

CERTIFICATION SYSTEM

LONGTIME®



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Glossary

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Difference between the logo and the label

LONGTIME® logo

LONGTIME® label

Use of the logo on printed materials

Use of the logo on the web

Use of the label on the product

FRONT ONLY

FRONT / BACK

Use of the label on packaging

COMPOSITION 1

COMPOSITION 2

+ Required wording

Use of the label on printed materials

Use of the label on the web

Colour specifications

PART I**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Purpose and aims of the scheme

1.1 Purpose of the scheme

The LONGTIME® certification scheme aims to promote the placing on the market and use of products designed to last, helping to reduce the environmental impacts associated with their life cycle.

The scheme assesses product durability, particularly reliability, robustness and repairability, against requirements set out in a certification standard.

It identifies products that meet these requirements and provides users with clear, reliable and verifiable environmental information to help them make more sustainable purchasing decisions.

1.2 Environmental rationale

The environmental rationale for the LONGTIME® certification scheme is supported by scientific and institutional research showing that extending product lifetimes is a major means of reducing environmental impacts.

Analyses by ADEME and the [European Commission's Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#), among others, show that production accounts for a significant share of the environmental footprint of consumer goods. Keeping products in use for longer spreads these impacts over a longer period and avoids the manufacture of new products.

This research shows that repair and longer product use can deliver measurable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, resource consumption and waste generation.

Durability, repairability and efforts to address obsolescence are therefore recognised as key elements of the circular economy.

The LONGTIME® scheme follows this approach by assessing these factors against a certification standard, targeting the main drivers of products' environmental impacts throughout their life cycle.

1.3 Environmental objectives

The LONGTIME® certification scheme aims to reduce the environmental impacts of products throughout their life cycle through requirements relating to durability, design and production conditions.

The scheme therefore pursues the following objectives:

1. Reducing environmental impacts associated with product lifetimes

- Extend the time products remain in use by improving their reliability, robustness, repairability and maintainability
- Limit premature product replacement and the associated waste generation

2. Addressing environmental impacts throughout the life cycle

- Address environmental issues relating to materials, manufacture, use and end of life
- Improve products' environmental and energy performance in line with regulatory requirements and sector best practice
- Promote reduced use of hazardous substances and design that facilitates disassembly, repair, reuse and recycling

3. Improving production practices and the certification system

- Include requirements for the environmental management of production sites and the reduction of associated emissions
- Ensure the scheme is continually improved in response to technical and regulatory developments and feedback from experience

1.4 Contribution to the circular economy

The LONGTIME® certification scheme takes a circular economy approach, seeking to replace the linear model of production and consumption with one based on keeping products in use for longer and conserving resources. It supports the development of the circular economy by helping to keep products in circulation for as long as possible, particularly through improvements in durability, repairability and reliability. In particular, the scheme helps strengthen the repair sector, a key driver of the circular economy, by recognising products designed to be repaired and maintained and encouraging practices that restore products to working order rather than replace them.

The scheme also supports practices for reusing products before and after they become waste, and for refurbishing them, as well as the development of take-back and end-of-life treatment arrangements that keep resources in use for longer and limit waste generation.

By incorporating requirements for product design, use and end of life, the scheme also contributes to a comprehensive approach to circularity, consistent with circular economy principles and related regulatory developments.

2. Nature and positioning of the label

2.1 Ecolabel (ISO 14024)

LONGTIME® is an ecolabel within the meaning of ISO 14024, based on a multi-criteria assessment of products' environmental impacts throughout their life cycle.

The LONGTIME® certification standard sets requirements for the main stages of the product life cycle, with particular emphasis on durability, repairability and reliability as ways of reducing environmental impacts.

The label is awarded subject to an assessment by an independent third-party certification body, resulting in the issue of a LONGTIME® certificate for products that meet the requirements.

In accordance with the principles of ISO 14024, the scheme is based on:

- a life-cycle-based, multi-criteria approach;
- independent verification;
- transparency of certification information;
- governance that involves stakeholders.

Certification information, including the scope of products covered, the validity period, the applicable standard and the certification body, is publicly accessible.

The scheme follows a structured certification process covering the development of certification standards, product assessment and the issue of certificates.

This document describes the scheme's principles, requirements and implementation arrangements.

Distinction between the scheme, label, mark, graphic label and certification

The LONGTIME® certification scheme comprises all the operating, assessment, decision-making, surveillance and revision arrangements that apply to products submitted for certification.

- The LONGTIME® label is the recognition awarded under the scheme to products that meet the applicable certification standard.
- The LONGTIME® mark is the protected distinctive sign whose use is authorised to identify certified products under the conditions set out in the rules governing use of the mark.
- The LONGTIME® graphic label is the graphic representation used to display the label on products, packaging or authorised communication materials.

Certification comprises the conformity assessment process and the decision made by the certification body. A favourable decision leads to the issue of a LONGTIME® certificate and the granting of the right to use the mark for the products concerned.

Environmental claim conveyed by the label

The environmental claim conveyed by the LONGTIME® label can be summarised as “designed to last”. This means that the product has been assessed and found to conform to a technical certification standard intended to assess its durability, particularly its reliability, repairability and robustness.

This claim attests to an independently verified level of requirements. It is neither a guarantee of product lifetime nor a comparison with other products.

2.2 International scope

The LONGTIME® label applies internationally, regardless of where products are manufactured or marketed.

The scheme uses certification standards based on international standards and technical requirements that can be applied in different geographical and regulatory contexts. Where specific regulatory references are used, particularly European ones, equivalence may be demonstrated for products intended for other markets.

The scheme is open to all manufacturers and distributors, regardless of their geographical location, subject to compliance with the applicable requirements.

Assessment activities may be carried out internationally by qualified auditors using harmonised arrangements that ensure consistency between assessments.

Scheme documents and supporting materials are available in at least English and French to ensure accessibility.

2.3 Scope of the label award

The LONGTIME® label is awarded to specific products. It does not certify the company, the brand or all of a manufacturer’s products. Awarding the label to one or more products does not constitute overall endorsement of the company’s practices or establish conformity across its entire range.

All communications about the label must strictly reflect the scope of certification and must not create confusion between the certified product, the brand and the company. The conditions for using the label and the associated communication rules are set out in the rules governing use of the LONGTIME® mark and the applicable scheme documents.

2.4 Product scope

The LONGTIME® label applies exclusively to products identified by product reference.

The scheme is intended for products assembled from components or parts for which an assessment of durability, repairability and reliability is relevant. It covers product families including domestic appliances, electronic equipment, portable power tools, furniture, leisure equipment and certain types of professional equipment.

Products are excluded where their technical characteristics, uses or assessment arrangements make the scheme's requirements unsuitable. This includes products that are not assembled from components or are subject to specific technical or regulatory constraints.

Accordingly, consumables, single-use products and categories whose durability issues do not primarily relate to design or repairability fall outside the scheme. These include cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and similar products. These exclusions are based on an assessment of technical and environmental relevance and are intended to ensure the consistency of the scheme and the robustness of the environmental claim conveyed by the label.

Each product submitted for certification is assessed against a sector-specific certification standard for a defined product category, specifying the scope, technical requirements and assessment arrangements.

Certification is issued for one or more clearly identified product references and may be extended to a family of products with equivalent technical characteristics, subject to the representativeness conditions set out in the certification standard.

2.5 Non-comparative nature of the label

The LONGTIME® label attests that a product conforms to a certification standard defined for a particular product category. It does not constitute a direct comparative claim between products, brands or market participants.

LONGTIME® criteria are developed through a sector-level analysis of durability issues, available references, stakeholder consultations and practices observed in the market. This analysis establishes thresholds that distinguish products from practices detrimental to durability, identifying those that meet a high level of requirements for reliability, repairability and longer product lifetimes.

However, this methodological distinction does not justify presenting a certified product as invariably superior to an uncertified product or making direct comparisons between products. Award of the label means only that the product meets the applicable requirements of the LONGTIME® certification standard within the scope covered.

Any communication suggesting general superiority, a ranking or a direct comparison is subject to the rules governing use of the LONGTIME® mark, to prevent misleading claims.

3. Founding principles

3.1 Independence

The LONGTIME® certification scheme is founded on independence, ensuring the credibility of the label, the reliability of assessments and the integrity of decisions. This independence applies at both institutional and operational levels.

It is based on a separation of functions between scheme management, the development of certification standards, stakeholder consultation, conformity assessment and certification decisions. The scheme operator is responsible for governance, management of the mark and administration of the certification standards, without taking part in audits or certification decisions.

Decisions to award, refuse, suspend or withdraw certification are made exclusively by an independent certification body appointed for that purpose. Advisory mechanisms may be used to inform specific technical or ethical matters without intervening in assessment or decision-making processes.

The scheme is neither established, governed nor controlled by any vested interest that could influence its requirements, procedures or decisions. Arrangements are in place to prevent conflicts of interest, dependency or interference.

Every person or body involved in operating the scheme must act impartially. Any situation that could compromise impartiality must be declared, and appropriate measures are taken, which may include removing the person concerned from the handling of a case.

Changes to certification standards and applicable rules follow documented, traceable and collective procedures.

3.2 Impartiality

The LONGTIME® certification scheme is founded on impartiality, ensuring that every assessment, opinion and decision is based solely on applicable requirements, available evidence and objectively established facts.

Cases are examined without favouritism, discrimination or considerations unrelated to compliance with the certification standard, including commercial, financial, competitive or relationship-based considerations.

This principle applies to everyone involved in the scheme within their respective responsibilities, including advisory bodies and the certification body.

Impartiality is ensured through an independent certification body acting as a third party, responsible for conformity assessment and certification decisions under formal contractual arrangements with the scheme operator.

It is also supported by an assessment methodology based on predefined criteria, specified evidence requirements and a determination of conformity or non-conformity for each

requirement. Formal rules govern the handling of non-conformities and decision-making to ensure verifiable results and limit subjectivity.

Any situation that could compromise impartiality must be identified, declared and appropriately addressed. Anyone involved in examining a case must disclose any relationship, interest or circumstance that could raise reasonable doubt about their impartiality and refrain from participating where that risk cannot be ruled out.

3.3 Scheme transparency

The LONGTIME® certification scheme operates on the principle of transparency, ensuring that information about its operation, requirements and results is clear, accessible and traceable.

The scheme therefore makes available the information needed to understand the label, including the applicable certification standards, conditions for access and award, rules governing use of the mark and information about certified products. This principle also covers:

- the scheme's operating and governance rules;
- arrangements for developing and revising certification standards;
- information about changes to the scheme;
- publication of certification results, particularly through LONGTIME® certificates and the identification of certified products.

This principle is implemented in accordance with requirements for confidentiality, trade secrets and the protection of sensitive information.

3.4 Non-discrimination, accessibility and proportionality

The LONGTIME® certification scheme ensures equitable access for any organisation placing products on the market within its scope, whether a manufacturer, distributor, importer or brand owner.

Access to the scheme, the examination of applications, conformity assessment and certification decisions are based solely on the applicable requirements and the ability to demonstrate that products conform to the relevant certification standard. They must not be influenced by considerations unrelated to the purpose of the scheme, including size, nationality, business model, volume of activity or previous relationships with the scheme operator or certification body.

Access conditions, including financial conditions, are defined on an objective, transparent and proportionate basis. Requirements are expressed in terms that are understandable, verifiable and directly linked to the label's environmental and functional objectives, without unduly favouring a particular technology or solution where equivalent performance can be demonstrated.

Applicants and certificate holders have access, on comparable terms, to the applicable rules, the information needed to understand the scheme, and procedures for complaints, challenges and appeals.

3.5 Non-regression principle

The LONGTIME® certification scheme applies a non-regression principle to maintain over time the level of environmental, technical and methodological requirements on which the label's credibility rests.

This principle means that changes to the scheme, certification standards, assessment methods or applicable rules must not weaken requirements relating to durability, repairability, reliability or verification arrangements.

It does not preclude adapting criteria, thresholds or implementation arrangements where objectively established regulatory, standardisation, technological or sector developments justify doing so. Such changes must be justified, documented and proportionate, and must preserve the scheme's overall level of requirements and equitable treatment of applicants and certificate holders.

No change may be adopted solely to make access to the label easier, serve a vested interest or reduce the scope of verification if it could undermine the robustness of the environmental claim.

4. Normative references and regulatory framework

4.1 Applicable international standards

The LONGTIME® certification scheme draws on international standards that define the principles governing its operation, the development of its certification standards and its verification arrangements.

The main applicable standard is ISO 14024 on ecolabels. It provides the scheme's reference framework, particularly for the life-cycle approach, environmental differentiation, participation of interested parties, transparency, verifiability, independence and openness to all applicants.

The scheme also applies the general principles for environmental claims set out in ISO 14020, to which ISO 14024 refers.

LONGTIME® also uses recognised technical standards to translate its requirements into sector-specific certification standards. In particular, these draw on the EN 4555x series concerning the durability, repairability and ability to repair energy-related products, notably EN 45552 and EN 45554, together with any reference relevant to the product category concerned.

The scheme may also use other international or European standards as supporting references, evidence or a basis for equivalence, particularly in quality management, environmental management, materials characterisation, testing or verification methods, where relevant to the applicable requirements.

4.2 European and sector-specific references

In developing and applying its sector-specific certification standards, the LONGTIME® certification scheme draws on European and sector-specific references relevant to the product categories, their uses, technologies and associated environmental impacts.

In many cases, the European regulatory framework provides a minimum baseline for defining applicable requirements, including in an international context, because of its maturity in addressing durability, repairability, environmental performance and product end of life. The LONGTIME® scheme sets requirements additional to, or more demanding than, the regulatory minimum to support a specific, verifiable and non-misleading environmental claim.

LONGTIME® certification standards also use sector-specific technical standards as test methods, forms of evidence or supporting references. These may include standards relating to management (ISO 9001, ISO 50001), the classification of environmental conditions (EN 60721), reliability testing (IEC 60605), conformity test plans (IEC 61123, EN 61124), statistical analysis of failure (EN 61649) or accelerated testing methods (EN 62506).

Evidence requirements are defined in each certification standard for each criterion and may include tests, reports, certifications, technical documents, procedures or verifiable data.

Where a European standard is used as a reference, an equivalent non-European standard or method may be used, provided that technical and methodological equivalence is demonstrated. This is assessed case by case on the basis of comparable levels of requirements and reliability.

4.3 Environmental regulatory framework

The LONGTIME® certification scheme operates in compliance with the environmental regulatory framework applicable to products within its scope.

The scheme's requirements take account of current regulations, particularly those concerning ecodesign, energy performance, restrictions on hazardous substances, end-of-life management, environmental information and the fairness of claims. They also address durability, repairability and recyclability.

The scheme frequently uses the European regulatory framework as a reference baseline because of its maturity in addressing product-related environmental issues and consumer information. Equivalent requirements applicable in other geographical areas may be taken into account where equivalence is demonstrated.

The regulatory framework is monitored and regularly reviewed as part of the procedures for developing, revising and amending certification standards set out in [Section 11.1](#) and [Chapter 15](#).

4.4 Hierarchy of references

The LONGTIME® certification scheme applies a hierarchy of references to ensure that the requirements and forms of evidence used in assessment are relevant, robust and verifiable.

Subject to the specific characteristics of each product category and the nature of the criterion concerned, references and methods are used in the following order of preference:

1. ISO and IEC standards;
2. other recognised international standards;
3. regional and national standards;
4. methods used in industry or trade that have undergone peer review;
5. other repeatable and reproducible methods that follow recognised principles of good laboratory practice;
6. evidence provided by the manufacturer.

Where applicable regulatory requirements exist, they form a minimum baseline for conformity and are considered alongside this hierarchy.

Where a standard or method is cited in a sector-specific certification standard, an equivalent reference may be accepted, including one from a different standardisation system, provided that equivalence is demonstrated in terms of the criterion's purpose, the required level of performance and the reliability of the verification method.

References are selected and used on the basis of technical relevance, whether the documentation is up to date, traceability and verifiability by the certification body.

PART II

GOVERNANCE, IMPARTIALITY AND SCHEME INTEGRITY

5. Institutional organisation

5.1 Operator of the LONGTIME® ecolabelling scheme

The LONGTIME® certification scheme is run and administered by Ethikis ad civis, a French simplified joint-stock company (SAS) within the social and solidarity economy (ESS), with its registered office at 433 chemin d'Embrouysset, 81370 Saint-Sulpice-la-Pointe, France. The scheme operator is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining the LONGTIME® certification system. Its responsibilities include:

- defining the scheme's overall framework and operating rules;
- developing, structuring and publishing certification standards;
- organising stakeholder consultation processes;
- managing and protecting the LONGTIME® mark;
- coordinating relations with certification bodies;
- making information about the scheme publicly available.

It does not take part in audits, conformity assessment or certification decisions, which are the exclusive responsibility of an independent certification body. It prohibits any direct or indirect intervention that could influence assessment results or certification decisions. Relations with the certification body are strictly governed (see the [chapter on the independent certification body](#)) to prevent conflicts of interest and ensure the independence of assessment and decision-making processes. The scheme operator may draw on independent advisory bodies, particularly the Expert and Ethics Committee (CEEL), to inform technical or methodological work. These bodies do not intervene in assessment or decision-making processes. The operator safeguards the scheme's consistency, credibility and integrity in accordance with the principles of independence, impartiality and transparency set out in this document.

5.2 Operational organisation of the scheme

As the scheme operator, Ethikis ad civis performs the operational functions needed to run the LONGTIME® certification system. These functions are carried out by its staff or authorised representatives. They include managing scheme documentation, monitoring regulatory and standards developments, coordinating work on certification standards, liaising with authorised certification bodies, monitoring published information and protecting the LONGTIME® mark. These functions do not include conformity assessment, auditing or certification decisions, which are the responsibility of independent certification bodies.

5.2.1 Responsibilities

The management team performs the following functions:

- Scheme management and continual improvement: coordinating activities, monitoring scheme performance and implementing improvements.
- Technical coordination of certification standards: organising the development, revision and maintenance of the core certification standard and sector-specific certification standards, in conjunction with stakeholders and governance bodies.
- Monitoring regulatory, standards and scientific developments: keeping track of relevant developments and incorporating best practice to ensure the scheme remains relevant and robust.
- Data and evidence management: structuring data requirements, particularly for primary and secondary data, to ensure that the environmental claim conveyed by the label is well substantiated.
- Technical support for certification bodies: preparing and providing methodological documents without interfering with assessment or certification activities.
- Document management and traceability: controlling scheme documents, managing versions, archiving and ensuring information is accessible.
- Stakeholder engagement and transparency: organising consultations, sharing public information and contributing to scheme transparency in accordance with applicable requirements.
- Administrative handling of complaints: examining and following up complaints about the operation of the scheme without interfering with certification decisions.

5.2.2 Working arrangements

The LONGTIME® scheme management team operates within a formally defined organisational structure to ensure clear, consistent and traceable management of the scheme. It draws on technical, regulatory and methodological expertise suited to the label's needs. Individual roles and responsibilities are defined and documented to ensure reliable day-to-day operation and continuity of activities. In particular, the management team coordinates work, prepares files, maintains documentation and provides input to governance bodies. It supplies the material needed for their work without taking over their role in providing opinions, resolving matters or making decisions.

5.3 Expert and Ethics Committee (CEEL)

5.3.1 Responsibilities and roles

The LONGTIME® certification scheme is supported by an [Expert and Ethics Committee](#), referred to below as the “CEEL”. The CEEL is an independent body that strengthens the scheme’s objectivity, impartiality, technical robustness and ethical analysis. It advises the scheme operator and may be consulted to inform decisions on the scheme’s operation and development. In its advisory role, the CEEL provides opinions, recommendations and reasoned analyses on the technical, methodological, ethical or sensitive matters referred to it.

These opinions do not replace the scheme operator's responsibilities or the certification body's assessment and decision-making functions.

5.3.2 Areas of involvement

Any matter of significant importance to the quality, integrity, impartiality or credibility of the LONGTIME® scheme may be referred to the CEEL within its area of competence. Its involvement may cover:

- changes to core or sector-specific certification standards;
- the general interpretation of particular requirements;
- examination of complex or sensitive situations;
- analysis of risks that could affect the scheme;
- advice on matters relating to the handling of complaints, appeals or other challenges;
- technical or methodological assessment of difficulties in applying a criterion or a corrective action plan;
- any situation that could affect the scheme's technical, methodological or ethical consistency.

The CEEL's areas of involvement reflect the responsibilities identified in the documents governing the committee's operation. The CEEL does not conduct audits, carry out conformity assessments or make individual certification decisions.

5.3.3 Nature of the opinions provided

When consulted on a technical, methodological or ethical matter, or a sensitive situation relating to the scheme's operation, the CEEL provides opinions, recommendations or reasoned analyses. These opinions inform analysis and decision-making but do not themselves constitute decisions. The CEEL's opinions and main discussions are appropriately documented, particularly through meeting minutes, written opinions or summary notes. These documents are retained in the scheme's document management system for 5 years. Access is managed in accordance with confidentiality and trade secret requirements.

5.3.4 Membership and diversity of expertise

CEEL members are selected for their skills, experience and ability to contribute to independent, reasoned analysis that draws on a range of perspectives. The committee aims for a balanced mix of expertise, experience and viewpoints relevant to the scheme. Its membership may include manufacturers, distributors, repairers, spare parts sector participants, professional organisations, producer responsibility organisations, conformity assessment experts, consumer or environmental organisations, academics, researchers and representatives of public or semi-public bodies. Members contribute to the CEEL's work on the basis of their expertise and exercise independent judgement. Belonging to a stakeholder category does not give them a mandate to represent that category. Members are selected through a documented assessment of their profile and potential contribution. Membership is conditional on acceptance of the applicable commitments concerning independence, conflicts of interest, confidentiality and ethical conduct. Members are appointed by the

scheme operator for a 3-year term, renewable following a review of their participation and the committee's overall composition. To ensure transparency, CEEL membership is made public, including, as a minimum, members' identities, their principal role or capacity and, where applicable, their organisational affiliation. Documents relating to members' admission are retained in the scheme's document management system.

5.3.5 Referral procedure

Matters are referred to the CEEL by the scheme operator, either on its own initiative or following a request made in the course of the scheme's operation. A referral may be made where a matter raises particular issues of objectivity, impartiality, technical consistency or ethical sensitivity. It may also be made where there is uncertainty about the interpretation of a criterion, an appeal or complaint requires further input, or a change to the certification standard calls for detailed examination. The CEEL meets as needed, according to the matters to be addressed, and all members are invited to participate. The agenda is circulated before the meeting, and committee members may propose additional items. Minutes are prepared after each meeting, recorded in the scheme's document management system and sent to all committee members. When a specific matter is referred to it, the CEEL examines the material provided in a documented file that enables it to issue a reasoned opinion or position within the relevant remit.

5.3.6 Independence, conflicts of interest and ethical framework

CEEL members exercise independent judgement in performing their duties and comply with the ethical framework set out in the committee's charter. They undertake to disclose any relationship, circumstance or interest that could raise reasonable doubt about their impartiality, particularly in relation to other committee members, a company concerned, a designer, a product supplier or any other stakeholder involved in a case under examination. Where such circumstances are identified, appropriate measures are taken, which may include abstaining from the work concerned.

