FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE IECEE CB SCHEME

1. What is the IECEE CB Scheme process?
The IECEE CB Scheme, or CB process, is an international system for mutual recognition of test results and certificates in the field of electric and electronic component, production equipment and product safety. It is based on a multilateral agreement among participating countries and certification organizations. The primary goal of the IECEE CB Scheme is to facilitate international trade of electrotechnical products; it offers manufacturers a simplified way to receive worldwide country-specific certificates.

2. What does IECEE CB stand for?
The IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) uses the term IECEE for the “IEC System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrical and Electronic Components, Equipment and Products.” The abbreviation “CB” means “Certification Body.”

3. What is the CB process based on?
The CB process is based on the use of international IEC standards. When national standards are not completely harmonized with IEC standards, national regulatory requirements and special national conditions can be taken into account with the CB process. A prerequisite is, that these standards have been formally explained and detailed for further publishing and submitted to the IECEE office.

4. Which certification bodies can take part in the CB Scheme process?
Every country that is a member of the IEC can name its own national certification body for the CB process. This first requires harmonization of national standards with the IEC standards. Any discrepancies or differences to the IEC standards have to be openly declared and submitted to the IECEE office for publication. Furthermore, every national certification body (National Certification Body – NCB) has to apply for recognition of the specific IEC standards that they want to apply in the CB process. Every applicant will be assessed on-site by a team of member experts (NCBs and CBTLs) in order to verify compliance with requirements in ISO/IEC 17065. IECEE currently has 52 member bodies and about 276 CB Testing Laboratories – CBTLs. A CBTL is a testing laboratory recognized by the CB process and therefore able to carry out testing and to issue CB testing reports for one or more product categories. A CBTL can work for several NCBs, but is officially under the jurisdiction of one NCB or belongs to one NCB. CBTLs are also evaluated on-site to receive recognition.

TÜV Rheinland is represented by four NCBs in Germany, Hungary, the USA and Japan, and has its own CBTLs in these countries.
5. How does the CB process work?
Manufacturers of electrotechnical products or their authorized agents apply for product certification according to the CB process at an NCB. Product samples are then tested at a CBTL for conformity with the applicable IEC standards. If the products conform to the applicable IEC standards, the CBTL issues a test report on the basis of which the NCB issues the CB test certificate. The manufacturer can commission the NCB with supplementary product tests in order to obtain the necessary approval marks for products required for their various target markets. If the manufacturer already has a CB certificate and test report, these suffice for other NCBs participating in the CB process, and which therefore recognize this certificate, to offer testing that may be necessary for launching the product on the market.

TÜV Rheinland has comprehensive experience and expertise related to country-specific regulatory requirements as a result of its many years of membership in the IECEE CB Scheme.

6. What are the advantages of the CB Scheme?
The CB Scheme offers benefits to manufacturers who want to export their products to countries that participate in the CB process. Among these advantages is the choice of NCB, centralized product testing from one NCB, including additional testing required to bring products into circulation in other target markets, as well as the use of CB test reports and certificates to obtain country-specific approval marks. NCBs participating in the CB process are required to give priority to certification applications based on existing CB certificates. Certifications based on the CB process therefore save time and money.

7. Which product categories and standards are covered by the CB process?
An extensive product palette is included in the CB process: IT and office equipment, household appliances and devices, lighting, measurement devices or electrical medical devices. TÜV Rheinland offers safety tests and EMV tests in the CB process for the following electrical product groups:

- Electric vehicles (IEC 60745, IEC 61029)
- Household appliances (IEC 60335)
- Industrial devices and machines
- IT products (IEC 60950)
- Entertainment electronics (IEC 60065)
- Measurement devices and regulators (IEC 61010)
- Lights (IEC 60598)
- Electric vehicles and solar components
- Medical products (IEC 60601-1)
- Welding devices and transformers

8. What is the difference between the CE mark and the CB certificate?
The CE mark represents product compliance with all applicable legal regulations in the European domestic market. The manufacturer or an authorized agent located in the European Union affixes the CE mark and declares thereby on their own authority that the product meets all valid requirements of EU law, independent of the input of an impartial third party to the compliance evaluation process.

In the CB process, an NCB, as an impartial third party, tests the compliance of the electrotechnical product with the applicable, published IEC standards. If the product is in compliance with the relevant IEC standards, the NCB issues a CB certificate based on the CB test report.

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9. How are CB process-certified electrotechnical products identified?
Dealers and importers can provide a copy of the certificate. The product is also recognizable by the test mark. The corresponding tests marks of tested products can be found in TÜV Rheinland’s test mark catalogue. A list of all NCBs participating in the CB process is available on the IECEE website.

About TÜV Rheinland

Founded more than 140 years ago, TÜV Rheinland is a global leader in independent inspection services, ensuring quality and safety for people, the environment, and technology in nearly all aspects of life.

We inspect technical equipment, products and services, oversee projects and help to shape processes for companies around the world. Since 2006, we have been a member of the United Nations Global Compact to promote sustainability and combat corruption.

Always a good sign. The TÜV Rheinland test mark.

This mark stands for all the relevant customer information about products, services and systems that are tested, certified or inspected by TÜV Rheinland. This information is available online anytime, anywhere, and can be viewed in a matter of seconds at the click of a button. This means optimal transparency and top performance in terms of safety, quality and reliability – always. Global, systematic and eye-catching – communicated through a unique and multi-functional mark. The TÜV Rheinland test mark.

Do you have additional question or need support? Our product testing experts are here to assist you. Please contact us now!