

# Solar Glass Certification Contract, Combo-Package for Photovoltaic and Solarthermal use

## 1. **Concept**

Certification of solar glass, the glass used as a cover in solar thermal collectors or in PV modules, is intended to improve transparency within the market. On the one hand, the manufacturer of a module or thermal collector should have clear criteria available to choose the most suitable glass. On the other hand, malpractice in association with testing of modules and thermal collectors should be made more difficult. The associated label will prevent high-quality glass, which was installed only for testing purposes, from being replaced by lower-quality glass during production.

In addition to complete documentation of the glass performance, an advantage for the manufacturer of collectors or modules is, that different suppliers or types of glass can be chosen. The cover in a tested collector or module can be replaced with glass from the same performance class without significantly changing the system performance.

## 2. **Organisation, procedure**

The Institut für Solartechnik SPF certifies glass types according to specified criteria (see Documents 1 and 2).

The client supplies glass samples of each type to be certified. Each variation in the glass composition, the manufacturing procedure or the surface properties (structure, treatment such as etching or coating) results in a different glass type. Each glass type must be marked with a unique identification. The samples are to be taken from current production. The sample size is 260 x 200 mm. Two samples of each glass type are to be supplied. The samples can be partially tempered, but this is not a requirement.

## 3. **Rights and obligations of the glass manufacturer**

The glass manufacturer (sample supplier) commits himself not to make any changes to the glass type, which could influence the relevant criteria for certification in any way (see Documents 1 and 2), during the period of validity of the certificate.

The glass manufacturer (sample supplier) accepts, that the final certificates are published on the website of the certifying body (SPF) in any case.

If demanded by the certifying body (SPF), the glass manufacturer must supply current samples within a month or as agreed mutually for control testing.

Each glasspane must be marked by the appropriate solar glass labelling (see Documents 1 and 2) in readable size.

#### **4. Rights and obligations of the certifying body**

The Institut für Solartechnik commits itself to carrying out the certification within the shortest time possible. With the exception of unforeseeable events, certification will be completed within a month after delivery of the glass samples. SPF accepts all measurements from other institutes, provided that they have demonstrated the comparability of their results within annual round-robin experiments.

Certification as such will be carried out exclusively by the Institut für Solartechnik. SPF reserves the right to take random samples from collectors.

The Institut publishes the current lists of certified glass types with suppliers' addresses and all relevant technical data in print and on the Internet ([www.solarenergy.ch](http://www.solarenergy.ch)).

SPF reserves the right to modify and improve the procedures.

#### **5. Costs**

The costs are divided into 2 categories:

##### ***Measurement and testing costs***

The measurement and testing costs at the Institut für Solartechnik amount to Euro 3'950 per glass type (as of June 2012). As already stated above, all measurements and tests can also be carried out at other authorised institutes.

##### ***Certification costs***

The certification costs including publication and organisation amount to Euro 1'790 per glass type.

#### **6. Period of validity**

The period of validity of the certificates is 3 years, starting from the certification date. Validity expires after this period and each glass type must be recertified.

#### **7. Changes to the glass**

Any changes to the certified glass type which affect one or more of the certification criteria must be reported to the certifying body (SPF) without delay. Depending on the type and effect of the change, the certifying body will decide whether and which measurements need to be repeated.

#### **8. Cancellation of the certificate**

The certificate will be cancelled for the following reasons:

- False or incomplete specifications in the label
- Changes in the glass type in comparison to the certified sample
- Negative deviation ( $\geq 0.5$  % absolute) of the performance as determined during a later control test.

#### **9. Use of the certificate for advertising purposes**

Use of the certificates for advertising purposes is desired. However, the label must always be quoted completely (according to Documents 1 and 2).

## 10. **Liability and place of jurisdiction**

All tests and evaluations are made according to the best of our knowledge. SPF assumes no legal liability or responsibility from the direct or indirect use of this certificate. Further, the general terms and conditions of SPF apply (Document 3).

The place of jurisdiction is Rapperswil.

## 11. **Documents**

Doc. No.:	Title	Source
1	Certification of Solar Glass PV; Fundamentals	SPF, Internet: <a href="http://www.spf.ch">www.spf.ch</a>
2	Certification of Solar Glass ST; Fundamentals	SPF, Internet: <a href="http://www.spf.ch">www.spf.ch</a>
3	General Terms and Conditions SPF	SPF, Internet: <a href="http://www.spf.ch">www.spf.ch</a>

## 12. **Signatures**

The signatories accept all conditions without further limitations:

<b>SPF:</b>  Rapperswil, ..... Stamp / Signature: .....
<b>Customer :</b> .....  Glass, product name : ..... thickness : ..... structure of surfaces, outside: ..... inside:..... AR coating (outside): .....  Place and date: .....Stamp / Signature: .....