CEEL members are also bound by obligations of confidentiality, integrity, discretion, mutual respect and prevention of collusion. In particular, they undertake not to disclose non-public information brought to their attention, not to use their membership for purposes unrelated to the CEEL's responsibilities, to report any change in circumstances that could affect their independence, and to refrain from discussions that could create a risk of unlawful collusion, particularly on pricing matters. A serious breach of these obligations may result in removal from the committee under the conditions set out in the CEEL charter.

5.4 Governance committee

Key decisions on the scheme are made through a governance mechanism comprising three constituencies:

- 1.** the scheme operator;
- 2.** non-economic stakeholders external to the scheme;
- 3.** economic stakeholders external to the scheme.

Each constituency expresses a consolidated position under the arrangements set out below. The governance mechanism is organised to ensure that a range of interests is taken into account and to prevent any participant or group of participants from exercising dominant influence.

5.4.1 Role and remit

The governance committee addresses key decisions on the scheme, including:

- the scheme's direction, including expansion into new sectors such as textiles;
- the structure of certification standards;
- certification rules;
- methodological and organisational changes.

It does not decide on the detailed technical content of criteria, including thresholds, calculation methods or specific technical requirements. These matters are addressed through the processes for developing and revising certification standards and, where appropriate, through the CEEL's expertise. The governance committee does not take part in conformity assessments, produce audit findings or make individual certification decisions.

5.4.2 Consultation and decision-making arrangements

Decisions are put to the three constituencies through meetings, written consultation or a combination of the two, depending on the matter. Each constituency expresses a consolidated position on the proposal under consideration. The scheme operator's position is determined under its internal decision-making rules. The external constituencies' positions are based on a reasoned examination of the material submitted for consultation. Their working arrangements are intended to take account of the range of views and interests concerned and prevent any participant or group of participants from exercising dominant influence. For any given consultation, each participant belongs to only one constituency. Multiple representatives of the same organisation or group count as a single contribution when establishing the quorum and the constituency's position. A constituency's consolidated position reflects the majority of validly expressed contributions. The validity of the external constituencies' positions depends on sufficient participation:

- for the non-economic stakeholder constituency, an absolute majority of its members must participate;
- for the economic stakeholder constituency, the consultation must receive at least three substantive contributions representing at least 20% of the members entitled to participate in that consultation. If applying this percentage produces a non-whole number, it is rounded up to the next whole number.

A constituency that does not meet the required participation conditions is considered not to have expressed a position. A decision is adopted when at least two of the three constituencies express an aligned position. Otherwise, the decision is deferred, reconsidered or referred for further consultation.

5.4.3 Impartiality, exceptional circumstances and traceability

Anyone contributing to a constituency's position must disclose any situation that could create a conflict of interest or compromise their impartiality. Where necessary, appropriate measures are taken, which may include abstaining from the decision-making process. In duly justified exceptional circumstances, particularly where there is an established risk to the scheme's integrity, regulatory compliance or consistency, the scheme operator may initiate a reassessment of the decision. This reassessment is based on further analysis of the available material and may, where appropriate, lead to a new consultation of the constituencies. Each constituency's position and the final decision are formally documented. This documentation includes the material submitted for decision, each constituency's position, the results of internal deliberations or votes, the decision adopted and its justification. These records are retained for at least 5 years in the scheme's document management system to demonstrate the traceability, impartiality and proper conduct of the decision-making process. They may be inspected by public oversight bodies.

6. Separation of functions

The LONGTIME® certification scheme maintains a strict separation of functions to ensure the independence, impartiality and credibility of the certification system. This separation is intended to prevent situations in which the same entity or body is involved in defining requirements, assessing conformity with them and making certification decisions. It is a fundamental principle of the scheme and applies to all certification activities.

6.1 Development of certification standards

The scheme operator is responsible for developing, revising and maintaining certification standards through structured, documented processes. This work draws on technical, scientific and regulatory analysis and stakeholder consultation. The Expert and Ethics Committee provides input on technical and methodological matters, particularly the relevance and robustness of requirements. The scheme operator's involvement is confined to this role; it does not participate in conformity assessment activities or certification decisions.

6.2 Third-party conformity assessment

Product conformity is assessed by an independent certification body acting as a third party. The body carries out the document reviews, audits and checks needed to assess whether products meet the requirements of the applicable certification standard. It uses formal assessment methods and qualified auditors to ensure reliable, consistent and reproducible results. Assessment activities are conducted independently, without intervention by the scheme manager.

6.3 Certification decision

Decisions to award, refuse, suspend or withdraw the label are the exclusive responsibility of the certification body appointed to oversee certification. The decision is based on the results of conformity assessment, the evidence reviewed and the decision rules established by the scheme. It is made independently, without intervention by the scheme manager or advisory bodies. The arrangements ensuring this independence are formalised in the contractual relationships between the scheme operator, Ethikis ad civis, and the certification bodies, to prevent influence over certification decisions.

6.4 Scheme oversight

The scheme operator oversees the LONGTIME® certification scheme as part of its responsibilities for managing and continually improving the system. This oversight aims to ensure:

- the proper functioning of the certification system;
- consistency in assessment practices;
- compliance of the scheme with applicable requirements;

- the credibility and integrity of the label over time.

The scheme operator therefore monitors assessment activities, analyses feedback from experience, identifies areas for improvement and implements the necessary changes.

Scheme oversight does not interfere with conformity assessment activities or certification decisions, which are the exclusive responsibility of the certification body. Where necessary, it draws on contributions from the governance bodies and the Expert and Ethics Committee within their respective areas of competence.

7. Risk management and scheme integrity

7.1 Risk identification and review

The LONGTIME® certification scheme takes a structured approach to identifying, analysing and reviewing risks that could affect its operation, credibility or integrity. This approach aims to anticipate situations that could compromise the impartiality of processes, the technical robustness of certification standards, the quality of assessments, the proper use of the label or the scheme's compliance with applicable requirements. Risk identification draws on complementary sources, including monitoring of regulatory, standards and sector developments, feedback from assessments, observations from certification bodies and applicants, and work undertaken through the scheme's governance arrangements. The scheme also uses a documented process map and formal process management arrangements. This document serves as a reference for identifying critical points in the system, analysing associated risks, monitoring their control and periodically reviewing how they evolve.

7.2 Risk categories

Risks identified within the scheme include, but are not limited to, the following categories.

- Impartiality risks: situations that could compromise the independence of assessments, the objectivity of opinions or the neutrality of decisions, particularly through conflicts of interest, dependency or undue influence.
- Technical credibility risks: the relevance, robustness and currency of certification standards and assessment methods, particularly where criteria become outdated, requirements are imprecise or interpretations diverge.
- Competence and assessment consistency risks: the ability of certification bodies and auditors to apply certification standards competently, consistently and uniformly.
- Risks relating to use of the label and the scope of the claim: misuse, misleading use or non-compliant use of the label, ambiguous communications, excessive environmental claims or practices amounting to greenwashing.
- Post-certification surveillance risks: the system's ability to detect and address product changes, incidents, organisational changes or non-compliant uses that could call certified conformity into question.
- Data, confidentiality and information system risks: the protection, traceability and security of technical, commercial or industrial information collected under the scheme.
- Risks relating to the overall operation of the system: the proper application of procedures, consistency of practices, information flow, traceability of decisions and maintenance of the level of requirements.
- Risks relating to market effects and the scheme's development: indirect effects of the label's development, particularly on affordability, innovation, market pressure,

perceptions of the label as a premium offering, or the balance between durability, sufficiency and repairing existing products.

7.3 Control and prevention measures

The scheme implements control measures to prevent identified risks from arising and limit their potential effects. These measures are based primarily on formal scheme rules, documented processes, traceable activities and clearly defined responsibilities for each function. They also rely on the separation of functions between the development of certification standards, conformity assessment, certification decisions and scheme oversight.

Controls for impartiality risks rely particularly on requirements to declare interests, mechanisms for managing conflicts of interest, the involvement of an independent certification body, and defined roles for the scheme manager, the Expert and Ethics Committee and governance bodies. Controls for technical risks rely on continuous monitoring of developments, procedures for developing, revising and amending certification standards, stakeholder consultation, and input from the Expert and Ethics Committee on technical or methodological matters. Controls for risks relating to use of the label rely on clear rules of use, defined limits on permitted communications, publication of publicly accessible information, and the ability to implement corrective or precautionary measures in the event of non-compliant use.

7.4 Monitoring and feedback

The scheme continuously monitors its operation to verify that procedures are properly applied, practices are consistent and the control measures in place are effective. This monitoring draws particularly on feedback collected after assessments. Feedback is systematically requested from both applicants and auditors to identify difficulties, any differences in interpretation and areas for improvement. The scheme operator also observes an audit conducted by a certification body at least once every 3 years. The purpose of this observation is to verify that procedures are properly applied, scheme requirements are respected and practices are consistent with the expected quality standards. It does not interfere with conformity assessment or the certification decision. Information from this monitoring is analysed and incorporated into scheme management and periodic risk reviews.

7.5 Handling critical situations

When a risk materialises or a critical situation is identified, the scheme operator takes action appropriate to the nature and severity of the situation. This may involve further analysis, input from the Expert and Ethics Committee, consultation with governance bodies, corrective action, changes to particular scheme arrangements or, where necessary, precautionary measures. Critical situations may include a major difficulty in interpretation, repeated failure to apply the scheme correctly, a threat to impartiality, an identified weakness in a certification standard, or non-compliant use of the label that could undermine its credibility. Every identified critical situation is recorded and followed up to ensure complete traceability of the facts, analyses, decisions and actions taken. The record includes, as a minimum, the detection

date, the source of the report, a description of the facts, the analysis undertaken, the measures decided upon, those responsible for implementation, the associated deadlines and the status of the case.

7.6 Continual improvement and scheme integrity

Risk management forms part of the continual improvement of the LONGTIME® certification scheme. Lessons from monitoring, feedback, identified incidents and the handling of critical situations inform periodic scheme reviews, changes to certification standards and, where necessary, adjustments to procedures. This approach aims to maintain the scheme's technical credibility, impartiality, consistency and integrity over time, together with its alignment with its environmental objectives, the requirements applicable to Type I ecolabels and stakeholder expectations. To ensure that these changes are traceable and consistent, the scheme uses a structured documentation system. A central register of versions and amendments is maintained at scheme level. It records all changes to certification standards, including their nature, justification, adoption and effective dates, and status. This register provides overall traceability for the scheme. It enables the consistency of changes over time to be checked, ensures transparency of decisions and demonstrates, during audits, compliance with procedures for developing, revising and amending certification standards. The scheme operator keeps the register up to date within the document management system, alongside the change logs for individual certification standards.

8. Independent certification body

Conformity of products with the LONGTIME® scheme is verified by one or more certification bodies acting as independent third parties. Under the Rules Governing Use of the LONGTIME® Mark, the right to use the mark is conditional on obtaining a certificate issued by an appointed certification body. The LONGTIME® Scheme Rules specify that Ethikis manages the certification system, particularly the certification standard and the arrangements for awarding certification, meaning the relationship with authorised certification bodies. The LONGTIME® Certification Standard also stipulates that conformity assessment is carried out exclusively by an approved, independent certification body. Ethikis takes no part in audits or certification decisions.

8.1 Principle of third-party delegation

Assessment of product conformity with the LONGTIME® certification standard is delegated to an independent certification body acting as a third party. Depending on the rules applicable to the case, this delegation covers the initial audit, surveillance activities, review of evidence, classification of non-conformities, review of corrective action plans and decisions on granting, maintaining, renewing, extending, reducing, suspending or withdrawing certification. This delegation is based on the rules of use, the LONGTIME® Scheme Rules and the applicable contractual terms between the scheme and the certification body concerned.

8.2 Role and responsibilities

The certification body organises and conducts conformity assessment in accordance with its own certification rules and the requirements of the LONGTIME® scheme. It verifies that the product or products conform to the applicable certification standard, prepares the audit report and formally records any non-conformities identified. The scheme manager provides the certification body with current versions of the documents needed to carry out LONGTIME® assessments, including applicable certification standards, assessment grids, evidence requirements, templates and relevant instructions. The certification body ensures that its auditors use only the applicable versions supplied by the scheme manager. The company being audited proposes the required corrective actions in a corrective action plan. The certification body reviews their relevance and completeness and closes non-conformities only after verifying evidence that the corrective actions have been implemented and are effective. Once conformity is established, the certification body issues the LONGTIME® certificate under its own certification conditions. The certification decision is its exclusive responsibility. The LONGTIME® certificates and certification documents issued remain the property of the certification body under the conditions set out in its applicable documents. They cannot be amended unilaterally.

8.3 Oversight arrangements

The scheme operator oversees the proper functioning of the delegation arrangements without intervening in audit findings or individual certification decisions. This oversight aims

to ensure consistency across the system, adherence to the LONGTIME® documentation framework, proper understanding and application of certification standards, overall monitoring of auditor competence, distribution of updates and continual improvement of the scheme. The separation between scheme governance and conformity assessment is formalised in the LONGTIME® Certification Standard. Auditor competence is governed by the LONGTIME® auditor training plan, which includes an initial test, a documentation package, training on criteria, evidence requirements, the audit process, reports and scope extensions, followed by a final assessment and ongoing monitoring.

Agreements with certification bodies may supplement these arrangements, for example through a post-audit status report, monitoring of the training offered, or periodic observation of an audit by the scheme operator, subject to the audited company's agreement. In the latter case, the scheme manager's presence is strictly limited to silent observation. It entails no involvement in audit preparation, the collection or analysis of evidence, the formulation of findings, the classification or closure of non-conformities, or the certification decision.

8.4 Management of conflicts of interest

The certification body must provide sufficient assurances of independence, impartiality and confidentiality. It implements its own procedures to prevent, identify and address conflicts of interest that could affect assessment assignments, audits or certification decisions. Where a risk to impartiality is identified, the applicable conditions may provide for the assignment to be declined, reassigned, suspended or discontinued. Where external auditors are used or some audit activities are subcontracted, the certification body remains responsible for the assessment, for ensuring the competence of those involved and for the certification decision. Complaints, appeals and challenges relating to an assessment or certification decision are handled through the applicable mechanisms of the responsible certification body and the dedicated procedures described in [Part VII](#). The LONGTIME® scheme may handle complaints about its own operation without intervening in conformity assessment or certification decisions.

8.5 Exceptional or additional audits

Conformity verification is not limited to the initial audit. The right to use LONGTIME® is granted for 3 years, subject to compliance with the surveillance measures defined by the certification body. Agreements with certification bodies may provide for an initial audit, a surveillance audit and the assessments needed to maintain and renew certification during the certificate's validity period. Exceptional, additional, detailed or unannounced audits may be conducted where evidence calls continued conformity into question, where there is a significant change to the certified scope, an incident or a serious non-conformity, or where the applicable surveillance conditions require them. Refusal to undergo these checks is assessed under the rules of the responsible certification body and may lead to suspension or withdrawal of certification, as appropriate.

8.6 Conditions for delegation

LONGTIME® verification activities may be delegated only to a body certified to ISO 17065 that is able to act as an independent third party. The body must provide sufficient assurances of competence, impartiality, confidentiality and control over its assessment and certification decision-making processes. These assurances are assessed on the basis of its experience in auditing, conformity assessment or product certification, its internal procedures, its ability to engage qualified auditors and its ability to operate within the relevant technical, geographical and linguistic scopes. The assessment may also take account of the absence of known sanctions, convictions or serious breaches directly linked to auditing, certification, fraud, falsification or failures of impartiality. The certification body applies LONGTIME® scheme documents, uses auditors trained in the scheme and makes its decisions independently. It remains responsible for the assessment, including where it uses external auditors or subcontracts some audit activities. These requirements are formalised in agreements with certification bodies and supplemented by the LONGTIME® auditor training plan.

PART III

LONGTIME® CORE CERTIFICATION STANDARD

9. Purpose, scope and structure

9.1 Role of the core certification standard

The LONGTIME® core certification standard provides the common framework for all product categories covered by the certification scheme. It defines the structure of requirements, cross-cutting criteria, assessment principles, evidence requirements and conformity rules. It aims to ensure:

- a consistent methodology across the scheme;
- consistency of the environmental claim conveyed by the label;
- uniform treatment across product categories.

It establishes a common set of product durability requirements, particularly concerning reliability, reparability and consideration of significant life-cycle impacts. It also aims to distinguish, using measurable and verifiable criteria, products with superior environmental performance, particularly in terms of how long they remain in use. The core certification standard provides the overarching structure. It is not intended to describe all product-specific technical details, which are set out in the sector-specific certification standards. This relationship combines a common framework with technical relevance.

9.2 General structure of the certification standard

The LONGTIME® core certification standard is structured around 38 cross-cutting criteria, which form the scheme's common assessment baseline. These criteria follow a hierarchical structure based on:

- three groups of requirements: reliability, reparability and life cycle;
- nine operational categories covering the main aspects of durability, including design, production, quality, use, reparability and after-sales service.

Each criterion follows a standardised structure comprising:

- a cross-cutting requirement;
- associated forms of evidence;
- conformity assessment rules;
- sector-specific specifications, where applicable.

This structure makes the certification standard clear, ensures traceability of requirements and enables reproducible assessments. The number, structure and wording of criteria are set out

in the current version of the standard and evolve through the scheme's revision and amendment procedures, in accordance with the non-regression principle.

9.3 Cross-cutting criteria

The cross-cutting criteria form the scheme's common set of requirements. In principle, they apply to all product categories unless a sector-specific certification standard explicitly provides for an adaptation. They express the minimum level of requirements needed to substantiate the environmental claim conveyed by the label, particularly in relation to product reliability, ability to be repaired, the organisation of after-sales service and consideration of significant environmental impacts. They also address fitness for use and functional performance, ensuring that improvements in durability do not compromise the product's primary function. These criteria serve two purposes:

- to provide a common, comparable basis for assessment across product categories;
- to structure the sector-specific certification standards, which specify how the criteria are applied.

They are defined so that they can be assessed objectively, measured and verified by an independent certification body, in accordance with the requirements applicable to Type I ecolabels.

9.4 Hierarchy of criteria

The requirements of the core certification standard are organised into complementary levels to support assessment that is rigorous, progressive and verifiable.

9.4.1 Time-based classification (T0 / T1)

Each cross-cutting criterion is assigned a status:

- T0 criteria must be met in full at the initial audit;
- T1 criteria may be brought into conformity progressively.

T1 criteria

Criteria that are not met require corrective action, with 100% conformity mandatory by year N+1. At the initial audit, the applicant must demonstrate conformity with at least 70% of the total number of applicable T1 criteria. Non-conformity with up to 30% of applicable T1 criteria is permitted, subject to:

- formal identification of the non-conformities;
- establishment of a corrective action plan;
- approval of the action plan by the certification body;
- a formal commitment by the applicant to its corrective action plan.

Meeting these thresholds is a necessary condition for certification. Any non-conformity that remains unresolved beyond the 12-month deadline may call certification into question. The evidence requirements for establishing conformity with the criteria are defined in the assessment methodology described in [Chapter 10](#).

Other mechanisms

Some criteria use classes, particularly for repairability, to adapt the required level to the product's technical characteristics. Cross-cutting requirements may also be supplemented by sector-specific specifications (PSR), which set out how they are applied. Together, these mechanisms balance the level of requirements, practical applicability and verifiability.

9.5 Relationship with sector-specific certification standards

Sector-specific certification standards translate the core certification standard into operational requirements for a given product category. The core certification standard defines the scheme's cross-cutting criteria and common principles. Sector-specific certification standards specify how they apply in light of the technical and functional characteristics of the products concerned and how they are used. In particular, they define:

- the product scope;
- technical assessment parameters;
- the applicable sector-specific specifications (PSR).

Arrangements for setting parameters, making adaptations and handling non-applicable requirements are defined in the provisions on sector-specific certification standards in [Sections 12.3](#) and [12.4](#).

10. Assessment methodology

10.1 Assessment of criteria

Products are assessed against the LONGTIME® certification standard by determining conformity with each criterion individually, based on analysis of the evidence and findings from the assessment. Each criterion receives one of two outcomes:

- conforming;
- non-conforming.

This approach is intended to make results clear, ensure transparency in the assessment process and enable reproducible conclusions. Some criteria may include technical parameters or classes. In these cases, the assessment determines whether the required level has been achieved, without assigning a mark or score. The assessment system does not allow criteria to offset one another. Conformity with one criterion cannot compensate for non-conformity with another, since each requirement is considered necessary to the robustness of the environmental claim. Assessment results are recorded in a structured grid that ensures traceability of:

- the criteria assessed;
- the evidence reviewed;
- the findings made;
- the corresponding conformity conclusions.

The certification decision is based on the conformity rules set out in this document, not on an aggregate score.

10.2 Evidence requirements

Assessment of product conformity with the LONGTIME® certification standard involves examining evidence that establishes compliance with each criterion objectively, traceably and verifiably. Evidence may be documentary, technical or operational. It includes test reports, technical documents, procedures, records, audit observations and any other relevant material capable of demonstrating conformity. Evidence requirements are defined for each criterion in the certification standard. They are classified to specify the level of evidence expected to demonstrate conformity:

- mandatory evidence, which must be provided to establish conformity with the criterion concerned;
- priority evidence, expected in the first instance because of its reliability, traceability and robustness;
- secondary evidence, which may supplement priority evidence or be used where it is unavailable, subject to relevance and credibility;
- non-applicable (NA) situations, where the nature of the criterion or product does not warrant a particular type of evidence.

This classification is based on the reliability, traceability and verifiability of the material provided. It directs assessment towards the most robust evidence while allowing adaptation to the technical and operational realities of the products assessed. The certification body assesses conformity on the basis of the material supplied, which it may supplement with observations, interviews or checks carried out during the audit. It ensures that the evidence presented is consistent, complete and credible. Where more than one form of evidence is admissible for a criterion, the certification body gives preference to the most reliable and verifiable evidence.

10.3 Equivalence of evidence methods

Where priority or secondary evidence requirements refer to test standards or standardised methods, the certification standard gives preference to international standards, particularly ISO standards, or, where these are unavailable, European (EN) or recognised national standards. For these evidence categories, a standard or method other than the one explicitly specified may nevertheless be accepted, provided that the applicant can demonstrate its technical and methodological equivalence. The certification body assesses equivalence in terms of:

- the purpose of the test;
- the conditions under which it is carried out;
- the parameters measured;
- the required level and the precision of results.

The applicant must provide the supporting material needed to assess equivalence. Acceptance of an alternative standard must never reduce the level of requirements or the reliability of the assessment. Where mandatory evidence requirements refer to a specific standard, they must be met in accordance with that standard unless the certification standard explicitly provides otherwise.

10.4 Conditions for conformity

Product conformity with the LONGTIME® certification standard is assessed against all applicable criteria, in accordance with the hierarchy rules defined in [Section 9.4](#). A product is considered to conform to the certification standard when all the following conditions are met:

- all applicable T0 criteria are met;
- at least 70% of applicable T1 criteria are met at the end of the initial audit;
- any T1 criteria that are not met are covered by a formally documented and approved corrective action plan.

Full conformity with T1 criteria must be achieved within a maximum of 12 months after the initial audit. The assessment of conformity is based solely on the evidence reviewed and the findings made during the assessment, in accordance with the arrangements set out in this document. No offsetting between criteria is permitted. Conformity with one criterion can never compensate for non-conformity with another. The conditions defined in this section are necessary for a favourable product assessment against the certification standard.

