboratory.

Annex 2 of the guidance document includes the list of MARCOGAZ members who have accepted it. These MARCOGAZ members commit themselves to apply the requirements set in the guidance document and possibly in cooperation with the certification bodies.

Informative Annex 3 of the guidance document includes an updated list of certification bodies operating in the MARCOGAZ member countries.

2. Testing laboratories

The guidance document includes a list of European laboratories, the TT and AT results of which are under mutual acceptance by MARCOGAZ members.

The mentioned laboratories have been presented by each MARCOGAZ member under own responsibility. Only laboratories presented by MARCOGAZ members having accepted the guidance document are included.

This list of laboratories, being representative for the gas industry, has been established with information provided by MARCOGAZ members and is not exclusive. For each laboratory details such as address, phone number and contact person as well as accreditation references are given.

For each laboratory a complete list of all the available tests according to the parts 1 to 5 of EN 1555 is attached.

3. External communication

A general announcement of the guidance and the conditions for implementation is made at European level by MARCOGAZ: this is aimed at the manufacturer European associations (TEPPFA, PE100+,...), CEN bodies (CEN/TC SFG_I, CEN/TC 234, CEN/TC 155,...)

4. MARCOGAZ member responsibility

In his respective country each MARCOGAZ member commits himself to uphold the guidance document to every party which is deemed to implement it: that is at minimum gas distribution system operators, PE compound producers, PE pipe, fitting and valve manufacturers, certification bodies, testing laboratories.

In case of existing certification scheme in a MARCOGAZ member country the MARCOGAZ member should act in order that the MARCOGAZ guidance is taken into consideration in this scheme.

The MARCOGAZ member should also collect at national level any comments which could improve the MARCOGAZ guidance and report to MARCOGAZ.

5 Availability

MARCOGAZ guidance document is freely accessible on the MARCOGAZ website (www.marcogaz.org). The version available on the website is considered as the information update.

The version available on the website cannot be amended by any website user: amendments can only be made according to the MARCOGAZ procedure. Only the MARCOGAZ members who accepted the MARCOGAZ guidance document have a specific access that allows amendments on the annex concerning the laboratories and their related tests.

6. Updating

Every MARCOGAZ member is responsible for updating the information mentioned in the guidance document concerning the laboratories proposed (see Annex 1) and the certification bodies listed in Annex 3.

Thus each MARCOGAZ member shall revise the information related to the aforesaid laboratories and certification bodies when there is updated information: this task must be carried out as soon as possible, which will allow every MARCOGAZ website user to permanently have updated information.

7. Evaluation of the success in guidance implementation

MARCOGAZ members wish to know if the gas companies apply the common requirements set in the guidance document and to assess how deep the mutual acceptance of TT and AT results has been implemented.

That is why each MARCOGAZ member commits himself to reply every two year a enquiry prepared by the WG PE Systems group.

The results of this enquiry will be studied by the WG PE systems group and then a revision of the guidance document can occur.