



SINTEF

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	No production, no sampling

Introduction

In recent years, several NGS-certified products not being sold within the certification period, meaning they have not been produced within the certification period of two years. To maintain the certification of their products, manufacturers have produced the minimum required 10 rolls, solely for sampling by the NorGeoSpec Certification Body (NCB). These products were often unsellable because there were no specific customer orders against which these could be sold, resulting in unnecessary disposal - sometimes up to 50 rolls.

When the NorGeoSpec guideline was created, it was assumed that the 10 rolls per product would be available from ongoing production or as a standard stock keeping units.

However, additional production solely for certification:

- Generates material, energy, and personnel costs without adding any value
- Creates unnecessary waste and stock
- Conflicts with sustainability principles

At the same time, it remains essential that only properly sampled, tested, and assessed NGS products enter the market under the NGS label.

Rules

A product does not need to be specially manufactured for re-certification if, since the last sampling:

- It falls under the function separation and filtration
- It has been produced and sold to NGS markets in quantities below 10 rolls or 5,000 m²

This option may be used for one consecutive certification cycle only.

If a product has not been produced for two full certification periods (four years), the manufacturer must demonstrate production capability through a new production run, from which samples will be taken for NGS-relevant testing.

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Requirements

Manufacturers may use this option only if:

- The product has completed three full certification cycles (initial certification and two re-certifications).
- The manufacturer provides a written confirmation stating that production and sales to NGS markets have remained below 10 rolls or 5,000 m² since the last re-certification.

Resuming production during the certification period:

If production for NGS markets is restarted:

- The manufacturer must notify the NCB in advance.
- The NCB will perform sampling, testing, and assessment equivalent to a standard re certification.
- The manufacturer must ensure that the required number of rolls is available according to the NorGeoSpec guideline.

Process considerations:

- Sampling can be carried out remotely and normally within 5 working days (excluding holiday periods).
- Testing is typically completed within 3–4 weeks after the laboratory receives the samples.
- As testing is performed by external laboratories, the NCB cannot guarantee exact testing times.

Remarks

Only products that have been tested and approved by the NCB may be placed on NGS markets under the NorGeoSpec label.

Any violation will result in an investigation by the NCB and may result in the withdrawal of all NorGeoSpec certifications held by the manufacturer.