10.5 Acceptability of evidence

Evidence supplied for the assessment must be sufficiently reliable, traceable and relevant to establish conformity with the criteria in the certification standard. The certification body assesses whether evidence is acceptable on the basis of its ability to demonstrate compliance with applicable requirements objectively and verifiably. Evidence may be considered admissible where:

- it is clearly linked to the product or product reference assessed;
- it covers the scope of the criterion concerned;
- it is consistent with the other material supplied;
- it is sufficiently documented, dated and identifiable.

Conversely, evidence may be rejected where it cannot reliably establish conformity, particularly where:

- a clear link between the evidence and the product assessed cannot be established;
- there are significant inconsistencies between the material supplied and the findings made;
- information essential to interpreting the results is missing;
- the evidence is manifestly insufficient, incomplete or unverifiable.

Where several types of evidence are admissible for the same criterion, the certification body gives preference to those offering the highest levels of reliability and independence. Evidence from independent third-party organisations, such as external testing laboratories, is therefore preferred to internally generated evidence unless equivalent reliability can be demonstrated. Rejection of a form of evidence does not in itself establish non-conformity with the criterion. It means that additional evidence is needed before a conformity decision can be made.

11. Development and revision of the core certification standard

11.1 Frequency of revisions to the core certification standard

The LONGTIME® core certification standard undergoes comprehensive revisions to maintain a stable assessment framework while adapting to technical, regulatory, standards-related and environmental developments. Comprehensive revisions result in a new major version of the core certification standard. Unless there is a duly justified need, a new major version cannot take effect until at least 3 years after the previous version took effect. A major version of the core certification standard has a lifespan of 3 to 5 years. A new comprehensive revision is initiated before the end of that period at the latest. Between comprehensive revisions, the core certification standard may undergo exceptional minor or major amendments without a change of major version.

11.2 Regulatory and standards analysis

The development and revision of the LONGTIME® core certification standard are based on structured regulatory and standards analysis intended to ensure that the scheme's requirements are relevant, compliant and robust. This analysis identifies, examines and incorporates applicable or relevant references, particularly concerning durability, repairability, environmental performance and product life cycles. It draws particularly on:

- regulations applicable to the products concerned;
- relevant international, European or national standards, such as those referred to in [Chapter 4](#);
- available scientific and technical work;
- comparable certification standards, labels or schemes that may help improve the scheme.

The analysis ensures consistency with the current regulatory framework, identifies developments that could affect requirements or assessment methods, sets an appropriate level of requirements, where relevant above minimum requirements, and ensures that the certification standard is internationally compatible. It forms part of development, revision and continuous monitoring activities. Its findings inform the definition, adjustment and justification of the certification standard's requirements.

11.3 Review procedure

Every proposed change to the core certification standard, whether a comprehensive revision or an exceptional amendment, undergoes a structured, documented and traceable review. The review begins with an internal technical analysis by the scheme management team. This assesses the relevance of the proposed change, identifies criteria that may be affected, evaluates the consequences for assessment arrangements and compiles an analysis file. Where the nature or extent of the change warrants it, the review includes consultation with

relevant stakeholders using arrangements suited to the subject. Consultation may take various forms, including interviews, working groups, questionnaires, written consultation or public consultation. As needed, it involves relevant economic, technical, institutional, academic, environmental and consumer representative stakeholders within the scope of the certification standard. Stakeholders are selected on the basis of their expertise, representativeness and connection to the issues addressed by the standard. The review process ensures transparency, equitable access to information and prevention of dominant influence. Participants declare any conflict of interest that could influence their contributions.

Where the nature, complexity or sensitivity of a proposed change warrants it, the Expert and Ethics Committee may be consulted for technical, methodological, environmental or ethical input. Such referrals remain within its areas of involvement defined in [Section 5.3.2](#). All analyses, contributions, opinions and determinations made during the review procedure are documented and archived in the scheme's document management system.

11.4 Approval and formal adoption of the core certification standard

Changes to the LONGTIME® core certification standard, whether comprehensive revisions or amendments, undergo formal approval proportionate to their impact. Changes are classified at three levels:

- minor changes: editorial adjustments, clarifications, corrections or additional detail that do not affect the level of requirements;
- intermediate changes: modifications to a limited number of criteria or to how they are applied;
- major changes: significant modifications to the level of requirements, the structure of the certification standard or its normative framework.

This classification is based particularly on the nature of the changes, the number of criteria affected and their impact on the standard's level of requirements. Minor changes are approved by the scheme operator. Intermediate changes involve consultation with relevant stakeholders, including certification bodies and, where appropriate, the CEEL. Major changes undergo detailed analysis, broader consultation, consultation with the CEEL and approval through the governance mechanism set out in [Section 5.4](#). Approval of the standard is formally documented, including the adopted version, the main changes and the adoption date. Approval is a prerequisite for assigning a version identifier, publication and entry into force of the version concerned.

11.5 Exceptional amendments to the core certification standard

Outside comprehensive revisions, the core certification standard may undergo exceptional amendments to respond to an immediate legislative or standards-related development, correct an error or inconsistency, clarify a requirement or adapt a criterion to a documented technical, sector-specific or geographical characteristic. Exceptional amendments fall into two categories:

- minor amendments, which do not change the standard's overall level of requirements;

- major amendments, which substantially modify a requirement, threshold, criterion or verification arrangement and may affect conformity.

A minor amendment may include an editorial clarification, rewording, correction of a clerical error, update to a normative reference or local adaptation that maintains an equivalent level of requirements. A major amendment may include a more demanding threshold, the addition or removal of a criterion, a substantial change to a form of evidence or a change to the scope of verification of a key requirement. No change may be adopted if it would reduce the scheme's fundamental requirements, create an unjustified disparity between certificate holders or weaken the credibility of the environmental claim conveyed by the label.

11.6 Version identification, entry into force and traceability

Every adopted version of the LONGTIME® core certification standard is clearly identified so that its nature, chronological sequence, adoption date, effective date and any associated transitional provisions can be established. Comprehensive revisions result in a new major version of the core certification standard. Exceptional amendments made between revisions are assigned identifiers, published and made binding under the scheme's arrangements without necessarily changing the major version. They may subsequently be incorporated into a consolidated version of the standard.

Unless a specific provision expressly states otherwise, amendments and revisions take effect only from their official effective date. They do not apply retrospectively to assessments or decisions already made under an earlier version. The effective date is communicated to certificate holders, certification bodies and, where relevant, the public. Minor amendments may take effect on publication. Major amendments normally require at least 3 months' notice, except in a regulatory emergency or where a duly justified overriding requirement applies. Changes to the core certification standard are documented to ensure traceability of:

- the origin of the change;
- the analyses undertaken;
- the contributions received;
- any opinions provided;
- the classification assigned;
- the approval decision;
- the version or amendment identifier;
- evidence of publication;
- the effective date;
- any transitional measures.

The associated documents, including analysis notes, supporting files, opinions, minutes, amendment notices, internal registers and successive versions, are archived in the scheme's document management system so that proper compliance with the procedure can be verified retrospectively. Arrangements for making certification standards and information on applicable versions publicly available are defined in [Sections 25.1](#) and [25.3](#).

11.7 Transitional arrangements for certificate holders

Where warranted by their nature or scope, changes to the core certification standard may be accompanied by transitional arrangements to ensure predictable requirements, equitable treatment of certificate holders and continuity of the certification system. These arrangements are determined by the type of change, its impact on conformity, the extent of adaptation required of certificate holders and, where applicable, the critical nature of the requirements being modified. The applicable arrangements are specified in the published version of the standard or the corresponding amendment notice and communicated to certificate holders through formal procedures.

11.7.1 Deadlines for achieving conformity

Deadlines for achieving conformity are set according to the nature of the adopted change. A minor amendment may apply immediately, without a specific period for achieving conformity, requiring only that the clarifications or adjustments be taken into account. For a major amendment that strengthens a requirement or substantially changes how conformity must be demonstrated, certificate holders are normally given at least 3 months' notice before it takes effect. This allows them to adapt their practices, commitments or evidence of conformity. Where an amendment relaxes a requirement or clarifies it without increasing the holder's obligations, it may apply from the date specified in the corresponding notice. For a comprehensive revision, new requirements apply in accordance with the rules for reassessing certificate holders, to avoid retrospectively calling into question situations already assessed.

11.7.2 Effects on the validity of certification

The effect of a change to the certification standard on the validity of certification depends on the nature of the change.

Minor amendments do not, in themselves, affect the validity of existing certifications. Certificate holders apply the new wording or evidence methods at their next audit, surveillance or renewal activities. Major amendments may directly affect continued conformity. Where they concern a criterion considered critical to product durability, LONGTIME® may require an additional document review or on-site verification to ensure that the holder has effectively implemented the change without any lapse in conformity. Following a comprehensive revision, the holder continues to be assessed against the previous version of the certification standard until its next renewal audit. At that point, it must demonstrate conformity with the new applicable version. This approach ensures equitable treatment of certificate holders while allowing requirements to become progressively more demanding.

PART IV

LONGTIME® SECTOR-SPECIFIC CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

12. Definition and scope

12.1 Product category and scope boundaries

A LONGTIME® sector-specific certification standard applies to a product category whose technical characteristics, functions and durability considerations form a coherent whole. The category is defined through an analysis of technical factors, relevant standards and the market, to identify a coherent group of products that can be assessed against common requirements. The definition specifies the product types included, the functions covered, the main technical variants concerned and the conditions of use taken into account in the assessment. Where significant technical differences warrant it, the standard may distinguish between product subcategories or subfamilies. This segmentation must be based on objective criteria and must not artificially isolate products to make compliance easier. The scope must ensure consistent assessment, comparable results and a relevant environmental claim. It must not include product categories whose nature, use or conditions for being placed on the market would be incompatible with fundamental safety or environmental protection requirements, or with the scheme's ethical principles. The conditions for developing a sector-specific certification standard for a product category are set out in [Chapters 13](#) and [14](#).

12.2 Exclusions and borderline cases

The sector-specific certification standard explicitly identifies products excluded from its scope. These exclusions cover:

- products whose technical characteristics or uses differ significantly from those covered;
- products to which the scheme's requirements cannot meaningfully be applied;
- products whose assessment would not support a robust environmental claim in line with the scheme's principles.

Borderline cases undergo a specific analysis, documented as part of the standard development process. This analysis determines whether they should be included, excluded or covered by a separate standard. The resulting decisions are recorded and justified to ensure that the scope is coherent and its boundaries can be applied consistently. Where the analysis shows that the existing standard is unsuitable, the development of a separate sector-specific certification standard is considered under the conditions set out in [Chapters 13](#).

12.3 Consistency with the core certification standard and non-applicable criteria

Sector-specific certification standards must comply with the principles, cross-cutting criteria and general conditions established by the core certification standard. Sector-specific adaptations must not lower the scheme's overall level of requirements. They specify how the cross-cutting criteria apply and may identify certain criteria as non-applicable where the characteristics of the product category justify this. A criterion may be declared non-applicable only if it has no technical or functional relevance to the product's characteristics, technology or normal conditions of use. The criteria concerned must be explicitly identified and their non-applicability justified in the applicable sector-specific certification standard. The use of non-applicable criteria must not artificially lower the level of requirements or undermine the robustness of the environmental claim conveyed by the label.

12.4 Setting sector-specific criteria

Sector-specific certification standards adapt the criteria in the core certification standard to the characteristics of the product category concerned. This may involve defining technical thresholds, specifying assessment procedures, introducing sector-specific specifications or adapting the forms of evidence required. Requirements are defined on the basis of technical analysis, analysis of relevant standards, available data and consultation with relevant stakeholders. The choices made must be supported by documented, traceable justification establishing their relevance, level of stringency and consistency with the scheme's objectives. Requirements must be worded so that an independent certification body can verify them. The "mandatory / supplementary" classification applies exclusively to PSR. The T0 / T1 classification by compliance deadline applies exclusively to the 38 cross-cutting criteria in the core certification standard.

12.4.1 Mandatory and supplementary PSR

Sector-specific specifications (PSR) clarify or supplement the requirements of the core certification standard to reflect the characteristics of a particular product category.

- Mandatory PSR are sector-specific requirements that a product must meet to comply. Any PSR not explicitly marked "Supplementary" is deemed mandatory.
- Supplementary PSR are additional sector-specific requirements that contribute to the scheme's durability objectives, but meeting each one individually is not an absolute condition of certification. They are explicitly marked "Supplementary".

The number of supplementary PSR must not exceed half the number of mandatory PSR applicable to the sector-specific certification standard. To be certified, a product must meet:

- 100% of applicable mandatory PSR;
- at least 80% of applicable supplementary PSR.

The compliance rate for supplementary PSR is calculated using the number of supplementary PSR applicable to the product. Where applying the 80% threshold produces a minimum number of PSR that is not a whole number, it is rounded up to the next whole number.

Supplementary PSR that remain unmet within the permitted limit do not constitute certification non-conformities and do not give rise to any obligation to meet them later.

PSR classification method

PSR are classified as mandatory or supplementary using a documented method applied consistently when developing sector-specific certification standards. Each PSR is assessed against four factors:

- its importance to product durability, particularly its effect on reliability, repairability, maintainability or long-term use;
- the strength of its technical basis, in light of available standards, market data, benchmarks, field data or expert input;
- its technological neutrality, to ensure that a mandatory requirement does not unduly favour one technical solution where several approaches can achieve the same objective;
- its maturity, assessed in particular against available data and experience gained.

These factors are assessed using an internal evaluation matrix to support the classification selected. The result and its justification are retained in the standard development file. Any classification decision that departs from the matrix result must be justified and recorded. The classification may be reconsidered when the standard is revised if new data warrant it.

13. Conditions for developing a sector-specific certification standard

13.1 Sector-specific justification

A LONGTIME® sector-specific certification standard may be developed only where a product category has been identified for which a specific durability assessment is relevant, given the scheme's environmental objectives set out in [Chapter 1](#) and the limitations of existing standards. If a product submitted for certification does not explicitly fall within the scope of an existing sector-specific certification standard, an analysis is carried out to determine whether it can be assigned to a category already covered, provided this is technically and functionally consistent. The analysis considers, in particular, the products' technical characteristics, uses, functions, failure risks, repairability issues and relevant environmental impacts. There are two possible outcomes:

- Where the analysis shows that the products cannot be assessed adequately under the available standards, the development of a separate sector-specific certification standard may be considered.
- Where the analysis finds that the products are compatible with an existing standard, that standard may be amended to clarify or extend its scope. The amendment is made under the conditions set out in [Chapter 15](#). It must be supported by documented justification and must neither lower the level of requirements nor compromise the coherence of the standard.

All these analyses are formally recorded and documented.

13.2 Analysis of environmental relevance and product differentiation

A sector-specific certification standard may be developed only where product lifetime raises significant environmental issues and products can be differentiated on the basis of durability, repairability and reliability criteria. The analysis seeks to establish that extending the period of use can reduce impacts associated with manufacture, use or end of life, and that this is a relevant means of achieving the scheme's objectives. It also takes account of potential rebound effects or environmental limitations associated with prolonged use, particularly where improvements in the energy or environmental performance of replacement products could change the environmental benefit of keeping existing products in use. It also seeks to verify that objective technical requirements can be defined, that significant differences in performance between products can be identified, and that these differences can be reliably verified. A sector-specific certification standard must not be developed where the environmental issues associated with product lifetime are insufficiently established, where product performance is too uniform to allow meaningful differentiation, or where the proposed requirements cannot establish a robust distinction between products. The analysis draws on available data, reference studies, sector analyses, stakeholder consultations or practical experience. A summary is always included in Chapter III, "Impact of product durability", of the sector-specific certification standards.

13.3 Technical and operational feasibility

A sector-specific certification standard may be developed only if applicable, measurable and verifiable requirements can be defined. Feasibility depends on the availability of suitable assessment methods and usable forms of evidence, and on certification bodies' ability to carry out reliable, reproducible assessments in accordance with the applicable requirements set out in [Section 8.6](#) and [Chapter 10](#), particularly those concerning competence, independence and assessment capacity. Where these conditions are not met, development of the standard is deferred or abandoned.

13.4 Decision to proceed

The scheme manager decides whether to begin developing a sector-specific certification standard, on the basis of the analyses required by this chapter. The decision is formally recorded and traceable. Where appropriate, it may draw on the scheme's governance bodies or the Expert and Ethics Committee, particularly where technical, methodological or ethical considerations warrant their involvement. The decision must not be based on a request from an individual economic operator; it must rest on an objective assessment of the standard's relevance, impact and feasibility. Where appropriate, the decision may be not to proceed with development. The associated analyses and decisions are documented, retained and made available for audit.

14. Development process for sector-specific certification standards

14.1 Preliminary analysis and technical scoping

The development of a LONGTIME® sector-specific certification standard begins with a preliminary analysis phase intended to define the technical, environmental and operational framework for the future standard. This phase falls within the conditions for development set out in [Chapter 13](#) and is intended to confirm the relevance of the project, define its scope more precisely and identify the main issues associated with the product category concerned.

The preliminary analysis is based on a review of the available material, including applicable regulatory and standards references, relevant scientific and technical work, and practices observed in the market. Where relevant, it may also include a comparative analysis of existing certification standards, labels or schemes.

It defines the proposed product scope, consistently with the principles established in [Chapter 12](#), by identifying the types of products concerned, their main technical characteristics and their conditions of use.

This phase also identifies durability issues specific to the category under consideration, particularly in relation to reliability, reparability, time in use and, more broadly, environmental impacts throughout the life cycle.

The results of the preliminary analysis are formalised in a structured working framework that provides the basis for developing the certification standard. They are documented and retained in the scheme management system to ensure traceability and justification of the choices made.

14.2 Identification and consultation of stakeholders

The development of LONGTIME® sector-specific certification standards includes stakeholder consultation to ensure the relevance, technical robustness and acceptability of the requirements established.

Stakeholders are identified according to their expertise, representativeness and connection with the product category concerned. They may include, in particular:

- manufacturers;
- distributors;
- repairers;
- professional organisations;
- technical bodies;
- consumer representatives;
- circular economy organisations and participants;
- academic or institutional experts.

The consultation seeks input on durability issues, the feasibility of requirements, existing practices and assessment arrangements. It is organised using methods suited to the context of the certification standard, which may include written consultations, interviews, working groups or open consultations.

The consultation process is conducted in a manner that balances contributions and prevents any participant or group of participants from exercising dominant influence. Participants are invited to disclose any conflict of interest that could affect their contribution.

The contributions received are analysed in a structured manner. How they are taken into account, and the resulting decisions, are documented to ensure process traceability. For significant contributions, this documentation identifies the subject of the contribution, whether it was taken into account in full or in part or, where applicable, the reasons for not incorporating it.

Contributions and the associated summary material are retained in the scheme's document management system.

14.3 Development, consultation and finalisation of the sector-specific certification standard

On the basis of the preliminary analysis and stakeholder contributions, the sector-specific certification standard is developed progressively and in a structured manner. An initial working draft is prepared, incorporating requirements from the core certification standard adapted to the characteristics of the product category concerned, together with technical parameters, evidence requirements and assessment arrangements.

The draft undergoes successive iterations to refine the requirements, test their applicability and strengthen their consistency. Requirements are defined so that they can be objectively assessed, measured and verified, while remaining technically feasible and capable of meaningfully differentiating products.

Where necessary, an intermediate version may be subject to broader consultation for a limited period, generally between four and six weeks, and circulated to identified stakeholders and the relevant public. Contributions received are analysed in a structured manner.

Decisions are made against explicit criteria: consistency with the scheme's environmental objectives, scientific and technical robustness, compliance with the regulatory and standards framework, verifiability of requirements and operational applicability. They are based on documented material and their justification is traceable. The CEEL may be consulted where a decision raises a particular technical, methodological or ethical issue.

Consultation results inform decisions but cannot, on their own, justify a decision that conflicts with the applicable regulatory framework, relevant standards references, established scientific and technical knowledge or the scheme's environmental objectives.

At the end of this process, the sector-specific certification standard is finalised by incorporating the selected requirements, the associated assessment arrangements and, where applicable, adaptations arising from the contributions received. The final version forms

the reference basis for publication and entry into force. The entire process is documented to ensure traceability of the choices made, successive changes to the standard and the decisions taken.

14.4 Version identification and entry into force of sector-specific certification standards

Once finalised, the sector-specific certification standard is assigned a version identifier and incorporated into the scheme's document management system.

The applicable version is identified by a title, version number, adoption date and effective date. Where necessary, an implementation period may be provided between finalisation and entry into force so that applicants, certificate holders and certification bodies can familiarise themselves with the applicable requirements.

The effective date is determined according to the nature of the certification standard, the degree of novelty, the expected impact on assessment practices and any applicable transitional arrangements.

Arrangements for making sector-specific certification standards publicly available, including their status as draft, under consultation or final, are defined in the chapter on [Publication of certification standards](#).

Information on applicable versions and amendments is made available under the arrangements set out in the chapter on the [Register of versions and amendments](#).

14.5 Management of borderline cases and corrections

During development of a sector-specific certification standard, some circumstances may limit the availability or diversity of contributions, particularly where the product category is emerging, weakly structured or poorly represented. In such cases, appropriate measures may be taken to ensure the robustness of the standard, including adapting consultation arrangements, drawing on additional expertise or using existing certification standards with comparable characteristics as supporting references. Where relevant, the Expert and Ethics Committee may be consulted to provide technical or methodological input on the choices to be made.

Particular attention is also paid to identifying inconsistencies, ambiguities or unsuitable requirements during development. Necessary adjustments are incorporated into working versions of the certification standard before publication.

After entry into force, any correction or change to the certification standard is handled under the revision and amendment procedures set out in the following chapter.

15. Revision, amendment and transitional arrangements for sector-specific certification standards

15.1 Periodic revision of sector-specific certification standards

Each sector-specific certification standard is periodically reviewed to ensure its continuing technical and environmental relevance, consistency with the core certification standard and maintenance of the scheme's level of requirements.

The maximum revision cycle is 3 years.

Continuation or revision of a certification standard is subject to a formal relevance analysis conducted by the scheme operator. This analysis takes account of the market context, the existence of certified products, observed or anticipated demand, the sector's development potential and the environmental relevance of the product category. Where the certification standard remains relevant, it remains in force and, where appropriate, is revised in accordance with the process defined in the chapter on the [Development process for sector-specific certification standards](#).

Conversely, where relevance can no longer be demonstrated, the certification standard may be suspended. It is then closed to new certifications. Its status is recorded in the scheme's document management system and made public under the arrangements defined in the chapter on the [Register of versions and amendments](#). The absence of applicants is not, in itself, grounds for suspension. A certification standard may remain in place during a temporary absence of demand where the sector has potential or environmental significance that justifies retaining it.

Any decision to maintain, revise or suspend a certification standard is formally documented and traceable in the scheme management system, in accordance with the provisions on risk management and document traceability.

15.2 Minor amendments to sector-specific certification standards

A minor amendment is a change to a sector-specific certification standard that affects neither the overall level of requirements nor the conditions for product conformity.

It may concern editorial clarifications, correction of material errors, interpretative clarifications, updates to standards references or adaptations that maintain an equivalent level of requirements.

A minor amendment is initiated on the basis of objective and verifiable information, including regulatory or standards monitoring, audit feedback, field experience or identification of a difficulty in interpreting a criterion. Each proposal is subject to technical analysis by the scheme operator to confirm the need, identify the criteria concerned and verify that there is no impact on the level of requirements. Where relevant, the Expert and Ethics Committee

may be consulted to inform the analysis. Such consultation is not systematic for minor amendments.

