

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Task 57 - Solar Standards and Certification

THE ISSUE

When manufacturers of solar thermal products – for example solar collectors – enter new markets, they often need to do re-testing of their products and to have re-inspection of their production facilities. This is required to get local certification and have access to these new markets.

To avoid/minimize this waste of time and money, SHC Task 57 has successfully supported:

- the creation of the Global Solar Certification Network (GSCN), and
- the development and promotion of international standards for solar thermal products.

OUR WORK

The purpose and objectives of the recently completed Task were:

- to support the operation of the Global Solar Certification Network (GSCN) with the aim of harmonizing certification schemes,
- to support ISO TC/180 work on ISO standards for solar thermal products, and
- to promote the use of ISO standards in all countries and assist in the implementation of standards and certification schemes.

Participating Countries

Australia
Austria
China
Denmark
France
Germany
Portugal
RCREEE
Spain
Switzerland



Collector and system testing at SPF in Switzerland (<http://www.spf.ch/>)

Task Period 2016 – 2018
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KEY RESULTS IN 2018

Global Solar Certification Network

The Global Solar Certification Network (GSCN) is now in operation. After some hesitation, certification bodies from different certification schemes and several of their test labs and inspection bodies are now members of the Network. This means that the industry members can present test and inspection reports from one certification scheme to a certification body from another certification scheme to obtain certification without new testing and inspection.

The first solar collector manufacturer has gone through the process of re-using test and inspection reports from Solar Keymark (in Europe) to obtain SRCC certification (in the USA).

So after some delay - the GSCN concept is now taking off!

If you want to use the Global Solar Certification concept, you will find the information needed at GSCN.SOLAR.



Support to ISO standardization

New proposals for solar standards are now available on the SHC Task 57 webpage:

- Test methods for mechanical load on support of close-coupled solar water heating systems
- Test methods for close-coupled solar water heating systems reliability and safety
- Test methods and requirements for building integrated collectors and systems
- Performance check of large collector fields

It is expected that these proposals will be handed over to ISO/TC 180 during 2019 for further formal processing.

Work on accelerated aging testing of solar collectors has been reported on to ISO/TC 180 and a proposal for test procedures for accelerated aging of collectors is under consideration.

Promotion of ISO standards and implementation of certification schemes

In 2018 three reports were published and can now be downloaded for free from the SHC Task 57 webpage at <http://task57.iea-shc.org/publications>.

- The final version of the "Guide to Standard ISO 9806:2017 - A Resource for Manufacturers, Testing, Laboratories, Certification Bodies and Regulatory Bodies"
- The "Guideline for Implementing Certification Schemes for Solar Heating and Cooling Products"
- A survey on ISO 9806

Task 57 webinar

An IEA SHC Solar Academy webinar on the results of SHC Task 57 was held in December 2018. You can find the recording at <http://www.iea-shc.org/solar-academy/webinar/solar-standards-and-certification>.