



## Policy for Renewing Test Results

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Quality Test Method (QTM) tests are valid for a period of two years from the original test report date.<sup>1</sup> To ensure certification for another two years, these results must be renewed or updated, with the cost of testing borne by the manufacturer. This policy applies to both pico-products and solar home system (SHS) kits.

In summary, manufacturers can use one of two approaches to renew QTM results:

- A) If the product remained unchanged since it last underwent QTM testing, a two-sample Primary Market Check Method (MCM) test with randomly procured samples can be used to confirm the original results. It is the manufacturer's responsibility to reach out to VeraSol staff regarding renewal testing; however, as a courtesy, VeraSol will notify the product manufacturer that the product's test results will soon expire. Manufacturers should contact VeraSol at least 4 months before the expiration date of the product's original test results. This will provide 1 month for testing coordination, product sampling and shipping, 1.5 months for testing, 2 weeks for report review and 1 month to respond to any issues discovered during testing.
- B) If the product was modified since it was last tested, then new QTM testing is required for the changed aspects, in addition to two-sample Primary MCM testing for all other aspects. This can take 3-4 months from arrival at the test lab to issuing a report, so we recommend contacting VeraSol at least 6 months before the expiration date.

If a manufacturer signs a certification agreement for renewal testing before the product's test results expiration date, and sampling occurs within 30 days, the product's listing on the VeraSol website will be extended and the product will maintain its certification throughout the renewal testing process. Note that manufacturers must contact VeraSol 30 days before expiration and respond to VeraSol promptly to gather the required materials to allow time for preparing a test plan and processing a certification agreement. The expiration date for the product is based on the original expiration date of the test results, not on the extended expiration date.

If a manufacturer does not initiate the renewal process 30 days before the expiration date, a 45-day grace period will be in effect during which the renewal process may still be initiated, but the product will be removed from VeraSol's product database on the expiration date of the original

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the [Product Support Expiration Policy](#) for details.

## POLICY FOR RENEWING TEST RESULTS

results. Delays of more than 30 days after sampling (e.g. shipment delays, delays due to non-payment to the lab or to VeraSol, delays in responding to a request for information needed for testing) will result in the product's removal from the VeraSol website. Once renewal testing is complete if the results indicate that the product meets the applicable Quality Standards<sup>2</sup>, the product will be relisted on the website and retain its original program benefits.

Manufacturers should keep in mind that a lapse in valid QTM test results might disqualify the product for importation into countries that enforce mandatory quality standards. The product might also be excluded from tenders that require quality verification via QTM testing at an accredited laboratory.

Furthermore, while VeraSol may be willing to extend the expiration date of the certification for a product whose QTM results have expired while renewal testing is underway, this does not guarantee that the product can be imported into all countries because some governments, importation agencies, and procurement programs may require a valid test report.

As the two-year renewal date approaches, product manufacturers should coordinate with VeraSol to renew a product's test results according to the following guidelines:

### **A: Renewal of Test Results for products that remain unchanged**

*Summary of requirements: Two-sample primary MCM with randomly procured samples. Results must meet the applicable Quality Standards<sup>2</sup>*

*Validity: Additional two years*

*Details:*

These guidelines apply to products that have not been changed since the previous testing. The model name and number remain the same, and there has not been an update to any components of the product.

Seven samples of the product will be procured by the [Product Sampling Policy](#). Samples will typically be selected by VeraSol by random sampling at a warehouse specified by the manufacturer but may be procured from the market, at VeraSol's discretion. **The manufacturer is responsible for paying the VeraSol program fees (which include the sampling costs), the cost to ship all product samples, and the cost for renewal testing.**

### **B: Update of Test Results for updated products or products with new generations**

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<sup>2</sup> VeraSol began referencing IEC TS 62257-9-8: *Integrated systems – Requirements for stand-alone renewable energy products with power ratings less than or equal to 350 W* in place of the Lighting Global Quality Standards in 2020.

See <https://verasol.org/updates/transition-to-iec-ts-62257-9-8> for detailed transition information. See the [Change Log for Quality Standards](#) for details on new requirements and the differences between the Standards.

## POLICY FOR RENEWING TEST RESULTS

*Summary of requirements: New QTM testing for changed aspects and two-sample primary MCM testing for unchanged aspects with randomly procured samples. Results must meet the applicable Quality Standards<sup>2</sup>*

*Validity: Additional two years*

*Details:*

These guidelines apply to products that have been updated or replaced with next-generation models. Any change to the product should be reported to VeraSol at the time of the renewal.

Up to 18 samples of the product will be procured per the [Product Sampling Policy](#) to undergo QTM/MCM testing. Samples will typically be selected by VeraSol by random sampling at a warehouse specified by the manufacturer, but maybe procured from the market, at VeraSol's discretion. In cases where only certain aspects of the product are changing, a custom test plan may be used to only require a full 6-sample or 4-sample QTM test for the re-designed aspects, while a 2-sample primary MCM can be used to re-test the unchanged aspects.<sup>3,4</sup> The new QTM test results (or a mix of QTM and MCM results) will be used to determine if the updated product or next-generation product meets the Quality Standards. **The manufacturer is responsible for paying VeraSol program fees (which include the sampling costs), the cost to ship all product samples and the cost for testing.**

### **Results**

For aspects of the product tested with 2 samples (primary MCM method):

- If the test results indicate the product meets the Quality Standards, the results displayed on the Standardized Specifications Sheet will not change and the updated results will be valid for an additional two years from the end of testing. The reported values on the Standardized Specification Sheet will not be increased based on the results of the 2-sample testing.

For aspects of the product tested with 4 or 6 samples (QTM method):

- If the test results indicate the product meets the Quality Standards, the new test results from QTM testing for changed aspects (testing done on 4 or 6 samples) will replace the previous results on the Standardized Specification Sheet.
- Once the re-designed product has met the Quality Standards, the new product will replace the old product. If ongoing support for the original product is required beyond the completion of the testing for the new product, the manufacturer should use the test results renewal procedures described in Option 1 above for the original product.

**If the results for one or more aspects of the product no longer meet the Quality Standards**, VeraSol will require corrections, clarification or retesting. See the [Market Check](#)

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<sup>3</sup> Pico-PV products (products with peak power of 10 W or less) require 6-sample QTM tests. Solar home system (SHS) kits (products with PV power up to 350 W) require 4-sample QTM tests.

<sup>4</sup> See the [Similar Products Policy](#) for guidance regarding creation of a custom test plan.

## POLICY FOR RENEWING TEST RESULTS

[Testing Policy](#) for details on the next steps for products with 2-sample test results that do not meet the Quality Standards. If retesting is required, it will be conducted at the manufacturer's expense.

### **About VeraSol**

An evolution of Lighting Global Quality Assurance, the VeraSol program supports high-performing, durable off-grid products that expand access to modern energy services. VeraSol builds upon the strong foundation for quality assurance laid by the World Bank Group and expands its services to encompass off-grid appliances, productive use equipment, and component-based solar home systems. Like Lighting Global Quality Assurance, the VeraSol program is managed by CLASP in collaboration with the Schatz Energy Research Center at Humboldt State University. Foundational support is provided by the World Bank Group's Lighting Global program, UK aid, IKEA Foundation, Good Energies Foundation, and others.

Please visit [VeraSol.org](http://VeraSol.org) for more information.