The decision to adopt a minor amendment is made by the scheme manager. It is based on documented analysis and must not reduce the level of requirements or create unequal treatment between certificate holders.

Each minor amendment is formally documented and traceable, including a description of the change, its justification, adoption date and effective date. Information made public in relation to the amendment is defined in the chapter on the [Register of versions and amendments](#).

Unless otherwise specified, minor amendments take effect on the date of publication. They do not affect the validity of existing certifications and are taken into account in subsequent assessments.

15.3 Major amendments to sector-specific certification standards

A major amendment is a change to a sector-specific certification standard that modifies a requirement, threshold, criterion or verification arrangement in a way that may affect the conditions for product conformity. It may include strengthening a requirement, introducing or removing a criterion, changing a threshold or changing the scope of verification.

A major amendment is initiated on the basis of objective and verifiable information, including regulatory or standards developments, significant feedback from experience, technical developments in the market or identification of an inconsistency in the certification standard.

Each proposal is subject to detailed technical analysis by the scheme operator to assess its relevance, its impact on existing criteria and its consequences for assessment and certification. The Expert and Ethics Committee is systematically consulted and provides a reasoned opinion on the technical relevance and impacts of the proposed change.

Stakeholder consultation may be organised where justified by the nature of the amendment.

The adoption decision is made in accordance with the governance mechanism defined in the chapter on the [Governance committee](#) and is based on documented analysis. It must not reduce the level of requirements or create unequal treatment between certificate holders.

Each major amendment is formally documented and traceable, specifying the change, its justification, adoption date, effective date and, where applicable, transitional measures. Information made public in relation to the amendment is defined in the chapter on the [Register of versions and amendments](#).

Except in duly justified exceptional circumstances, a minimum notice period of 3 months applies between publication and entry into force. Effects on certified products are defined in [Sections 15.6](#) and [15.7](#).

15.4 Incorporation into the consolidated version

Amendments to a sector-specific certification standard, whether minor or major, are incorporated into a consolidated version in a manner that ensures the readability, consistency and traceability of the applicable requirements.

The consolidated version is the reference version of the certification standard at a given date. It incorporates all amendments that have been adopted and entered into force, without impairing the overall clarity of the document or creating ambiguity about the applicable requirements. Incorporating amendments does not alter the revision cycle of the certification standard, which remains 3 years in accordance with [Section 15.1](#). Amendments form part of the certification standard's life cycle without extending its period of validity.

Details of changes to each sector-specific certification standard are recorded in a Change Log incorporated into the certification standard. The log records versions, changes made, their nature and their effective date in chronological order. Overall traceability of versions and their status is also maintained at scheme level through the central register of versions and amendments referred to in the chapter on [Continual improvement and scheme integrity](#).

Public information on current versions, their status and their period of validity is made available under the arrangements defined in [Section 25.3](#).

15.5 Notice periods and entry into force of changes to sector-specific certification standards

Changes to sector-specific certification standards are subject to effective-date arrangements appropriate to their nature, to ensure predictability of requirements and equitable treatment of certificate holders.

Minor amendments take effect on the date of publication unless expressly stated otherwise. Major amendments are subject to a minimum notice period of 3 months between publication and entry into force. This period is intended to allow certificate holders to adapt their practices, commitments and evidence.

In duly justified exceptional circumstances, particularly in response to a regulatory development, a requirement from a competent authority or an established risk to conformity or safety, this period may be adjusted. Any reduction in the notice period is formally justified and documented.

The effective date is recorded in the documentation associated with the change and communicated to the parties concerned, particularly certificate holders and certification bodies. Where it constitutes public information, it is made available under the arrangements defined in [Section 25.3](#).

No change applies retroactively to assessments or certification decisions made on the basis of an earlier version of the certification standard.

15.6 Transitional arrangements

Changes to a sector-specific certification standard may be accompanied by transitional arrangements intended to ensure predictability of requirements, equitable treatment of certificate holders and continuity of the certification system.

These arrangements are defined according to the nature of the change and its impact on assessment conditions, without undermining the principle that certifications remain stable throughout their period of validity.

- Minor amendments: no specific transitional arrangements are required unless expressly stated otherwise. Changes are taken into account in subsequent assessments.
- Major amendments: transitional arrangements may be defined to organise their application to new certifications and renewals. They may specify the conditions for entry into force, requirements applicable to new applicants and arrangements for adapting assessment tools.

In the event of a periodic revision, transitional arrangements specify the conditions for moving from the previous to the new version of sector-specific certification standards, particularly at renewal audits.

Applicable transitional arrangements are communicated to certificate holders and certification bodies and formalised:

- in the amendment or revision note associated with each change;
- in the Change Log of the certification standard concerned;
- and, where applicable, in the central register of versions and amendments referred to in the chapter on [Continual improvement and scheme integrity](#).

15.7 Effects on certified products

Certified products continue to be assessed against the version of the certification standard applicable on the date of certification throughout the certification's period of validity.

Amendments to the sector-specific certification standard, whether minor or major, do not affect certifications that are currently valid. They are taken into account at renewal audits or for new certification applications.

This approach ensures stable certification conditions, predictability for certificate holders and accessibility of the scheme. Where a certification standard undergoes periodic revision, certificate holders continue to be assessed against the version in force on the date of certification until their next renewal audit. At that point, conformity with the current version of the certification standard is required.

Exceptionally, where a change could significantly compromise the integrity or credibility of the label or its compliance with applicable requirements, specific measures may be implemented. Such situations are subject to documented analysis and formal decisions in accordance with the risk management provisions defined in [Chapter 7](#).

15.8 Version identification and traceability of sector-specific certification standards

Each sector-specific certification standard is identified and coded so that its changes can be traced clearly and unambiguously. Versions are identified by a version number. Amendments are coded separately and linked to the relevant version of the certification standard using a

naming convention that identifies their nature (minor or major amendment) and chronological order.

The coding follows a standardised structure. As an indication, amendments are identified by codes such as “A1”, “A2”, etc., associated with the applicable version of the certification standard.

All changes are recorded in the central register of versions and amendments referred to in the chapter on [Continual improvement and scheme integrity](#). This register provides overall document traceability for the scheme.

For each change, the register includes at least:

- the certification standard concerned;
- the version and, where applicable, the amendment identifier;
- the type of change (creation, minor amendment, major amendment, revision);
- a summary of the change;
- the justification for the change;
- the adoption date;
- the effective date;
- the status of the certification standard;
- a reference to the consolidated version or applicable document.

The scheme operator keeps this register up to date within the document management system. In the event of an audit or scheme review, it demonstrates the consistency of changes, compliance with applicable procedures and traceability of decisions.

Information from the register that must be made public is made available under the arrangements defined in the chapter on the [Register of versions and amendments](#).

PART V**PRODUCT CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

16. Eligibility conditions

Access to the LONGTIME® certification scheme is subject to eligibility criteria relating to both the applicant and the products submitted for certification.

The applicant must be able to demonstrate that it operates in compliance with the legal, regulatory and ethical requirements applicable to its activities and to placing the products concerned on the market. In particular, the applicant attests that:

- the products comply with all applicable regulations concerning safety, health and environmental protection and, where applicable, regulatory marking requirements in the markets concerned;
- it holds the rights necessary to market the products, particularly intellectual property rights, and the products are not subject to disputes that could compromise their placing on the market;
- the entity responsible for placing the products on the market or marketing them is entered in the relevant commercial register and is in good standing with the authorities in the territory or territories concerned;
- the products and their marketing are not liable to infringe public policy, applicable legal provisions or fundamental consumer protection principles;
- there is no known situation that significantly calls into question the credibility of the certification process in light of the scheme's principles.

In addition, the scheme operator reserves the right to refer certification applications relating to specific fields such as armaments, petrochemicals, extreme sports or emerging technologies to the governance committee (non-exhaustive list).

Where significant breaches of legal, environmental or ethical requirements are identified, access to the scheme may be refused, suspended or made conditional on appropriate corrective measures.

Eligibility information is examined as part of the application process and may be subject to documentary checks by the certification body.

17. Application submission

Submitting an application is the first stage of the LONGTIME® certification process.

The applicant sends the scheme manager a completed application form enabling, among other things, identification of:

- the company;
- the product or product family concerned;
- the requested certification scope;
- the geographical area in which the product is marketed;
- the applicable or proposed certification standard;
- and the authorised certification body or bodies from which the applicant wishes to receive a quotation.

On the basis of this form, the scheme operator assesses whether the application is admissible in light of the scheme's scope and the eligibility conditions defined in [Chapter 16](#). Admissibility is based on objective criteria: the applicant's status, product identification, the existence of an applicable certification standard or the possibility of assigning the product to one, the marketing area and declared regulatory conformity.

Where the application is considered admissible, Ethikis issues a quotation covering entry into the scheme and, where applicable, associated services within its responsibilities. Issuing this quotation formalises the scheme operator's acceptance of the application as admissible. The applicant's effective entry into the scheme is subject, at a minimum, to acceptance of the Ethikis quotation under the applicable contractual terms in force.

In parallel, the form is sent to the authorised certification bodies selected by the applicant so that they may, where applicable, prepare their own proposals. Quotations from certification bodies are governed by separate contractual relationships between the applicant and the body concerned. The scheme operator may not impose a particular certification body.

Acceptance of the Ethikis quotation does not constitute a certification decision, a pre-audit or validation of evidence. It does not authorise use of the LONGTIME® mark and does not prejudge product conformity with the certification standard. Any assessment of conformity is the exclusive responsibility of the certification body under the conditions defined in [Chapter 8](#).

Where the product does not fall within an existing sector-specific certification standard, the scheme operator examines whether it can be assigned to an available standard or, where appropriate, whether a new sector-specific certification standard may be developed under the rules set out in [Part IV](#).

An application may be declared inadmissible where the product falls outside the scheme's scope, no applicable certification standard can be identified or developed, or the applicant cannot demonstrate its authority to commit the product to certification. The same applies where the information supplied does not allow the requested scope to be defined or where a clear legal, regulatory or ethical risk is identified.

Any decision that an application is inadmissible is reasoned, recorded and communicated to the applicant. The applicant may submit a complaint or challenge the decision under the procedures set out in [Part VII](#).

17.1 Submission of information

Using the application form and associated supporting documents, the applicant provides the information needed to process the application, prepare the quotation, transmit the file to the selected certification bodies and prepare the assessment.

This information includes the applicant's identity, its capacity in relation to the product, its authority to commit the product to certification, the references concerned, product category, marketing area, relevant sites or entities, available regulatory conformity information and technical information relevant to the audit. Where the application concerns a product family, the applicant specifies the proposed grouping rules and differences between references. The certification body assesses the representativeness of the assessment scope; processing the application by the scheme operator does not constitute validation of that representativeness.

Information supplied must be accurate, complete, up to date and sufficiently documented. Additional information may be requested where the file is incomplete or inconsistent. Confidential technical or commercial information is handled in accordance with the applicable confidentiality commitments.

17.2 Applicant commitments

By submitting the application form, the applicant certifies the accuracy of the information supplied and undertakes to report any change that could affect admissibility, the requested scope or the conduct of the assessment.

By accepting the Ethikis quotation, the applicant enters the LONGTIME® scheme and undertakes to comply with the scheme rules, the applicable certification standard, communication rules and the conditions under which the selected certification body performs its work.

The applicant undertakes to make available to the certification body the documents, data, products, samples, access, personnel and resources needed for the audit. It also informs the certification body of any previous or ongoing certification covering the same scope and of any preparatory support received from Ethikis or a third party.

The applicant may not use the LONGTIME® mark, the LONGTIME® graphic label or any wording suggesting that certification has been obtained, is imminent, is in progress or is likely before a LONGTIME® certificate has actually been issued, in accordance with the rules of use defined in [Part VI](#).

The applicant remains responsible for the legal and regulatory conformity of the products it places on the market. LONGTIME® certification does not replace applicable regulatory obligations, administrative controls or the responsibilities of the organisation placing the product on the market.

Any preparatory support offered by Ethikis or a third party is optional and does not guarantee that the label will be obtained. It cannot constitute prior validation of conformity, preparation of evidence on behalf of the applicant, or intervention in audit findings, the classification of non-conformities or the certification decision.

Any inaccurate statement, significant omission, refusal to cooperate, failure to update the scope or premature use of the label may result in suspension of application processing, refusal to continue the process or implementation of measures provided for by the scheme and the certification body.

Records retained in connection with the application include at least:

- the application form;
- the date received;
- the requested scope;
- the admissibility decision;
- the Ethikis quotation issued and, where applicable, accepted;
- the certification bodies selected;
- transmissions made;
- requests for additional information;
- any inadmissibility decisions.

These records demonstrate the traceability, objectivity and non-discriminatory nature of the process for entering the scheme.

17.3 Financial arrangements

17.3.1 Cost structure associated with the LONGTIME® label

The LONGTIME® scheme's economic model is based on strict separation of contractual and financial relationships between the applicant, the scheme operator and the certification body, in order to safeguard the independence and impartiality of the certification process.

Amounts payable to the scheme manager cover activities within its own responsibilities, including:

- processing the application;
- access to the scheme;
- administrative management;
- coordination of the system;
- document management;
- maintenance of the certification system;
- protection of the mark;
- contribution to the scheme's general operation;
- development, maintenance and revision of LONGTIME® certification standards.

This contribution is payable under the applicable contractual documents and is not consideration for an individual service, a certification decision, an audit result or a right to influence the content of certification standards or the development of a sector-specific certification standard.

[Fees associated with the right to use the LONGTIME® mark are defined according to an objective, transparent and proportionate scale.](#) They are established on the basis of information declared by the applicant or certificate holder, including turnover excluding tax generated by labelled products, or any other calculation basis defined in advance in the applicable pricing or contractual documents.

17.3.2 Cost structure associated with certification bodies

Conformity assessment services are governed by a direct contractual relationship between the applicant and the selected authorised certification body. The certification body issues its own quotation covering initial, surveillance and renewal audits and, where applicable, additional or unannounced audits.

Audit costs are borne by the applicant under the contractual terms agreed with the certification body. The scheme operator does not intervene in financial negotiations between the applicant and the certification body and receives no remuneration linked to the assessment assignment.

Amounts payable to the scheme manager, including contributions and fees, are strictly separate from conformity assessment costs invoiced by the certification body. They may under no circumstances influence conformity assessment, classification of non-conformities, or the issue, maintenance, suspension or withdrawal of a certificate, all of which are the exclusive responsibility of the certification body.

The scheme operator may offer additional services, particularly support in preparing for an audit or contributions to technical work. These services are optional, separate from the conformity assessment process, have no bearing on the certification decision and do not guarantee that the label will be obtained. They must not result in the scheme operator replacing the applicant in preparing its evidence or the certification body in assessing it.

If the applicant terminates the process, services already commenced or performed remain payable under the applicable contractual terms.

Failure to meet applicable financial obligations may affect the right to use the LONGTIME® mark or lead to the contractual consequences provided for, without replacing the technical assessment of product conformity.

Detailed financial arrangements, including payment terms, rules for calculating fees, arrangements for declaring calculation bases and consequences of non-payment, are set out in the respective contractual documents of the scheme manager and certification bodies.

Transparency principles applicable to conditions for access to the scheme and costs are defined in [Section 25.4](#).

18. Conformity assessment

Conformity assessment verifies that the product submitted for certification meets the requirements of the applicable version of the LONGTIME® certification standard within the scope defined for the audit.

It may include a document review, an organisational audit, a product audit and, where necessary, additional checks.

The assessment is conducted on the basis of the scope formalised in the audit file, including the references, versions, configurations, sites, marketing areas and, where applicable, software versions or associated services included in the certification scope. Any significant change to the scope before or during the assessment is reported to the certification body and may lead to adjustment of the audit plan, a request for additional information or reconsideration of admissibility.

The assessment is carried out exclusively by the authorised certification body selected by the applicant, under the conditions defined in [Chapter 8](#). The scheme operator does not participate in conducting the audit, analysing evidence, classifying non-conformities or making the certification decision.

Audits are conducted by qualified auditors trained in the LONGTIME® scheme and with expertise appropriate to the scope assessed. Where required by the assignment, the certification body draws on the necessary technical, linguistic or sector-specific expertise.

Where the certification body uses external auditors or subcontractors, it remains responsible for conducting the assessment, the resulting conclusions and the certification decision. The certification decision may not be subcontracted. The assessment results in a formal audit report. At a minimum, the report identifies the scope assessed, the certification standard and version, criteria examined, evidence considered, findings, any non-conformities, expected corrective actions and the conclusions submitted for the certification decision.

If the certification body identifies a difficulty in interpreting the certification standard or a situation not covered by the applicable rules, it may request clarification from the scheme manager. Such clarification relates only to the general interpretation of the certification standard or rule concerned. It does not constitute analysis of evidence in an individual case, does not classify a non-conformity and does not replace the certification body's decision.

Any clarification of general application is documented to ensure consistent application of the scheme.

18.1 Document review

The document review enables the certification body to examine the material supplied by the applicant and prepare the necessary checks. It covers documents, data, procedures, reports, records, commitments and other forms of evidence specified by the applicable certification standard.

The certification body checks the completeness, consistency, traceability, relevance and verifiability of the material supplied. The review is not limited to checking that documents are present: it assesses whether the evidence is capable of demonstrating conformity with the applicable requirements, in accordance with the arrangements defined in [Chapter 10](#).

Where the material supplied is incomplete, inconsistent, insufficiently linked to the product or unverifiable, the certification body may request additional information, plan enhanced checks or conclude that there is a non-conformity where conformity cannot be established.

Findings from the document review are incorporated into the audit report or the certification body's assessment records.

18.2 Organisational audit

The organisational audit verifies that the applicant has the processes, responsibilities, resources and control arrangements needed to meet the requirements of the LONGTIME® certification standard. It covers activities affecting product conformity, including design, quality, production, purchasing, suppliers, logistics, after-sales service, spare parts, technical documentation, handling of field feedback and continual improvement.

The audit may be conducted on site, remotely or using a hybrid approach where this provides a level of verification appropriate to the requirements concerned. Where physical findings, product demonstrations, stock checks, process observations or access to equipment are necessary, the certification body may require an on-site or additional check.

Where several sites or entities are involved in the certification scope, the certification body determines which sites, functions or processes are to be audited according to their contribution to product conformity and the associated risks. The organisational audit verifies that the commitments presented by the applicant are effectively implemented, controlled and monitored. It may draw on records, indicators, procedures, contracts, information-system extracts, after-sales service files, quality plans or evidence of implementation.

18.3 Product audit

The product audit verifies the conformity of the product, products or product families submitted for certification with the technical requirements of the applicable certification standard.

It covers the product as placed on the market or intended to be placed on the market, in the declared version and scope. The product audit includes:

- physical examination of the product;
- analysis of its bill of materials;
- its components;
- its critical or vulnerable parts;
- its interfaces;
- its documentation;

- its spare parts;
- its software updates;
- its disassembly characteristics;
- its maintenance;
- its diagnostics;
- and its repair conditions.

Where several references are included in the scope, selection of the references to be examined is the responsibility of the certification body. It takes account of differences that could affect conformity, including design, components, suppliers, manufacturing processes, software, spare parts, after-sales service, documentation, marketing areas or conditions of use. The applicant may not unilaterally determine which products or references are examined.

Where the certification standard requires specific tests, demonstrations or inspections, the certification body verifies that the material supplied meets the applicable requirements. It may request additional information or extend the checks where the available evidence does not support a reliable conclusion.

18.4 Handling non-conformities

18.4.1 Non-conformity report

At the audit closing meeting, a report is provided to the applicant for signature. It includes a summary of the checks performed and, where applicable, non-conformity reports for each deviation identified.

Each non-conformity identified during the assessment is recorded in a non-conformity report prepared by the certification body. The report specifies at least:

- the requirement concerned;
- the finding;
- the evidence examined;
- the nature of the deviation;
- the additional information or action expected.

18.4.2 Corrective action plan

The applicant is responsible for proposing the corrective action plan. It completes the non-conformity reports by specifying the corrective actions proposed, associated implementation deadlines and the evidence that will demonstrate their implementation and effectiveness.

In principle, the corrective action plan is formalised during the closing meeting. Where this is not possible, the applicant has a maximum of two months to submit the completed non-conformity reports to the certification body. The certification body reviews the proposed corrective action plan and assesses its relevance, completeness and suitability in relation to

the deviations identified. Where the plan is insufficient, incomplete or unsuitable, the certification body may request a revised corrective action plan or additional information.

Time limits for reviewing the corrective action plan and communicating conclusions by the certification body are defined in the applicable certification conditions or agreements. The scheme operator monitors these time limits as part of scheme oversight, without intervening in the classification of deviations or the certification decision. Once completed by the applicant and accepted by the certification body, the corrective action plan constitutes a formal commitment by the applicant.

18.4.3 Closure of non-conformities

Closure of a non-conformity is the exclusive responsibility of the certification body. It takes place after review of evidence demonstrating implementation and effectiveness of the corrective actions. Where necessary, verification may take the form of an additional document review or an on-site check.

Failure to comply with or implement the planned actions, or inability to demonstrate their effectiveness, may prevent the certification process from continuing, prevent certification from being maintained or prevent closure of the non-conformities, depending on the stage of the case. It may also result in measures provided for by the scheme rules and applicable contractual conditions, including suspension, withdrawal of the right to use the mark, termination or contractual penalties.

- A non-conformity relating to a T0 criterion prevents a favourable decision until it has been closed.
- A non-conformity relating to a T1 criterion is handled in accordance with the thresholds and deadlines defined in [Sections 9.4.1](#) and [10.4](#).

18.5 Additional audits

Additional audits may be conducted where the available material does not allow a reliable conclusion on conformity, where non-conformities require verification of implementation, where a significant change affects the scope assessed or where serious doubt arises concerning product conformity.

These audits may be documentary, remote, on-site or targeted at a particular product, site, function, item of evidence or requirement.

For certified products, additional audits may also be conducted as part of surveillance under the conditions defined in [Chapter 20](#), particularly where information calls into question continued conformity, use of the label or compliance with the certificate holder's obligations.

Refusal to undergo an additional audit required under the applicable rules may result in termination of the process, refusal of certification, suspension or withdrawal of certification, depending on the stage of the case and the seriousness of the situation.

19. Certification decision

The certification decision is made following the conformity assessment carried out by the authorised certification body in accordance with [Chapter 18](#).

It concerns the issue of a LONGTIME® certification or conformity certificate for a clearly identified product, product reference, product family or scope.

The decision is based on the audit findings, the evidence reviewed, any non-conformity records, accepted corrective action plans where applicable, and application of the conformity rules set out in the applicable certification standard and in this document.

The decision is the exclusive responsibility of the certification body under the conditions defined in [Chapter 8](#). The scheme operator, governance bodies and Expert and Ethics Committee do not participate in this decision and cannot substitute themselves for the certification body. The decision may result in the issue of a certificate, refusal of certification, or a requirement to address non-conformities or provide additional material before a favourable decision can be made.

The decision is formally recorded, dated and retained by the certification body in accordance with its own certification rules. It may not be subcontracted, including where certain audit activities have been performed by external auditors or subcontractors.

19.1 Decision by the certification body

The certification body decides on the basis of the audit report, non-conformity records, accepted corrective action plans, available evidence and assessment conclusions.

A favourable decision may be made only where all of the following conditions are met:

- the assessed scope is clearly identified;
- the applicable certification standard and its version are established;
- all applicable T0 criteria are met;
- at least 70% of applicable T1 criteria are met at the initial audit;
- non-conforming T1 criteria are covered by a corrective action plan accepted by the certification body, in accordance with [Section 18.4.2](#);
- the evidence reviewed is considered sufficient, relevant and verifiable;
- monitoring arrangements enabling 100% conformity with applicable T1 criteria to be achieved no later than year N+1 are formally established.

A non-conformity affecting a T0 criterion prevents a favourable decision until it has been closed. A favourable decision may be made despite non-conforming T1 criteria where at least 70% of applicable T1 criteria are met at the initial audit. Non-conforming T1 criteria must be covered by a corrective action plan accepted by the certification body. This situation is formally recorded in the certification file and monitored as part of surveillance, in accordance with [Sections 9.4.1](#), [10.4](#) and [20.3](#).

Where the conformity conditions are not met, the certification body may refuse certification or make continuation of the process conditional on addressing the identified non-conformities. In the event of refusal, the applicant is informed of the reasons for the decision and of the applicable avenues for challenge under the certification body's procedures and [Part VII](#).

19.2 Issue, scope and validity of the certificate

Following a favourable decision, the authorised certification body issues a LONGTIME® certificate. This is the formal document confirming that the identified product or product family has been assessed and found to conform to the requirements of the applicable LONGTIME® certification standard within the assessed scope.

The certificate specifies at least:

- the identity of the certificate holder;
- the issuing certification body;
- the certificate number or identifier and, where applicable, its version index;
- the product or product family covered;
- the relevant commercial brand;
- the references, models, versions, configurations, power ratings or ranges covered, where applicable in an annex;
- the associated audit report or assessment-file identifier;
- the applicable certification standard, its version and, where available, its publication date;
- the geographical scope of validity;
- the issue date;
- the validity period;
- the licence holder and, where relevant, the place of manufacture;
- any limitations, exclusions or specific conditions applying to the scope covered.

The certificate is issued for 3 years unless otherwise decided by the certification body. Its validity is conditional on continued conformity, compliance with the holder's commitments and surveillance requirements, and compliance with the conditions governing use of the LONGTIME® mark. Its validity may be called into question in the event of non-conformity, failure to comply with a corrective action plan, an uncontrolled change, refusal of surveillance, a significant incident or non-compliant use of the mark, in accordance with [Chapter 21](#).

During the validity period, the LONGTIME® mark may be used only for products covered by the certificate and within the certified and published scope, in accordance with [Part VI](#). On expiry, renewal is conditional on a new favourable assessment by an authorised certification body in accordance with [Section 20.4](#). Any automatic renewal of the contract with the scheme operator does not constitute automatic renewal of the certificate or automatic continuation of the right to use the mark.

Certificates issued remain the property of the certification body. They may not be amended, altered or used outside their scope. A certificate does not certify the company, commercial brand or the manufacturer's entire range; it covers only the products, references, models or families explicitly identified in the certificate and, where applicable, its annexes.

Where a certificate is issued while T1 criteria remain subject to a corrective action plan, this is monitored in the certification file without changing the scope of the certificate, subject to [Sections 19.1](#) and [20.3](#).

19.3 Transmission of the certificate to the scheme manager

Following a favourable decision by the certification body, the applicant sends the certificate issued by that body to the scheme manager.

This transmission triggers the scheme manager's registration of the certified product, update of the official LONGTIME® product directory and activation of the right to use the mark under [Part VI](#). The scheme operator does not carry out a new conformity assessment or validate the certification body's decision. Its review is limited to an administrative check of the certificate, including the identity of the holder, the product, the scope covered, the applicable certification standard, the validity period and the issuing certification body.

Where the certificate is incomplete, illegible or inconsistent, or does not clearly identify the scope covered, the scheme operator may ask the applicant to obtain a corrected or completed certificate from the issuing certification body.

No official registration or right to use the LONGTIME® mark may be activated solely on the basis of an audit report, informal favourable opinion, email, status update or other interim information. Only the certificate issued by the certification body is authoritative.

19.4 Official publication

Once a certificate has been issued by the certification body and transmitted to the scheme manager, the products concerned are officially published in the LONGTIME® directory of certified products. Entry in the official directory is the public reference used to verify a product's certification status. The information published is defined in [Section 25.2](#).

Publication constitutes the public registration of the certified product. It makes the scope communicated to the public verifiable and enforceable without replacing the certificate issued by the certification body.

Before publication, the scheme operator checks the administrative consistency of the information required for registration, including the holder's identity, product identification, scope covered, applicable certification standard, issuing certification body and certificate validity period.

The holder may communicate about certification only for products covered by a valid certificate and published or registered in the official LONGTIME® directory, in accordance with [Part VI](#). All communications must strictly comply with:

- the certified and published scope;

- applicable national and supranational rules governing environmental claims;
- the LONGTIME® communication guidelines.

Any discrepancy between the holder's communications and the officially certified or published scope may lead to a request for correction, precautionary measures, or suspension, reduction or withdrawal proceedings under the applicable rules.

20. Surveillance and maintenance of certification

Surveillance is intended to verify that products covered by a valid certificate continue to meet the requirements of the applicable certification standard throughout the certificate's validity period.

It covers continued conformity of certified products, implementation of accepted corrective action plans, notification of changes liable to affect the certified scope, incident reporting and, where necessary, additional verification.

Surveillance of conformity is the responsibility of the certification body. The scheme operator does not intervene in conformity determinations, audit findings or decisions to maintain, suspend, reduce or withdraw certification. Rules governing use of the LONGTIME® mark are set out in [Part VI](#).

20.1 Management of product changes

The holder of a valid certificate must notify the certification body without delay of any change liable to affect the certified product's conformity with the applicable certification standard.

This obligation includes changes to product design, critical components, suppliers, manufacturing processes, software or firmware, technical documentation, after-sales service, spare-parts availability, marketing conditions or geographical scope.

To reinforce control of the system, the scheme operator sends the holder an annual reminder of these notification obligations. The reminder asks the holder to confirm to the certification body that no significant changes have occurred or to report any developments since the previous assessment.

This reminder does not replace the holder's obligation to make spontaneous notifications, which applies at all times during the certificate's validity. It does not transfer responsibility for assessing the impact of changes on conformity to the scheme manager.

Where changes are reported or identified, the certification body assesses their impact on the certified product's conformity. Depending on the nature, scale and associated risks, it may decide that no further verification is required, carry out a document review, request additional evidence or initiate a targeted additional audit.

Any unreported or late-reported change, or any change liable to affect conformity, may result in appropriate measures, including additional verification, suspension, reduction of scope or withdrawal of certification under the applicable rules.

20.2 Incident reporting

The holder must notify the certification body without delay of any incident liable to call into question the conformity of the certified product, user safety, the validity of the certificate or the credibility of the claim conveyed by the LONGTIME® mark.

This includes recurring defects, product recalls, market withdrawals, safety alerts, regulatory enforcement notices, regulatory non-conformities, significant failures observed in use, abnormal after-sales return rates or any information liable to affect product reliability, repairability or durability.

The holder maintains a register of incidents, significant complaints and actions taken in relation to the certified product. This register is made available to the certification body on request.

Where an incident may affect certification, the certification body assesses its seriousness and the consequences for maintaining the certificate. It may request additional information, require corrective action, initiate additional verification or apply the measures provided for in [Chapter 21](#).

Where an incident may affect use of the mark, public information or scheme integrity, the scheme operator may be informed so that it can take measures within its own responsibilities, without replacing the certification body's conformity assessment.

20.3 Surveillance during the certification cycle

During the certificate's validity period, maintenance of certification may be subject to surveillance measures by the certification body in accordance with the Scheme Rules, applicable contractual conditions and identified risks.

Surveillance does not necessarily require a systematic audit during the certification cycle. It is implemented where circumstances justify it, particularly for:

- follow-up and closure of non-conformities covered by a corrective action plan;
- verification that accepted corrective actions have been effectively implemented;
- notification of a change liable to affect conformity of the product, production chain, suppliers, after-sales service or certified scope;
- an incident, complaint, report or finding liable to call continued conformity into question;
- serious doubt as to consistency between the certified product, the marketed product, the certified scope or published information.

Surveillance measures may include document review, requests for additional information, remote verification, exchanges with the holder, targeted checks or, where necessary, an additional on-site, remote or product audit.

Where the initial audit resulted in a corrective action plan for T1 criteria, the certification body verifies that the accepted commitments have been implemented within the specified deadlines. 100% conformity with applicable T1 criteria must be achieved no later than year N+1, in accordance with the conditions for maintaining certification.

Failure to comply with a corrective action plan, failure to provide expected evidence, an undeclared change, an uncontrolled incident or refusal to undergo requested checks may lead the certification body to apply the measures provided for in [Chapter 21](#), including suspension, reduction or withdrawal of certification.

20.4 Renewal audit

At the end of the three-year validity period, renewal of the certificate is conditional on a new favourable assessment by an authorised certification body.

Any automatic renewal of the contract between the holder and the scheme operator does not constitute automatic renewal of the certificate or automatic continuation of the right to use the LONGTIME® mark. The holder must begin renewal sufficiently in advance of expiry to avoid interruption of the right of use.

The renewal audit is carried out against the certification standard applicable at the date of renewal, subject to the scheme's transitional provisions. It may take account of changes to the certification standard since the previous certificate, in accordance with the revision, amendment and versioning rules in this document.

Renewal requires in particular:

- a renewal assessment by an authorised certification body;
- verification of continued product conformity;
- review of product changes, incidents, complaints or developments during the validity period;
- a favourable decision by the certification body.

Following a favourable assessment, a new certificate is issued for 3 years. If no favourable renewal decision has been made before the expiry date, the certificate ceases to have effect and the right to use the mark ends under the applicable rules.

The holder may renew with the certification body previously used or another authorised body. Where the certification body changes, the outgoing body facilitates continuity of the file within the limits of applicable agreements, confidentiality requirements and ownership of assessment documents.

20.5 Exceptional extension of certificate validity

Exceptionally, a LONGTIME® certificate approaching expiry may be temporarily extended where the renewal audit cannot be carried out or completed within the expected timeframe.

This extension is a transitional measure. It does not constitute renewal, does not prejudge the renewal decision and does not exempt the holder from surveillance and renewal assessment.

An extension may be requested by either the holder or the scheme operator.

Where requested by the holder, the request must be submitted in writing to the certification body at least 3 months before certificate expiry, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances, and must specify:

- the reason;
- the scope concerned;
- the progress of the renewal process;
- the planned audit date.

The request must also confirm that there has been no undeclared significant change to the product, production organisation, after-sales service, spare parts or any other factor liable to affect conformity.

Where the request originates from the scheme manager, the holder's consent is required. The request must be made in writing to the certification body at least 3 months before expiry, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances, and must specify the reason, scope concerned, identity of the holder or holders concerned, progress of renewal and the planned renewal-audit date.

An extension may be granted where there is a documented temporary difficulty attributable to the holder, scheme manager, certification body or an external circumstance, provided that no known information calls temporary maintenance of certification into question. The decision is made by the competent certification body. The scheme operator may be consulted on matters relating to use of the mark, public information and scheme consistency.

The extension may be granted once only, for a maximum of six months, and may not be renewed.

During this period, the right to use the LONGTIME® mark is maintained only for products, references, versions, configurations and geographical areas already covered by the extended certificate. No scope extension may be granted under this arrangement.

The extension is formally recorded in writing on the holder's certificate.

At the end of the extension period, the certificate is renewed if the assessment is favourable. Otherwise, it automatically expires or, as applicable, is suspended, reduced or withdrawn under the Scheme Rules.

21. Suspension, reduction, withdrawal and voluntary surrender

Suspension, reduction, withdrawal and voluntary surrender govern situations in which a valid LONGTIME® certificate temporarily or permanently ceases to have all or part of its effects. These mechanisms protect scheme integrity, the reliability of information provided to the public, the fairness of the environmental claim conveyed by the label and proper use of the LONGTIME® mark.

Decisions concerning product conformity and the maintenance, suspension, reduction or withdrawal of the certificate are the responsibility of the competent certification body.

The scheme operator acts only within its own responsibilities relating to use of the LONGTIME® mark, updating the official directory, protection of the mark and public information. It does not replace the certification body in assessing product conformity, classifying non-conformities or deciding on the certificate.

Where the certificate is suspended, reduced or withdrawn by the certification body, the right to use the LONGTIME® mark is correspondingly suspended, limited or withdrawn for the scope concerned, under this chapter and [Part VI](#).

21.1 Grounds for suspension, reduction or withdrawal

Suspension, reduction of scope or withdrawal may be initiated when the conditions for maintaining the validity of the certificate or the right to use the mark are no longer met. Grounds may include:

- a non-conformity identified during a surveillance audit, an additional audit, a document review or an unannounced check, in accordance with Chapters [18.5](#) and [20.3](#);
- failure to comply with a corrective action plan accepted by the assessment body;
- failure to bring T1 criteria into conformity within the applicable deadlines;
- a significant change to the product, its design, critical components, suppliers, manufacturing processes, software or firmware, technical documentation, after-sales service, spare parts, conditions under which it is marketed or geographical scope, which has not been reported or has not been adequately controlled in accordance with [Chapter 20.1](#);
- a significant incident that could compromise product conformity, user safety, product durability, reparability or reliability, or the credibility of the LONGTIME® claim, in accordance with [Chapter 20.2](#);
- refusal to undergo a check, surveillance audit, additional audit or unannounced audit required under the applicable rules;
- the provision of inaccurate, incomplete, misleading or unverifiable information that has affected the assessment, the certification decision or the maintenance of certification;

- non-compliant, improper or misleading use of the mark, the LONGTIME® label or any reference to certification;
- communications that fall outside the certified scope or imply that a company, a brand, an entire product range or products not covered by the certificate are certified;
- failure to comply with the rules governing use of the mark, the graphic guidelines, communication requirements or the obligations set out in [Part VI](#);
- failure to meet the financial obligations on which the right to use the mark depends, where such failure is provided for in the applicable contractual documents, without prejudice to the assessment body's separate assessment of product conformity;
- any situation that could significantly undermine the integrity of the scheme, the impartiality of the certification arrangements, the reputation of the label or the integrity of the information provided to the public;
- failure to comply with national and supranational regulations governing the communication of environmental claims relating to durability (e.g. the European Empowering Consumers Directive).

If one or more of the situations listed above are confirmed, graduated precautionary measures may be applied as follows:

1. Reduction of scope: This is the preferred option when the identified non-conformity or risk concerns only some of the products, product references, models, versions, configurations, sites, geographical areas or conditions of use covered by the certificate.
2. Suspension of the right to use the mark: This is the preferred measure when the situation can potentially be resolved within a defined period, but temporarily maintaining the right to use the mark would pose a risk to the credibility of the label or the information provided to the public.
3. Withdrawal of the right to use the mark: This measure applies when conformity cannot be restored, the conditions for maintaining the right to use the mark are no longer met, the breach is serious or repeated, or the required corrective actions are not implemented within the specified deadlines.

21.2 Procedures for handling adverse events

Any situation liable to result in suspension, reduction or withdrawal is examined on the basis of documented facts and evidence. The holder is informed of the issues identified and, except where immediate precautionary action is necessary, is given an opportunity to provide explanations, evidence or corrective measures within an appropriate timeframe.

The certification body assesses the consequences for conformity and decides on the measure affecting the certificate. The scheme operator may act in parallel on matters within its remit, particularly use of the mark, official publication and public information.

Where urgency so requires, precautionary measures may be taken before the final decision, particularly in the event of serious doubt as to conformity, safety risk, manifestly misleading use or significant harm to the label's integrity.

A decision to suspend, reduce or withdraw is formally recorded in writing and specifies at least:

- the holder concerned;
- the product, references or scope concerned;
- the certificate concerned;
- the applicable certification standard and version;
- the facts or findings relied upon;
- the nature of the measure;
- the decision date and effective date;
- any conditions for lifting the measure;
- consequences for use of the LONGTIME® mark;
- obligations to withdraw, correct or update materials;
- arrangements for informing the scheme manager, where applicable;
- applicable complaint, appeal or challenge procedures under [Part VII](#).

Where the certification body's decision affects the certificate or its scope, the holder or certification body informs the scheme operator so that the official directory can be updated and the rules governing use of the mark applied.

The scheme operator does not reassess product conformity. Its review is limited to the administrative consistency of the information received, identification of the affected scope, publication status and implementation of consequences relating to use of the mark.

Records retained include at least the detection date, source of the report, facts identified, scope concerned, analyses carried out, exchanges with the holder, decisions made, notifications issued, actions required, deadlines, evidence of implementation, update of public status and closure date.

21.3 Precautionary measures

Precautionary measures may be implemented where a situation presents a serious risk to the credibility of the label, fairness of public information, product conformity, user safety, scheme integrity or proper use of the LONGTIME® mark.

They may include:

- temporary suspension of the right to use the mark for the scope concerned;
- temporary prohibition on applying the logo to new products, packaging, labels or materials;
- temporary suspension or limitation of new communications relating to certification;
- a request to withdraw, correct or update communication materials;
- temporary updating of the product's status in the official directory, including an indication of suspension, reduction, withdrawal, surrender, expiry or verification in progress where needed to ensure fair public information;

- initiation of a document review, additional audit or targeted verification;
- a request for clarification or justification from the holder;
- informing the certification body or scheme manager according to the nature of the identified risk.

Precautionary measures are proportionate to the seriousness of the risk and limited to the necessary scope. They do not necessarily prejudice the final suspension, reduction or withdrawal decision. They are formally recorded, reasoned, dated and monitored until lifted, confirmed or replaced by a final decision.

21.4 Consequences for use of the mark

Where the certificate or right of use is suspended, the holder must cease all use of the LONGTIME® mark for the products concerned for the duration of the suspension, in accordance with contractual conditions. This includes use on products, packaging, labels, instructions, commercial materials, digital media, catalogues, advertisements, product sheets, websites, distributor pages, marketplaces and any other material referring to certification.

Where the scope is reduced, the right to use the mark is maintained only for the products, references, models, versions, configurations, sites or geographical areas that remain covered by the certificate. All communications must be corrected to reflect the remaining scope strictly.

In the event of withdrawal, the holder loses the right to use the LONGTIME® mark for the products concerned from the effective date of the decision. It must cease all communications suggesting that the products remain certified and withdraw or correct the relevant materials within the specified deadlines.

The decision may specify arrangements for products, packaging or materials already produced before the effective date. Unless otherwise provided or a stricter measure is justified by a serious risk, the holder must prevent any new placing on the market of products or materials bearing a reference to certification that is no longer valid. Any temporary continued use of existing physical materials must be limited, justified, time-bound and must not mislead the public.

The holder remains responsible for correcting its own communications and those of its distributors, resellers, subsidiaries, importers, partners, sales platforms or representatives where they refer to LONGTIME® certification.

On request, the holder makes available to the scheme manager a list of materials, packaging, labels, product pages, commercial documents, digital media and advertising materials on which the LONGTIME® mark has been used, together with evidence of their withdrawal, correction or update.

The scheme operator updates the official directory of certified products to reflect the applicable status. Published information must enable the public to verify whether a product is covered by a valid, suspended, reduced, withdrawn, expired or non-renewed certificate, or has been voluntarily surrendered. Persistent, abusive or misleading use of the LONGTIME® mark after suspension, reduction, withdrawal, expiry, non-renewal or voluntary surrender may result

in corrective measures, contractual sanctions, action to protect the mark or any action necessary to preserve scheme integrity.

21.5 Voluntary surrender by the holder

The holder may voluntarily surrender LONGTIME® certification before the certificate expires. Voluntary surrender must be notified in writing to the scheme manager and to the certification body that issued the certificate. The notification specifies at least:

- the holder's identity;
- the certificate concerned;
- the products, references, models, versions, configurations or geographical areas concerned;
- the requested date on which certification is to end;
- the reason for surrender, where the holder wishes to provide it;
- the measures planned to cease use of the LONGTIME® mark and update the relevant materials.

Voluntary surrender does not in itself constitute suspension or withdrawal for non-conformity. At the holder's initiative, it terminates the right to use the LONGTIME® mark for the scope concerned from the recorded effective date. From that date, the holder must cease all use of the mark for the products concerned and correct all communication materials, packaging, labels, product pages, catalogues, instructions, commercial documents, digital media and advertising materials.

The scheme operator updates the official directory to indicate that the product is no longer covered by a valid certificate. Where useful for scheme transparency, the status may state that certification ended through voluntary surrender.

Voluntary surrender does not release the holder from obligations arising before its effective date, particularly payment, confidentiality, correction of communications, withdrawal of use of the mark, cooperation in the event of a complaint and retention of records relating to the period during which the certificate was valid.

Where surrender occurs while suspension, reduction, withdrawal, complaint, challenge or investigation proceedings are in progress, those proceedings may continue where necessary to protect the scheme, ensure fair public information, maintain file traceability or establish responsibilities.

Voluntary surrender is specifically recorded in the scheme's document management system. The record includes the holder's request, date received, scope concerned, effective date, notifications made, update of the official directory and any actions to withdraw or correct materials.

PART VI

RULES GOVERNING USE AND PROTECTION OF THE MARK

LONGTIME® is a European Union certification mark registered with the EUIPO and governed by rules of use defining the conditions under which the mark may be used. As the exclusive owner of the registered LONGTIME® mark, Ethikis monitors its use and display and grants authorisations for use.

The Rules Governing Use constitute the legal reference document for use of the LONGTIME® mark. This document does not replace them. Within the LONGTIME® certification system, it sets out the governance, surveillance and document-control principles that ensure proper use of the mark, fair information to the public and consistency with certificates issued by certification bodies.

In addition to trademark protection, the LONGTIME® logo, LONGTIME® graphic label and associated graphic elements are creations protected under applicable intellectual-property rules, including copyright where the conditions for protection are met. Any unauthorised reproduction, representation, adaptation, modification or variation of these elements is prohibited except under the conditions expressly provided for in the Rules Governing Use, the LONGTIME® Communication Guide and authorisations issued by the scheme operator. Any use of the logo, particularly for labelling or on communication materials, is subject to Ethikis's prior approval. The form and typography of the logo must not be modified. The logo must be reproduced only from the source file supplied by Ethikis.

The LONGTIME® Communication Guide is the implementation document setting out practical rules for use of the logo, graphic label, media, formats, associated wording and applicable graphic rules.

Where the LONGTIME® Communication Guide distinguishes mandatory rules from recommendations, only rules expressly identified as mandatory are binding on the holder. Recommendations are good practices intended to facilitate communication about certification and do not create additional obligations unless expressly stated as such.

Applicable versions of the Rules Governing Use, the LONGTIME® Communication Guide and documents associated with use of the mark are identified in the scheme's document management system. They are made available to holders through traceable arrangements, particularly on entry to the scheme, when the right of use is obtained and when changes affect the conditions governing use of the mark.

Use of the LONGTIME® mark is reserved for products covered by a valid certificate and must comply with the Rules Governing Use, this document, the LONGTIME® Communication Guide and applicable contractual documents.

22. Conditions for use of the LONGTIME® certification mark

Use of the LONGTIME® mark and associated communication materials is reserved for holders of a valid certificate issued by an authorised certification body, and only for the products, references, models, versions, configurations or families expressly covered by that certificate. This right of use does not certify the company, the holder's commercial brand or its entire product range. It is attached exclusively to the certified product scope recorded by the scheme operator.

The right of use is personal, non-exclusive and non-transferable. Distributors, resellers, agencies, sales platforms or commercial partners may relay materials relating to certified products under the holder's responsibility but have no independent right to use the LONGTIME® mark. Use of the mark must be accurate, verifiable, proportionate and non-misleading. It must clearly identify the certified product, the certification scope and the actual extent of the associated environmental claim.

The holder remains responsible for compliance of uses made on its behalf, including by subsidiaries, distributors, resellers, importers, agencies, sales platforms or commercial partners.

The LONGTIME® mark may be used only in connection with the claim verified by the scheme: a product assessed against requirements relating to durability, particularly reliability, repairability and robustness. It must not suggest broader environmental performance than that covered by the applicable certification standard.

The right of use ends or is adjusted in the event of expiry, suspension, reduction, withdrawal, non-renewal or voluntary surrender in accordance with [Section 21.4](#).

Exercise of the right of use is also conditional on compliance with applicable contractual obligations, particularly fees or contributions associated with use of the mark. These obligations must never interfere with conformity assessment or certification decisions, which are the exclusive responsibility of the certification body.

22.1 Conditions precedent to the right of use

The right to use the LONGTIME® mark may be exercised only by an authorised holder and only for products covered by a valid certificate.

The conditions precedent are those defined in [Sections 19.2](#) to [19.4](#) concerning issue of the certificate, transmission to the scheme manager and official publication of the certified product.

The right of use takes effect after the certification body has issued the certificate and the scheme operator has registered the certified scope. Publication in the official directory is the public means of verifying the certified product's status. No public use of the LONGTIME® mark may begin before written confirmation from the scheme manager or publication of the

product in the official directory, unless a specific arrangement has been formally established by the scheme operator.

The holder may not use the LONGTIME® mark on the basis of an audit report, informal favourable opinion, provisional decision, planned audit, submitted application or ongoing certification process. Only a valid certificate gives rise to the right of use.

Any extension of use of the mark to a new reference, version, configuration, geographical area or product family is conditional on inclusion in the certified scope or completion of the applicable scope-extension procedure.

22.2 Use on products, packaging and labelling

Use of the LONGTIME® mark on a product, packaging, label, instructions or any associated physical material is authorised only for products covered by a valid certificate.

Detailed rules on the distinction between the logo and graphic label, permitted formats and media, associated wording and application arrangements are defined in the LONGTIME® [Graphic Guidelines](#).

The holder must ensure that application of the mark unambiguously identifies the certified product. It must not suggest that another product, reference, version or an entire range is certified. Where material concerns both certified and non-certified products, use of the mark is permitted only if the certified products are identified clearly, immediately and unambiguously, in accordance with the [Rules Governing Use](#) and the LONGTIME® [Communication Guide](#).

The holder maintains sufficient document control over files and materials using the mark. On request by the scheme manager, it must be able to demonstrate that such uses comply with the certified scope and applicable rules.

22.3 Use in communications

The holder may refer to LONGTIME® certification only for products covered by a valid certificate and in accordance with the LONGTIME® Graphic Guidelines.

All communications must clearly identify the products concerned and avoid confusion with the company, brand, a range or non-certified products. Where a range includes both certified and non-certified products, no wording may suggest that the entire range is certified.

Wording must be fair, precise, verifiable and compliant with LONGTIME® rules and with regulations governing environmental claims in the markets covered by the certificate.

The expression “designed to last” means that the product has been assessed and found to conform to requirements concerning reliability, repairability and robustness. It does not constitute a guarantee of lifetime, absence of failure, universal repairability, an additional commercial warranty or a comparison with non-certified products.

The holder ensures compliant use of the label by third parties involved in promoting or marketing certified products. Material changes to the rules of use are communicated to the

holders concerned and, where they affect the general conditions of use of the label, made available to the public.

Breaches of communication rules are handled under the surveillance and mark-protection procedures in [Chapter 24](#) and, where they affect the right of use, under [Section 21.4](#).

22.4 Compliance with the LONGTIME® Graphic Guidelines

The LONGTIME® [Graphic Guidelines](#) are the implementation document defining the practical rules for use of the mark, logo, graphic label and associated wording.

The holder uses only files, templates, formats or variants made available or approved by the scheme operator. Any unauthorised modification, adaptation, translation, cut-out, recomposition or alteration of the mark, logo, graphic label or associated wording is prohibited.

The scheme operator keeps the LONGTIME® [Communication Guide](#) up to date and makes applicable versions available to holders. Changes to the guide are communicated to holders where they affect use of the mark.

Throughout the certificate's validity and for at least 3 years from its issue, the holder retains a list of materials, packaging, labels, technical documents, commercial materials, digital media and advertising materials on which the LONGTIME® mark has been used.

This list is made available to the scheme manager on request. It enables compliance of uses to be checked, reports or complaints to be handled and withdrawal or correction of materials to be verified in the event of suspension, reduction, withdrawal, expiry, non-renewal or voluntary surrender.

Authorisation granted to the holder confers no ownership rights over the logo, graphic label, graphic files, templates, variants or creations associated with LONGTIME®. It is solely a limited right of use, strictly governed by the certification scope, certificate validity period and applicable rules. Any reproduction, adaptation, modification, extraction, recomposition or reuse of these elements outside this framework is prohibited.

23. Prohibited and misleading uses

The LONGTIME® mark must be used clearly, fairly and without ambiguity. It must never suggest that a product, range, company or brand has a broader certification than that actually granted. Any reference to LONGTIME® must remain directly linked to products covered by a valid certificate and comply with [Chapter 22](#).

The following are prohibited in particular:

- use of LONGTIME® for a product, reference, version, configuration, range or geographical area not covered by the certificate;
- any presentation suggesting that the company, commercial brand, distributor, production site or an entire range is certified where only certain products are certified;
- any confusion between certified and non-certified products;
- any reference to certification that has merely been applied for, is under review, probable, expected or imminent;
- any extension of the environmental claim beyond what is assessed by the applicable certification standard;
- any presentation of LONGTIME® as a guarantee of product lifetime, a guarantee of absence of failure, evidence of general regulatory compliance, a score, ranking, comparative rating or evidence of general superiority;
- continued use of the mark after the right of use has expired, been suspended, reduced, withdrawn, not renewed or voluntarily surrendered.

Any historical reference to former certification, for example to state that a product was certified during an earlier period, is prohibited unless written authorisation has been obtained from the scheme manager.

The holder remains responsible for uses made on its behalf by distributors, resellers, agencies, sales platforms or commercial partners. It must ensure that these third parties do not communicate in a manner that would be prohibited for the holder itself.

Prohibited or misleading uses are handled under the surveillance and mark-protection arrangements in [Chapter 24](#). Where they affect the right of use or certification status, the measures provided for in [Chapter 21](#) may be applied.

24. Monitoring and protection of the mark

The scheme operator monitors the use of the LONGTIME® mark in order to preserve the credibility of the label, the fairness of the information provided to the public and compliance of uses with the applicable rules.

This monitoring covers use of the LONGTIME® mark, logo, graphic label, the statement “designed to last” and any reference to certification. It is carried out without replacing the certification body in assessing product conformity or in decisions relating to the certificate.

Where observed facts may affect the conformity of a certified product, maintenance of the certificate or the scope of certification, the scheme operator informs the competent certification body so that it can determine the appropriate action within its area of responsibility.

24.1 Market monitoring and control

The scheme operator carries out monitoring intended to detect non-compliant, improper or misleading uses of the LONGTIME® mark. This monitoring may cover public materials or materials accessible on the market, such as:

- websites;
- product pages;
- catalogues;
- online sales platforms;
- distributor materials;
- social media;
- press releases;
- advertisements;
- trade fairs;
- packaging;
- in-store presentation materials;
- or any other material referring to certification.

Its purpose is to verify that the mark is used only for products that are actually certified, that the scope is presented correctly, that non-certified products are not associated with the label and that communications do not create excessive or ambiguous environmental claims.

Monitoring may be periodic, targeted or initiated following a report. Its intensity is adapted to the risks identified, particularly in the event of a commercial launch, major communication activity, a change in a product's status, withdrawal of a certificate or suspected misuse. Practical monitoring arrangements, including minimum frequency, materials monitored and recording arrangements, are defined in an internal mark-monitoring procedure.

Findings from monitoring are documented by any appropriate evidence: screenshot, photograph, link, copy of material, date accessed or equivalent evidence.

24.2 Reporting misuse

Any interested party may report to the scheme manager a potentially improper, misleading or non-compliant use of the LONGTIME® mark. As far as possible, the report identifies the material concerned, the product or company concerned, the nature of the disputed use and the information needed to verify the facts. Incomplete information does not prevent examination of the report where the risk appears significant.

The scheme operator carries out an initial analysis to determine whether the situation primarily concerns use of the mark, communication or the published scope, or whether it should be referred to the certification body because of doubt concerning product conformity or maintenance of the certificate. Where the report constitutes a complaint within the meaning of [Part VII](#), it is handled under the applicable complaints procedure while also feeding into the mark-monitoring system. Reports received, their analysis and the action taken are recorded in the scheme's document management system. Where a report is manifestly unfounded, it may be closed without further action, with documented justification.

24.3 Corrective measures

Where a non-compliant, improper or ambiguous use is identified, the scheme operator may require the certificate holder or entity concerned to correct, amend, suspend or withdraw the disputed use. Corrective measures are proportionate to the nature of the deviation, its seriousness, whether or not it was intentional, its potential impact on the public and the risk to the credibility of the label.

They may include correcting wording, removing a logo or graphic label, amending a communication material, clarifying the scope of certified products, adding a reference to certification information, temporarily ceasing a communication or providing evidence demonstrating that the use has effectively been corrected.

The correction request specifies the facts observed, the materials concerned, the corrections expected and the implementation deadline. The certificate holder or entity concerned provides evidence enabling effective implementation of the requested corrections to be verified. Where the non-compliant use is made by a distributor, platform, agency or commercial partner, the certificate holder cooperates with the scheme operator to obtain correction or removal of the materials concerned.

Where the situation affects the right to use the mark or certification status, the measures set out in Chapter 21 may be implemented. Where it gives rise to doubt about product conformity or maintenance of the certificate, the competent certification body is informed.

Corrective actions requested, evidence received and the decision to close or continue the case are recorded in the scheme's document management system.

24.4 Actions to protect the mark

Where non-compliant use persists, requested corrective measures are not implemented, or the infringement is serious, manifest or repeated, the scheme operator may take any action necessary to protect the LONGTIME® mark and associated rights. Such action may include a formal reminder, formal notice, suspension or termination of the right to use the mark, withdrawal or amendment of the disputed materials, updating the official directory, or any action required to bring the infringement to an end. In the event of unauthorised use by a third party, the scheme operator may require immediate cessation of the use and removal of the materials concerned. Precautionary measures may be taken where misuse is likely to seriously mislead the public, undermine the integrity of the scheme or create confusion with non-certified products.

Protection covers the LONGTIME® mark, logo, graphic label, official files, graphic templates and associated creations. The scheme operator retains the evidence required to defend these rights and ensures traceability of actions taken until the case is closed.

PART VII

TRANSPARENCY, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

25. Publication and public information

In accordance with the transparency principle defined in [Chapter 3.3](#), the LONGTIME® scheme makes available to the public the information needed to understand the label, how it operates, its requirements and certified products.

This information enables applicants, certificate holders, consumers, distributors, authorities, certification bodies and other interested parties to identify the applicable rules, verify the status of certified products and follow the main developments in the scheme.

Published information includes in particular:

- certification standards;
- the list of certified products;
- applicable versions and amendments;
- general conditions for access to the scheme;
- cost principles;
- structural changes having a general effect on applicants, certificate holders or interested parties.

The official LONGTIME® label website is the reference publication medium, without excluding the use of other appropriate public media. Published information is updated following decisions, approvals or status changes formally recorded in the scheme's document management system. Publication is carried out in accordance with confidentiality and trade-secret requirements. Technical evidence, industrial data, audit reports, contractual exchanges and information specific to an individual case are not published unless the party concerned agrees or an applicable requirement provides otherwise.

25.1 Publication of certification standards

LONGTIME® certification standards are published and accessible to the public and to the professionals concerned. Publication covers the core certification standard, sector-specific certification standards and, where applicable, project, draft or consultation versions.

The status of each published certification standard is clearly indicated so as to distinguish documents applicable to certification from documents submitted for consultation.

Consultation versions allow interested parties to review them and submit comments where the procedure provides for this. Final versions are the applicable versions from their effective date, subject to any transitional provisions. Published certification standards set out all

applicable or proposed requirements, criteria, thresholds, assessment rules and evidence requirements. No requirement applicable to certification is withheld from publication. Publication specifies at least:

- the title of the certification standard;
- the product category concerned;
- its status;
- its version number;
- its publication date and, where applicable, its effective date.

Detailed arrangements for the development, approval, coding and entry into force of certification standards are defined in [Chapters 11, 14](#) and [15](#).

25.2 Public list of certified products

The scheme operator maintains an up-to-date public list of LONGTIME® certified products, in particular through the official directory of certified products.

This list enables the public, consumers, distributors, authorities, stakeholders and certification bodies to verify that a product is actually covered by a certificate and to identify the associated certification scope.

For each product or product family concerned, the public list states the non-confidential information needed to identify the certified product and its status, including:

- the name of the certificate holder;
- the trade mark, where applicable;
- the designation of the product or product family;
- the references, models or families covered;
- the applicable certification standard and its version;
- the issuing certification body;
- the validity period of the certificate.

Certification status indicates whether the product is covered by a valid certificate or is subject to a particular situation that must be brought to the public's attention (expiry, suspension, reduction, withdrawal, non-renewal or voluntary surrender). The public list is updated following any formalised information affecting the public status of a certified product, including issue, renewal, expiry, suspension, reduction, withdrawal or voluntary surrender.

Published information does not include audit reports, technical evidence, industrial data, confidential commercial information or exchanges specific to an individual case, unless expressly agreed by the party concerned or required by an applicable obligation. The public list does not replace the certificate issued by the certification body. It is the public means of verifying the status of a certified product, consistently with the official publication procedure defined in the chapter on [Official publication](#).

25.3 Register of versions and amendments

The scheme operator makes essential information on versions of certification standards and their amendments publicly available. This public register identifies the applicable version of a certification standard, its status, publication date, effective date and, where applicable, associated amendments.

For each published change, the register states at least:

- the certification standard concerned;
- the version or amendment number;
- the nature of the change;
- a summary of the change;
- the publication date;
- the effective date and status of the change.

Where a change is structural, particularly in the case of a major revision or major amendment, the register also states its general consequences for applicants, certificate holders or interested parties.

The public register does not replace the scheme's internal document register, which retains all supporting evidence, opinions, decisions, analyses and evidence of approval. It constitutes the public part of this traceability.

Detailed rules concerning review, approval, effects, notice periods and transitional arrangements for changes to certification standards are defined in the chapters Development and evolution of the core certification standard and [Revision, amendment and transitional provisions for sector-specific certification standards](#).

25.4 Information on conditions for access to the scheme and costs

The LONGTIME® scheme makes clear information on the general conditions for access to the scheme publicly available.

This information enables any potential applicant to understand the product categories concerned, eligibility conditions, the main stages of the certification process, the role of the scheme manager, the role of the certification body and the general conditions governing use of the mark.

The scheme also makes information available on the [applicable cost principles](#). This information distinguishes costs payable to the scheme manager, royalties or fees associated with use of the mark, and assessment costs invoiced directly by certification bodies.

Published information may take the form of pricing principles, fee schedules, ranges, examples of cost items or explanatory documents enabling the applicant to identify the main financial components of the certification pathway.

Conformity assessment costs are contracted directly between the applicant and the selected certification body. They may vary according to the scope audited, product category, number

of references concerned, sites to be assessed, audit arrangements and any additional checks required.

[Published cost information](#) is intended to ensure transparency, predictability and equitable access to the scheme without creating unjustified barriers for applicants within its scope. Detailed financial principles, applicable contractual relationships and the separation between scheme costs and audit costs are defined in the chapter on [Financial arrangements](#) and in the applicable contractual documents.

26. Complaints procedures

The LONGTIME® scheme provides applicants, certificate holders, consumers, distributors, authorities, certification bodies and other interested parties with a procedure for lodging complaints relating to certified products, use of the mark, operation of the scheme or certification bodies involved in the scheme.

A complaint means any formal expression of dissatisfaction or report concerning an element falling within the LONGTIME® scheme. It does not, in itself, constitute an appeal against an assessment or certification decision.

Complaints are submitted to the scheme manager in accordance with the arrangements published by LONGTIME®. As far as possible, they specify the complainant's identity, the subject of the complaint, the facts concerned, the products, companies or materials concerned, and the information enabling its merits to be assessed.

Each complaint is recorded and then subject to an admissibility review to classify its subject and identify the entity competent to handle it. It is then followed through to closure or, where applicable, closure without further action on stated grounds. The scheme operator acknowledges receipt where the complainant can be identified. The complainant is informed that the request has been taken into account and, where applicable, referred to the competent entity.

Complaints may concern in particular:

- certified products;
- use of the mark;
- operation of the scheme;
- information or criteria contained in sector-specific certification standards;
- findings or decisions relating to the control system.

A complaint may be closed without further action where it is manifestly unfounded, insufficiently documented despite a request for additional information, outside the scope of the scheme, abusive, repetitive or already handled without any new information. Closure without further action is reasoned and recorded.

Where a complaint falls within the responsibility of the certification body, particularly where it concerns conformity assessment, audit findings, non-conformities or a decision relating to the certificate, it is referred to that body. The scheme operator does not replace the certification body in assessing conformity or making certification decisions.

Handling a complaint may lead to a request for additional information, correction of information, corrective action, referral of the case to the competent entity, use of an existing scheme procedure, consultation of the Expert and Ethics Committee, or reasoned closure without further action.

26.1 Complaints relating to certified products

Complaints relating to certified products concern situations in which a product presented as LONGTIME® certified may not comply with the published scope, applicable requirements or conditions for maintaining certification.

They may concern in particular:

- doubt as to the conformity of a certified product;
- a discrepancy between the product marketed and the certified or published scope;
- a significant or recurring failure likely to affect the product's durability, reliability or repairability;
- incorrect or ambiguous public information concerning certification status;
- an incident, recall, market withdrawal or report likely to call product conformity into question;
- communication implying that a product is certified when it is not, or is no longer, certified.

Where a complaint concerns product conformity with the certification standard or maintenance of the certificate, the scheme operator forwards the relevant information to the competent certification body. The latter determines the appropriate action within its responsibilities, under the applicable procedures for surveillance, additional audits, suspension, reduction or withdrawal defined in the chapters [Monitoring and maintenance of certification](#) and [Suspension, reduction, withdrawal and voluntary surrender](#).

In parallel, the scheme operator may verify the consistency of information published in the official directory and make any necessary corrections where a publication error is identified.

Where the complaint primarily concerns public information or consistency between the certificate and official publication, the scheme operator handles the request within its publication and transparency responsibilities.

The certificate holder concerned may be asked to provide information or comments useful for handling the complaint. This request does not alter the allocation of responsibilities between the scheme operator and the certification body. Complaints relating to certified products are recorded and monitored so that recurring situations, risks of non-conformity or needs for scheme improvement can be identified.

26.2 Complaints relating to use of the mark

Complaints relating to use of the mark concern any potentially non-compliant, improper, misleading or unauthorised use of the LONGTIME® mark, logo, graphic label, the statement “designed to last” or any reference to the label.

They may concern in particular:

- use of the mark for a product not covered by a certificate;
- use of the mark after expiry, suspension, withdrawal, reduction, non-renewal or voluntary surrender;

- ambiguous communication concerning the certified scope;
- a presentation implying that a company, trade mark or complete product range is certified;
- unauthorised reproduction or modification of the logo, graphic label or associated graphic elements;
- an environmental claim exceeding the actual scope of the label;
- unauthorised use by a third party.

These complaints are investigated by the scheme operator under the rules governing use and protection of the mark defined in [Part VI](#).

Where the complaint is admissible, it is handled in accordance with the monitoring, correction and mark-protection arrangements defined in [Chapter 24](#). Where the reported facts may affect the right to use the mark or certification status, the applicable action is determined in accordance with [Chapter 21](#). Where the disputed use also gives rise to doubt concerning the conformity of a certified product or maintenance of its certificate, the scheme operator forwards the relevant information to the competent certification body. Complaints relating to use of the mark feed into the mark-monitoring system and may lead to corrective, precautionary or rights-protection actions concerning LONGTIME®, in accordance with the applicable procedures.

26.3 Complaints relating to operation of the scheme

Complaints relating to operation of the scheme concern the arrangements for implementing the LONGTIME® certification system that fall within the responsibility of the scheme manager.

They may concern in particular:

- general conditions for access to the scheme;
- clarity or accessibility of public information;
- arrangements for publishing certification standards, versions or amendments;
- conditions for stakeholder consultation;
- scheme document management;
- processing times falling within the scheme manager's responsibility;
- communication arrangements with applicants, certificate holders or interested parties;
- application of transparency rules;
- any difficulty relating to understanding or general application of the scheme rules.

These complaints are investigated by the scheme operator, which analyses their admissibility, subject, reported facts and applicable documents. Where a complaint reveals an interpretation difficulty, lack of documentary clarity, procedural inconsistency or risk to scheme integrity, it may lead to corrective action, clarification, a document update or inclusion of the matter in the risk review or continual improvement process.

The scheme operator retains the records relating to handling of the complaint, decisions taken and any actions initiated.

26.4 Complaints relating to the certification body

Complaints relating to the certification body concern the conditions under which it acts within the LONGTIME® scheme, including:

- an auditor's conduct;
- organisation or conduct of an audit;
- timeframes;
- communication;
- competence deployed;
- impartiality.

Where such a complaint is received by the scheme operator, it records it and forwards it to the certification body concerned, which remains responsible for handling complaints relating to its own activities, auditors and internal procedures.

The scheme operator may monitor how the complaint is handled to ensure that it is dealt with by the competent body. This monitoring does not constitute a technical re-examination of the case, audit findings or certification decision.

Where the complaint reveals a systemic risk, repeated failure, impartiality risk or difficulty likely to affect the credibility of the scheme, the scheme operator may initiate further analysis as part of its oversight of certification bodies and scheme risk management.

Where a complaint seeks to challenge an audit finding, a non-conformity or a certification decision, it is reclassified or referred to the applicable appeal or challenge procedure in accordance with [Chapter 27](#) and the specific rules of the competent certification body.

27. Appeals and challenges procedure

The LONGTIME® scheme distinguishes between complaints, appeals and challenges.

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction or a report of a fact relating to the scheme, a product, use of the mark or a certification body.

An appeal or challenge is a formal request for reconsideration of a finding, conclusion, decision or application of a rule in connection with an identified case.

Appeals and challenges may concern in particular:

- an assessment finding;
- classification of a non-conformity;
- a request for additional information or evidence;
- a decision to refuse, suspend, reduce, withdraw or not renew;
- a decision that an application is inadmissible;
- interpretation or application of a scheme rule;
- a difficulty relating to application of a certification standard.

Appeals and challenges are handled by the competent entity according to their subject.

Where they concern conformity assessment, audit findings, non-conformities, closure of non-conformities, surveillance or a certification decision, they fall within the responsibility of the competent certification body under its applicable procedures. Where they concern a decision falling within the responsibility of the scheme manager, particularly an admissibility decision, a rule for access to the scheme, a rule governing use of the mark or public information for which the scheme is responsible, they are handled by the scheme operator.

Lodging an appeal or challenge does not automatically suspend the disputed decision, unless otherwise provided by the competent certification body, the scheme operator or the applicable contractual documents. Every challenge is recorded, subject to an admissibility review, examined in a documented manner and answered with reasons. Where necessary, the [Expert and Ethics Committee](#) may be consulted to provide a technical, methodological or ethical opinion. This opinion remains advisory and does not replace the decision of the competent entity.

Persons involved in examining an appeal or challenge must act impartially. Where a conflict-of-interest situation is identified, appropriate measures are implemented, which may include removing the person concerned from handling the case.

Appeals, challenges, analyses, decisions, responses and associated actions are retained in the scheme's document management system or that of the competent certification body, depending on the nature of the case.

27.1 Challenge to an assessment decision

A challenge relating to an assessment decision concerns findings made during conformity assessment, including assessment of evidence, classification of a non-conformity, a request for

additional information, non-acceptance of a form of evidence or the conclusion reached on a criterion.

Such challenges fall within the responsibility of the certification body that conducted the assessment.

An applicant or certificate holder challenging an assessment finding submits the request to the competent certification body in accordance with its procedures and deadlines. The challenge must identify the disputed finding, the criterion concerned, the grounds for challenge and the associated evidence or arguments.

The certification body examines the challenge in accordance with its applicable procedures. It may confirm or amend the finding, request additional information, arrange an additional review or take any other action provided for in its internal rules. The scheme operator does not re-examine evidence from an individual case and does not replace the certification body in assessing conformity.

Where the challenge reveals a general difficulty in interpreting the certification standard, clarification may be requested under the arrangements defined in [Chapter 18](#). Such clarification does not constitute a re-examination of the individual case.

27.2 Challenge to a certification decision

A challenge relating to a certification decision concerns a formal decision by the certification body on the award, refusal, maintenance, renewal, suspension, reduction or withdrawal of a certificate.

Such challenges fall within the appeal procedure of the certification body that made the decision.

The applicant or certificate holder submits the appeal to the competent certification body in accordance with its procedures and deadlines. The appeal must identify the disputed decision, the scope concerned, the grounds for challenge and the supporting information available. The appeal is examined by the certification body in accordance with its internal rules, under conditions ensuring the impartiality of the reconsideration.

Lodging an appeal does not automatically suspend the disputed decision. The status of the certificate and the right to use the mark remain those resulting from the decision in force unless the certification body decides otherwise or a specific measure is formally adopted.

Where the appeal results in a change to the certification decision or certified scope, the certification body or certificate holder informs the scheme operator so that the official directory and associated rights of use can be updated.

The scheme operator may not cancel, amend or replace a certification decision made by the certification body. It acts only in relation to consequences falling within its own responsibilities, particularly updating the official directory, use of the mark and public information.

27.3 Challenges relating to certification standards

A challenge relating to certification standards concerns the content, interpretation, applicability or development of a LONGTIME® certification standard. It may concern in particular:

- interpretation of a criterion;
- applicability of a requirement to a product category;
- relevance of a threshold;
- a difficulty relating to a form of evidence;
- a perceived inconsistency between certification standards;
- a request for change, clarification or amendment.

Where a challenge relating to a certification standard arises in an individual assessment case, it does not replace the applicable procedure before the certification body. The certification body remains responsible for assessing product conformity against the applicable version of the certification standard. The scheme operator may be referred a matter where a challenge raises a general question of interpretation, consistency or development of the certification standard. It records the request, analyses its admissibility and determines whether it should be treated as a clarification, feedback from experience, a request for amendment or a future revision of the certification standard.

Where the request concerns a significant technical or methodological difficulty, the Expert and Ethics Committee may be consulted for an opinion. This opinion is advisory and is intended to inform the scheme operator in maintaining or developing the certification standard.

A challenge relating to a certification standard does not, in itself, retroactively alter assessments or decisions already made on the basis of an applicable version. Any change to the certification standard is handled under the revision or amendment procedures defined in [Chapters 11](#) and [15](#).

Where a clarification of general scope is adopted, it is documented and, where necessary, incorporated into scheme documents or public information relating to certification standards.

27.4 Distinction between an individual appeal and normative development

The LONGTIME® scheme distinguishes an individual appeal from normative development of the certification standard.

Individual appeal: This seeks to challenge the application of a rule, criterion, finding or decision to a particular case. It concerns an applicant, certificate holder, product, certificate, audit or identified scope. It is handled by the competent entity, particularly the certification body for assessments and certification decisions.

Normative development: This seeks to amend, clarify, supplement or revise rules applicable to the scheme or to a product category. It concerns the general content of certification

standards, criteria, forms of evidence, thresholds or assessment arrangements. It is handled under the development, revision and amendment procedures set out in Chapters [11](#), [14](#) and [15](#).

A request for normative development does not constitute an appeal against an individual decision. It does not suspend application of the certification standard in force and does not call into question decisions already made on that basis.

Conversely, an individual appeal cannot amend the certification standard applicable to all applicants or certificate holders. However, where it reveals a general difficulty of interpretation or application, this may be recorded as feedback from experience and examined under the procedures for developing the certification standard. This distinction ensures equitable treatment, stability of certification standards, traceability of individual decisions and structured development of the scheme.

Glossary

Environmental claim: Information, in any form, stating that a product has certain environmental characteristics or performance. Under the LONGTIME® scheme, the claim concerns product durability, assessed in particular in terms of reliability, repairability and, depending on the certification standard, other significant impacts across its life cycle.

LONGTIME® certificate: Document issued by the certification body at the end of the certification process, attesting that one or more products conform to the applicable LONGTIME® certification standard.

Applicant: Natural or legal person applying to enter the scheme with a view to obtaining the right to use the LONGTIME® mark for one or more products.

CEEL: LONGTIME® Expert and Ethics Committee, an advisory body that may be consulted to inform decisions requiring enhanced technical, ethical or methodological analysis.

Criterion: Requirement defined in the certification standard used to assess product conformity against the objectives of the scheme. A criterion may be cross-cutting or specific to a product category.

LONGTIME® licence to use the mark: Authorisation granted by the scheme operator to the holder of a valid LONGTIME® certificate, allowing use of the LONGTIME® mark and ecolabel for the identified products in accordance with the scheme rules.

Economic operator placing a product on the market: Manufacturer, distributor, importer, brand owner or any entity placing a product on the market and applying for that product to benefit from the scheme.

Form of evidence: Item or set of items used to establish or verify conformity with a requirement of the certification standard (document, data, test, procedure, commitment or finding).

Non-conformity: Deviation between a requirement of the certification standard and the elements examined during the assessment, which may result in a non-conformity report, corrective actions and verification of their implementation.

Scheme operator: Person or organisation responsible for developing and updating an ecolabelling scheme. For LONGTIME®, this function is performed by Ethikis ad civis.

Certification body: Independent third-party entity appointed to carry out product conformity assessment, conduct audits and, where applicable, issue the LONGTIME® certificate.

System evidence (commitments and processes): Evidence demonstrating the existence of a structured organisation enabling the requirements of the certification standard to be met (procedures, policies, certifications, guarantees or equivalent arrangements).

Operational evidence: Factual, dated and traceable evidence demonstrating the effective implementation of a requirement for a specified product, period, batch or version.

Certified product: Product identified in a valid LONGTIME® certificate and authorised to use the LONGTIME® mark under the applicable conditions.

PSR (Product Specific Requirement): Requirement specific to a product category that clarifies or supplements a cross-cutting criterion of the certification standard according to technical or sector-specific characteristics.

Certification standard: Set of requirements, criteria, forms of evidence and assessment arrangements applicable under the scheme. It comprises a common cross-cutting core and, where applicable, sector-specific versions.

Sector-specific certification standard: Document applicable to a product category specifying the scope, specific requirements, any applicable thresholds and associated assessment arrangements.

Certificate holder: Holder of a valid LONGTIME® certificate with the right to use the LONGTIME® mark solely for the products covered by that certificate.

Annex 1: Graphic Usage Guidelines

Protection of the LONGTIME® certification mark logo

As the exclusive owner of the registered LONGTIME® mark, Ethikis oversees all use and display of the label and grants authorisations for its use. Any use of the logo, particularly for labelling purposes or in any form on communication materials, is subject to Ethikis' prior approval. The shape and typography of the logo must not be modified. The logo must be reproduced solely from the source file supplied by Ethikis.

Translation note. *The official logo and label artwork shown in this annex is reproduced unchanged from the French source. This is intentional: the source guidelines themselves prohibit modifying the logo or its typography. English explanatory text is provided around the official artwork.*

General rules of use

The LONGTIME® logo, any reference to LONGTIME® and/or to certification may not be associated with products that are not certified under the LONGTIME® certification standard, and must never be used in a way that could mislead. Reproduction of the LONGTIME® logo must comply with the Communication Guidelines. The logo must remain legible and comply with the minimum sizes and exclusion zones set out in this document. To avoid confusion, the LONGTIME® logo may not be more prominent or larger than the brand of the certified entity.

Logo composition

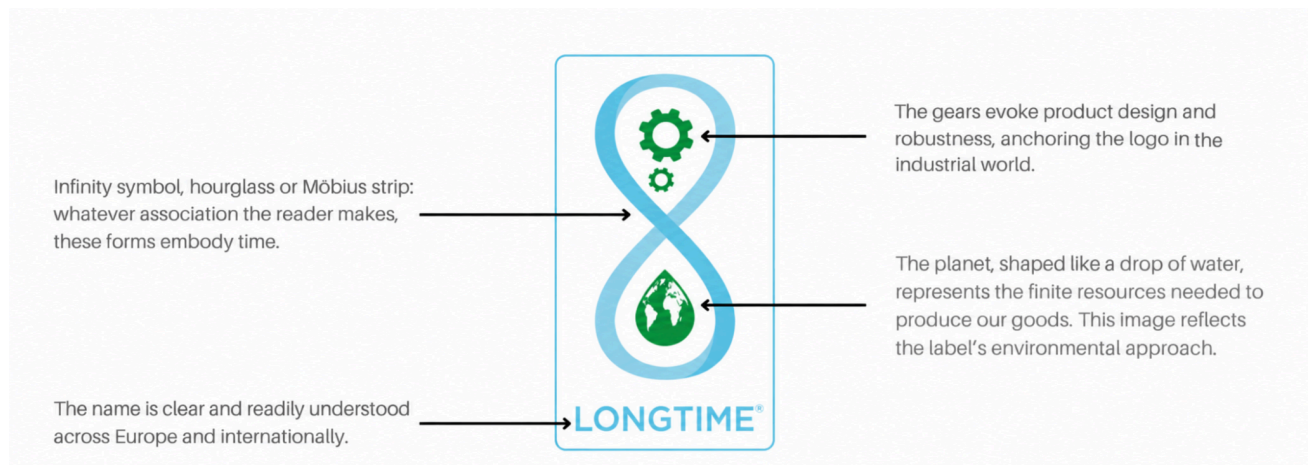
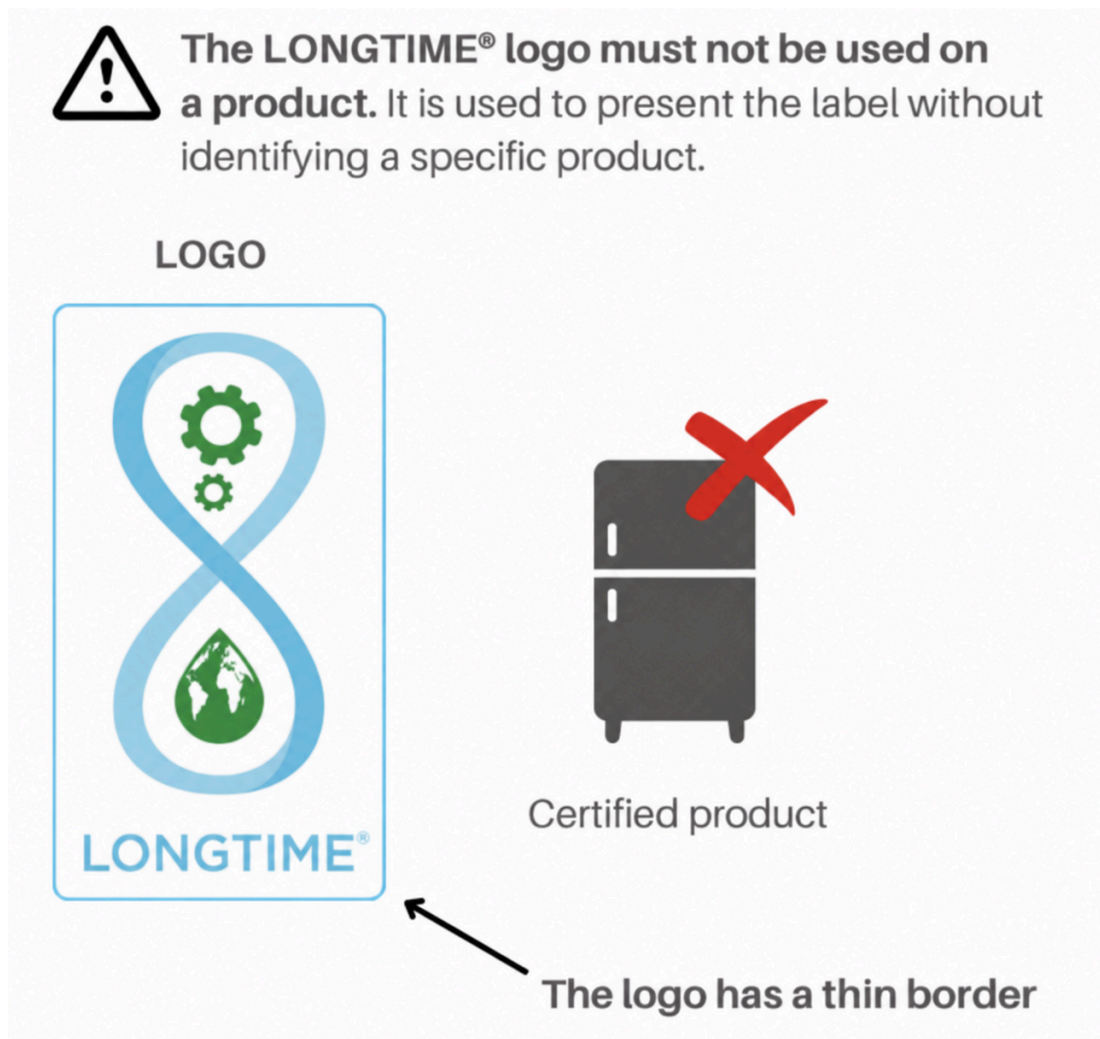


Diagram callouts: the satin-blue infinity symbol, broken so that the eye can also read the figure 8, represents infinity. The gears refer to product design and robustness and evoke the industrial world. The planet takes the form of a water droplet and symbolises resources that must be preserved; it also echoes the infinity symbol, a metaphor for a long-lasting product. The brand name is explicit and understandable internationally.

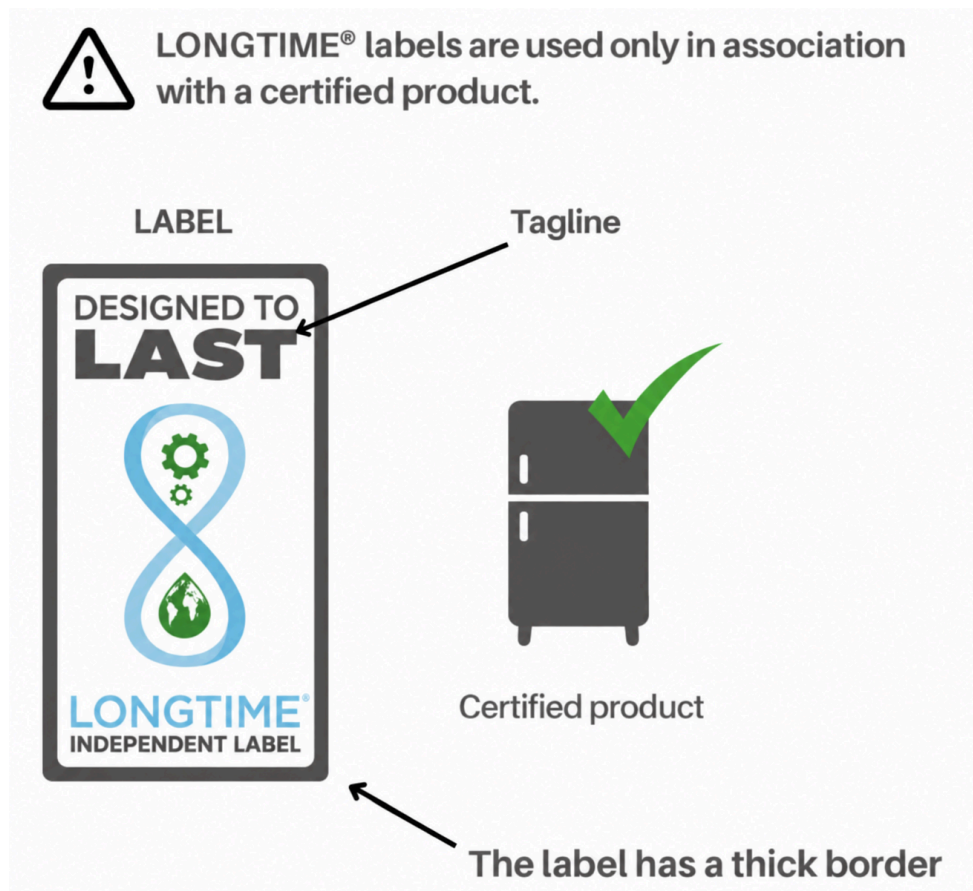
Difference between the logo and the label

LONGTIME® logo



Key rule: The LONGTIME® logo may not be used on a product. It is used to present the label without identifying a specific product. The logo border is thin.

LONGTIME® label

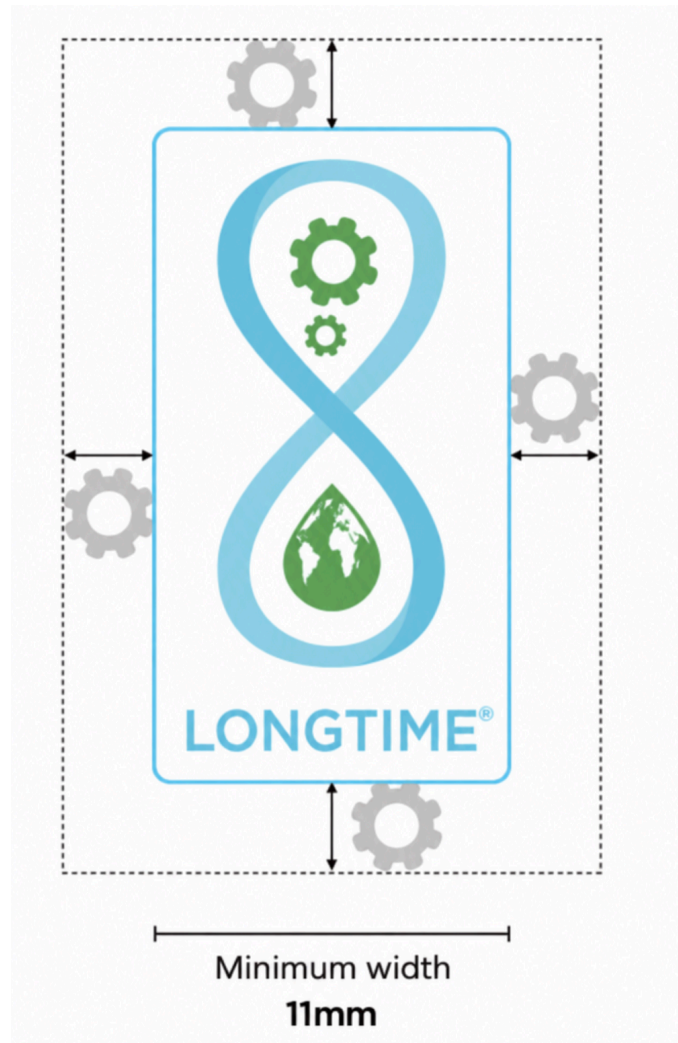


Key rule: LONGTIME® labels are used only in association with a certified product. The label includes the baseline and uses a thick border.

Use of the logo on printed materials

For press use, presentation of the approach, corporate printed materials, in-store communication materials, etc.

- Minimum exclusion zone equivalent to the outside diameter of the largest gear.

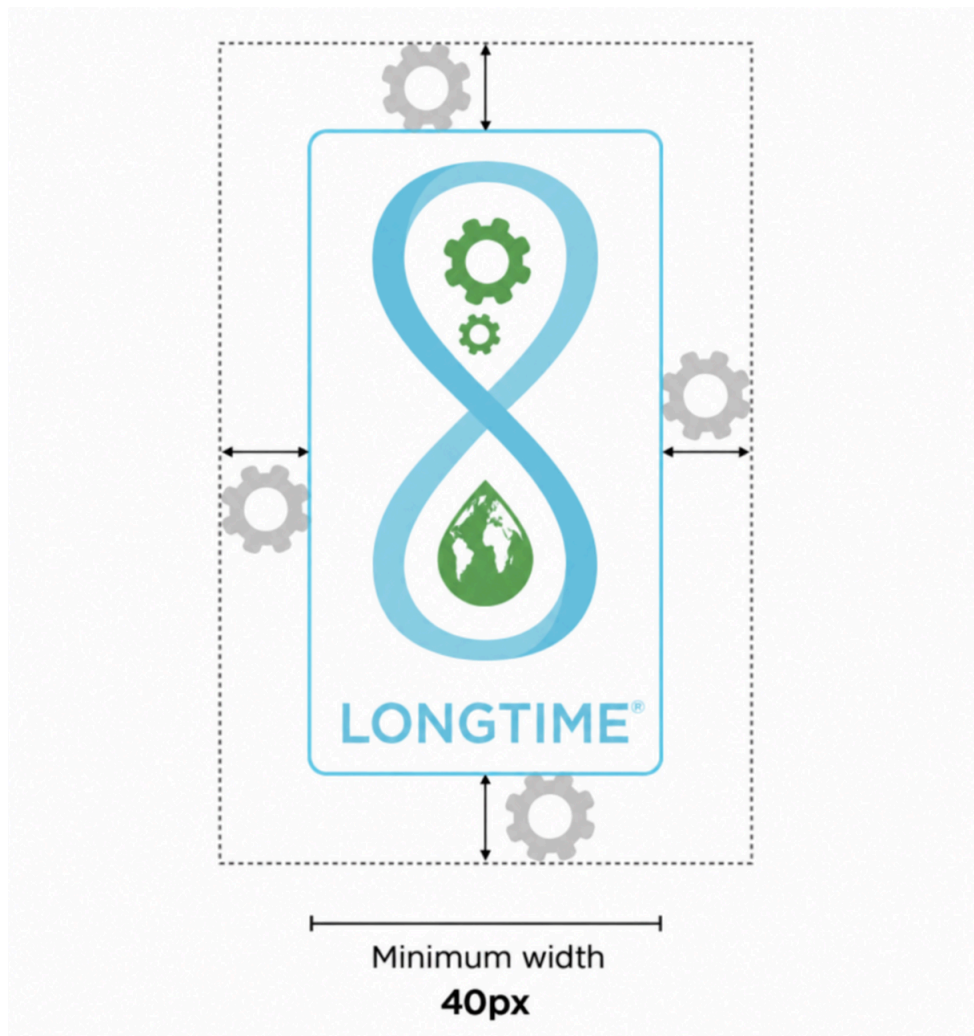


Minimum width: 11 mm.

Use of the logo on the web

For use on a website, digital presentation, social media, etc., whether or not accompanied by a presentation of the approach.

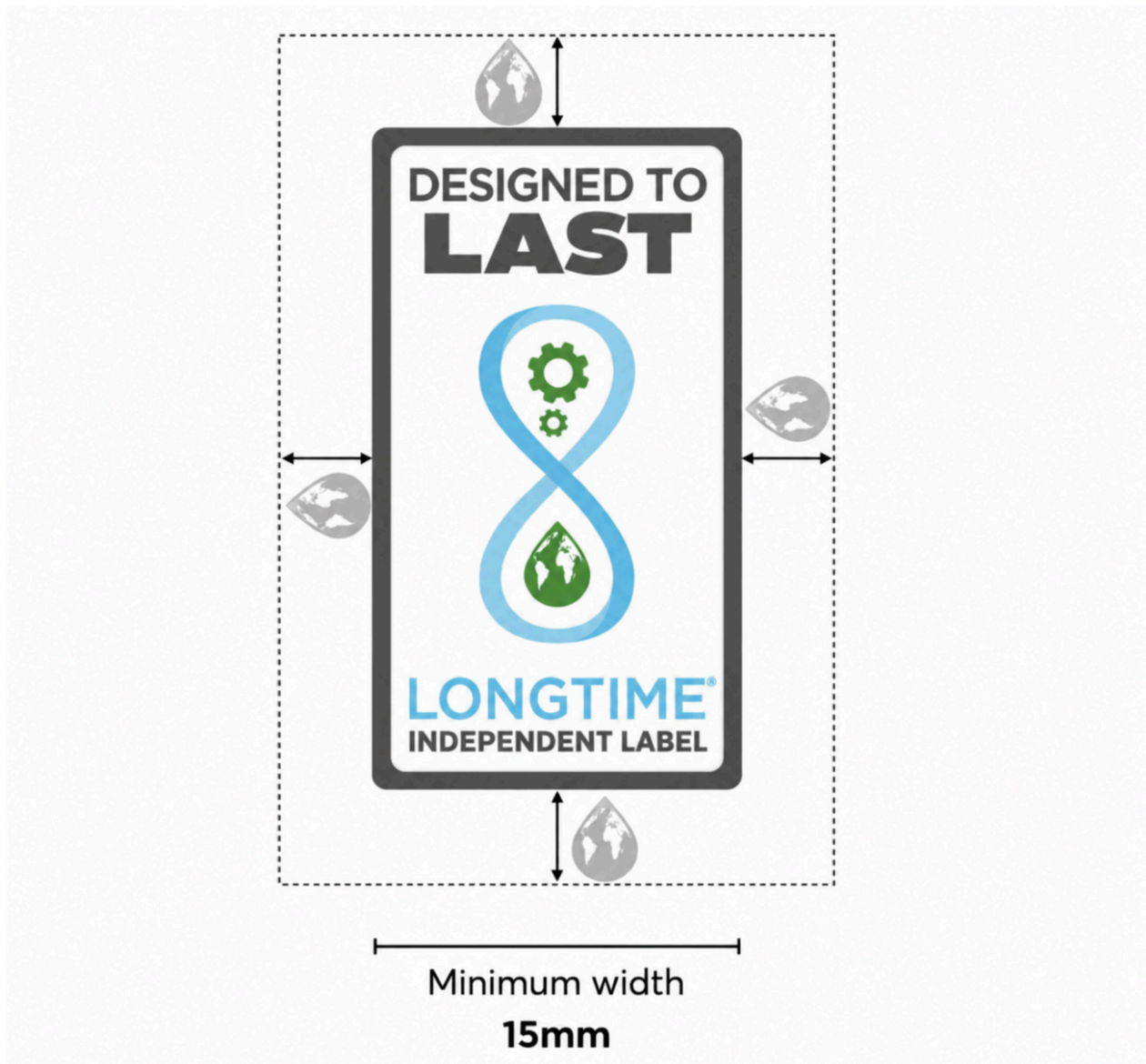
A mandatory exclusion zone of at least the outside diameter of the largest gear must be maintained.



Minimum width: 40 px.

Use of the label on the product

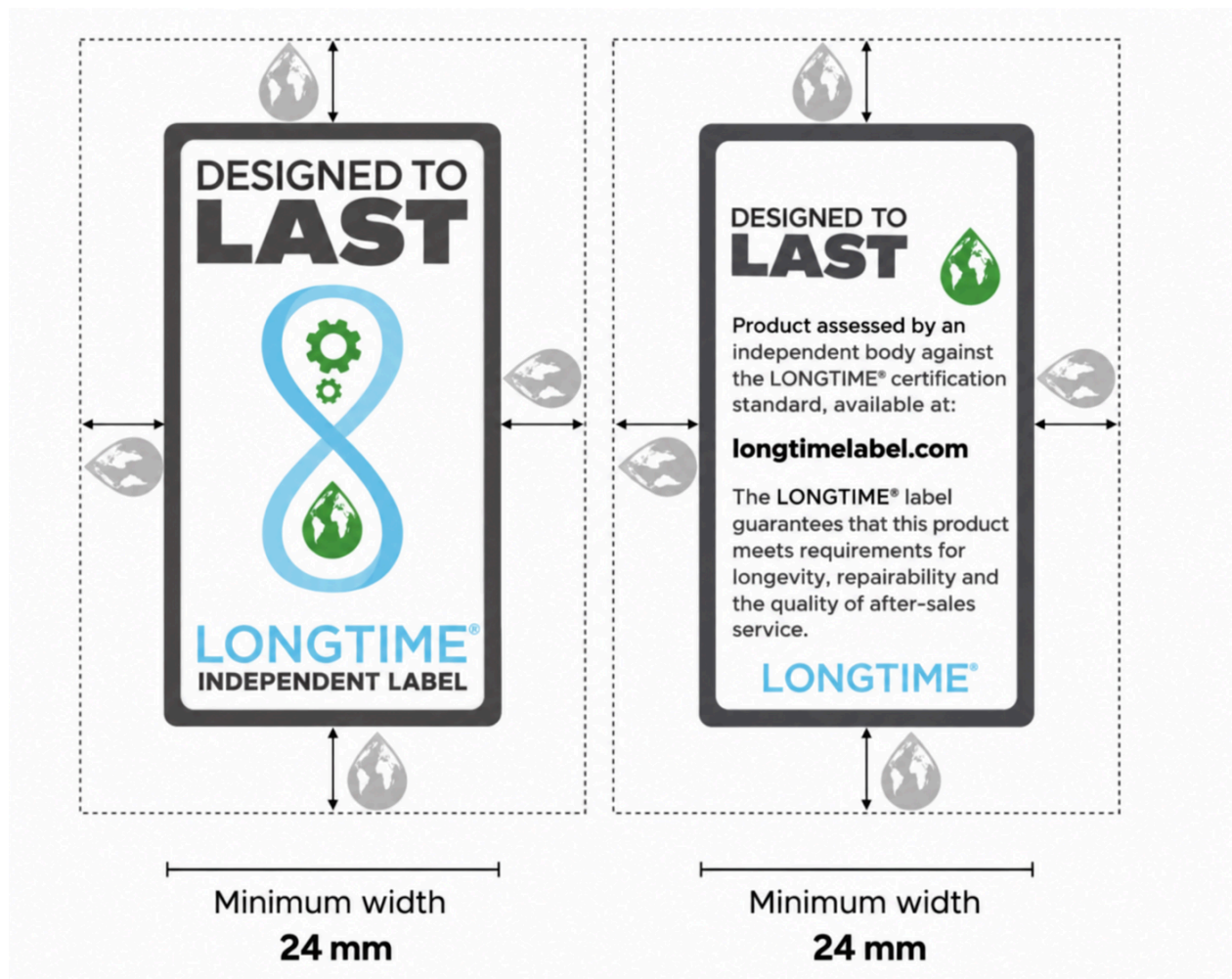
FRONT ONLY



Minimum width: 15 mm.

FRONT / BACK

The front/back version is generally used on a removable medium that the consumer can turn over.



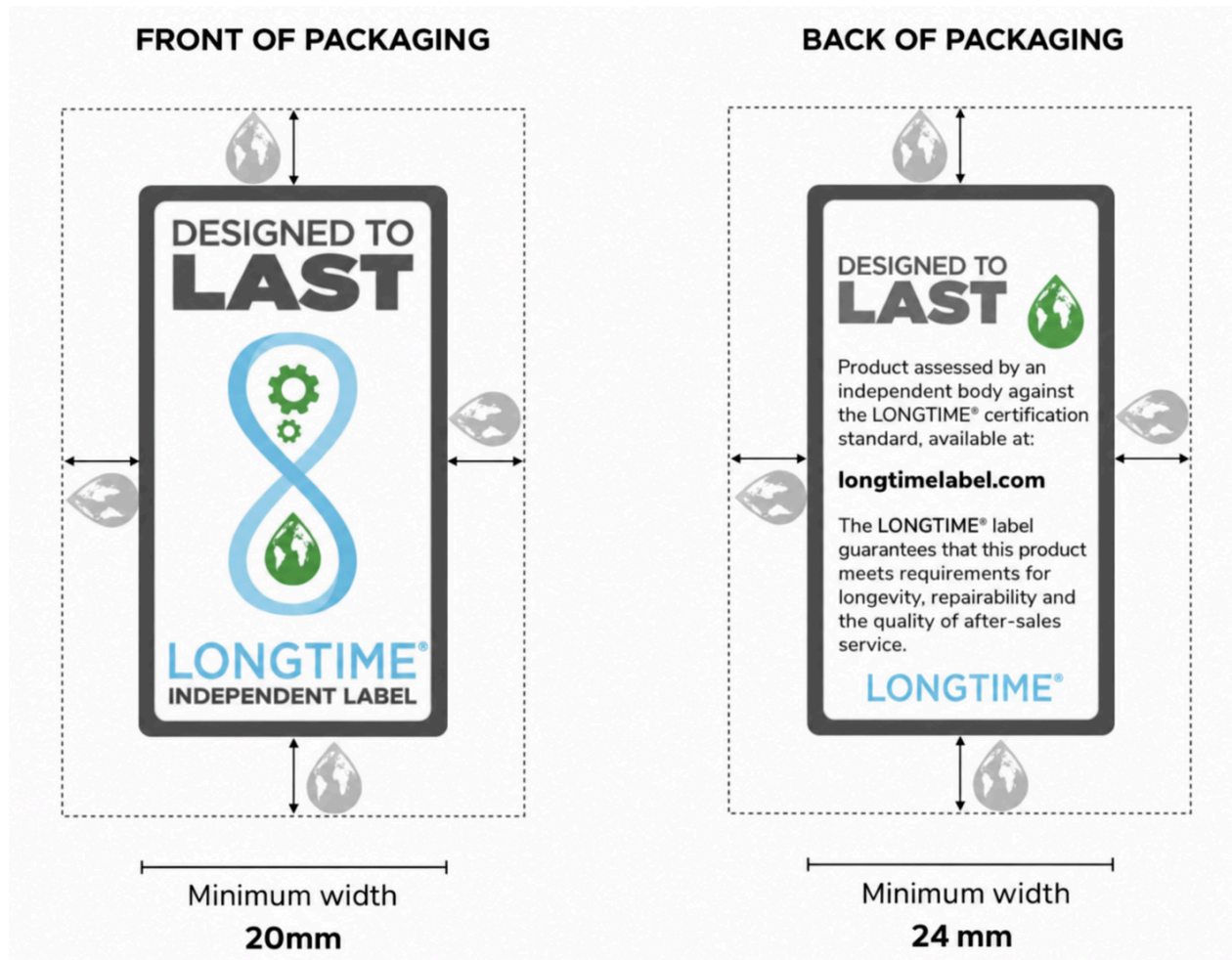
Minimum width: 24 mm on both sides.

The reverse-side message states that the product is assessed by an independent body under the LONGTIME® certification standard available on longtimelabel.com and explains that the LONGTIME® label relates to product longevity, reparability and the quality of after-sales service.

Use of the label on packaging

COMPOSITION 1

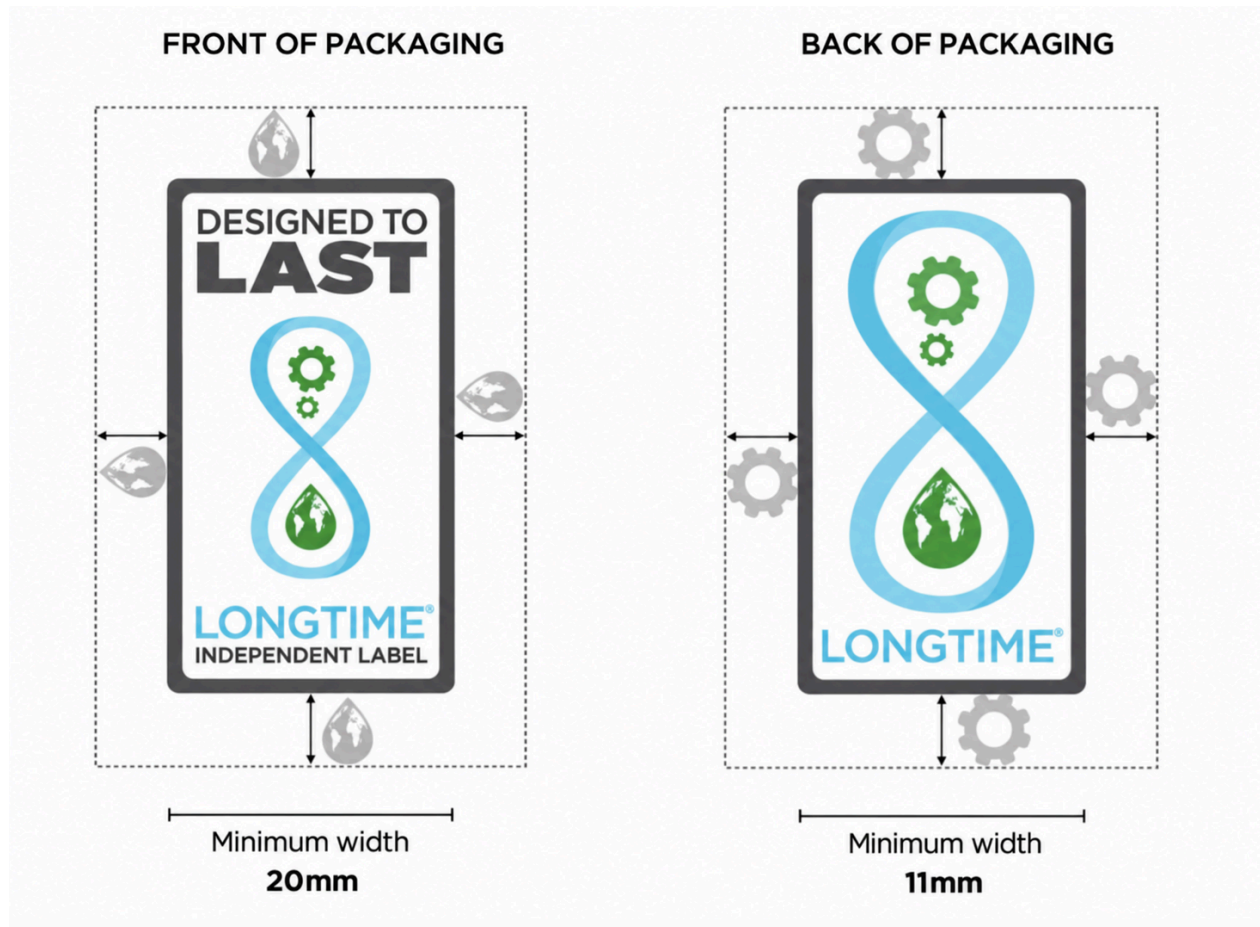
Composition 1 is recommended where the size of the packaging allows it.



Packaging front: minimum width 20 mm. Packaging back: minimum width 24 mm.

COMPOSITION 2

The required wording must use a colour and type size that provide the best possible legibility.



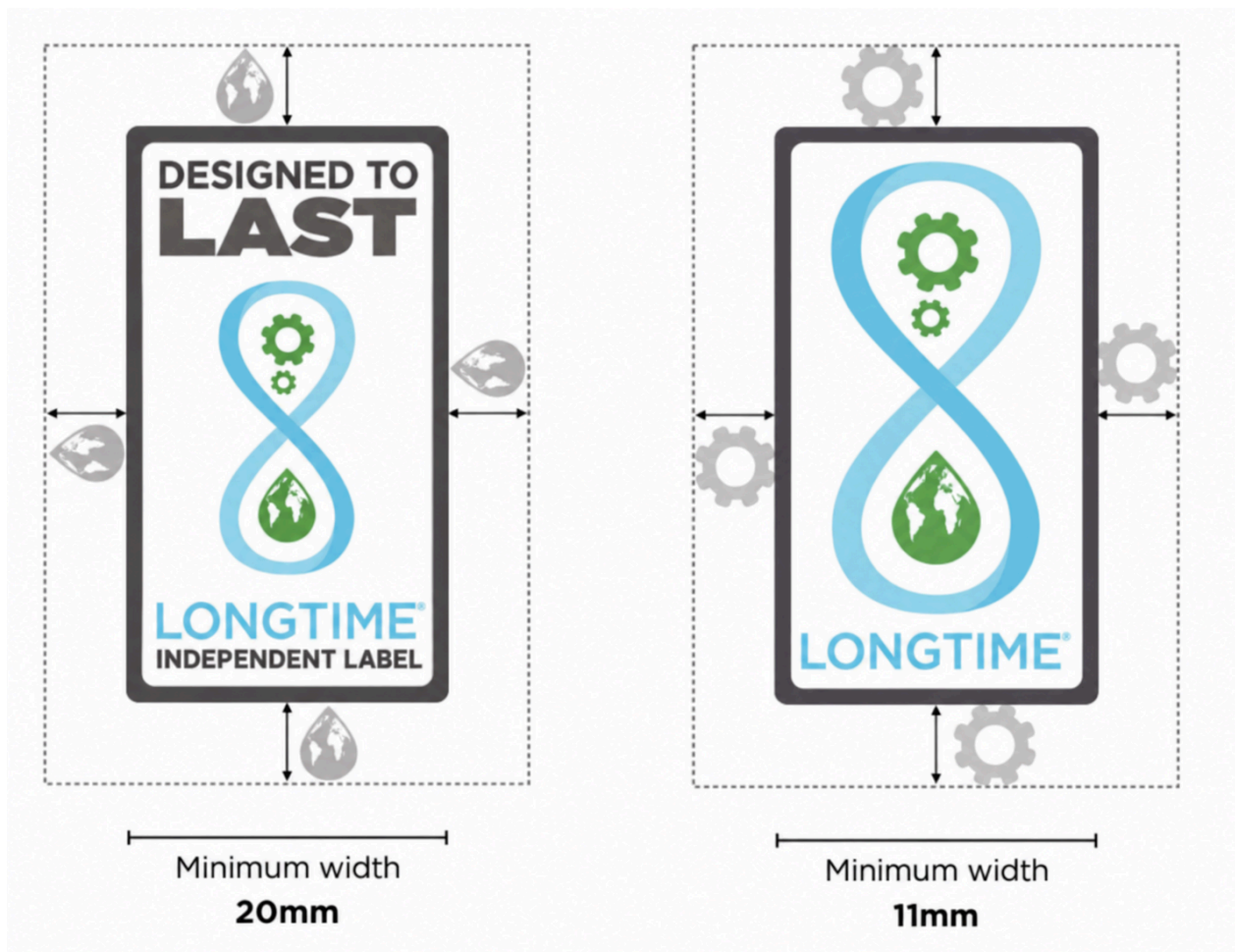
Packaging front: minimum width 20 mm. Packaging back: minimum width 11 mm.

+ Required wording

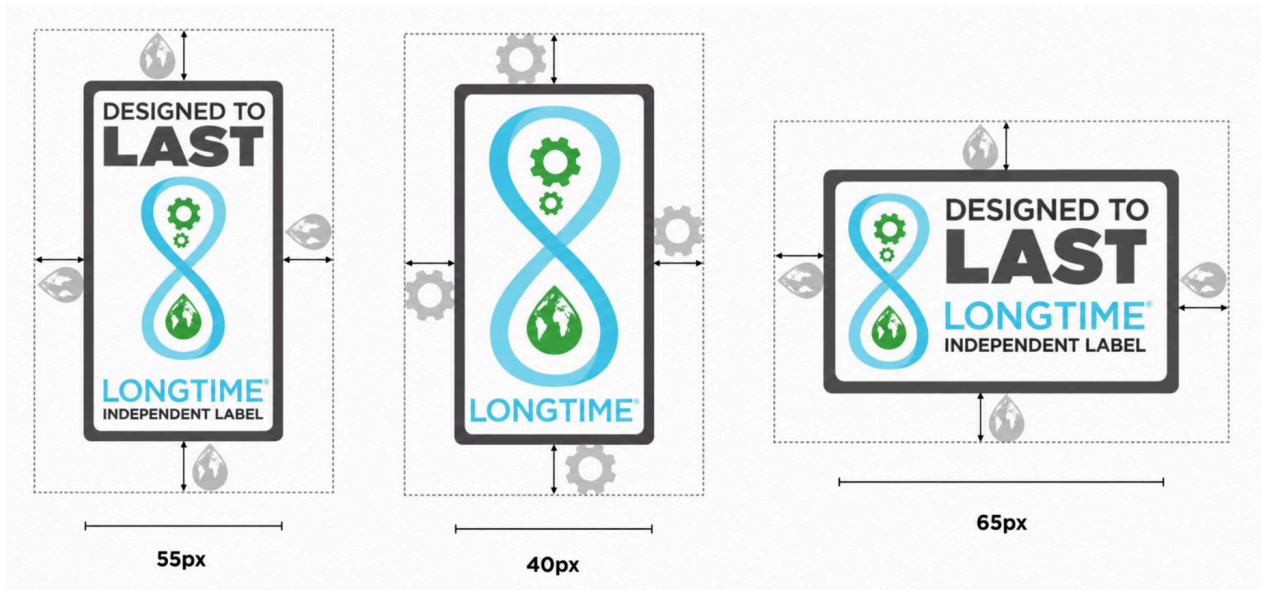
"Product assessed by an independent body under the LONGTIME® certification standard available at longtimelabel.com. The LONGTIME® label guarantees that this product meets requirements for longevity, repairability and the quality of after-sales service."

Use of the label on printed materials

Example: advertising, in-store communication materials, promotional catalogues, etc. - always associated with the certified product.



Use of the label on the web



Colour specifications



COLOUR CODES

C60 M0 Y7 K0
R93 G196 B230
#5DC4E6
2985C



COLOUR CODES

C0 M0 Y0 K80
R87 G86 B86
#575656
COOL GRAY 11C



COLOUR CODES

C100 M0 Y100 K0
R0 G149 B63
#00953F
355C

