

INFORMATION SHEET

Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification (HPQ)

1 Purpose and Aim

The Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification (abbreviated in German to HPQ) is demanded under railway engineering rules and regulations such as those issued by the UIC, the rail authorities and other bodies as part of DB AG's policy on quality.

An HPQ qualifies a manufacturer for a specified process or else for the making of a specified product that has already been defined by means of standards, drawings or other technical documents.

Manufacturers with many years of experience of supplying DB AG must nevertheless acquire an HPQ.

The aim of a Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification is to ensure that only manufacturers (directly or indirectly) supply products to DB AG who are in a position to guarantee DB AG's exacting requirements for safety, reliability and process capability.

2 Sequence of an HPQ

Manufacturer-Related Product Qualifications are applied for by writing in letter form to the following address:

For Superstructure and its Components
Deutsche Bahn AG
Beschaffung Infrastruktur
Lieferantenmanagement und Qualitätssicherung
Caroline-Michaelis-Str. 5-11
10115 Berlin
GERMANY

Once an application has been received, the ordering party is requested in writing to answer the following questions and furnish the relevant documentary proof:

- Which products are made?
- Size of business
- Number on payroll divided up into manufacturing and quality assurance functions
- Annual production of product groups
- Enumeration of all manufacturing and test equipment
- Particulars of business organisation with appropriate organigrams
- Manufacturing and test sequence schedules for the applicable products
- Information on vendor parts with supply list
- Particulars of feedstock
- Proof of process capability if applicable

The nature and scope of an HPQ are to be agreed with the testing engineer responsible for conducting it.

A Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification contains the following elements:

- works inspection
- assessment of staff qualifications, of equipment and of process capabilities (if necessary)
- testing of product
- testing of components, field trials if necessary

An inspection is made of the manufacturing process with the aid of check-lists and manufacturing and test-sequence schedules.

During the works inspection, the requisite specimen samples are also marked.
Products can be tested

- at DB AG's Research & Technology Centre (TZF)
- at a laboratory accredited under DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025
- or on the manufacturer's premises

Which laboratories can be used for testing depends on the product.
The manufacturer is responsible for dispatching specimen samples.
Once a Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification exercise has been successfully conducted, a certificate is issued.

Further certificates in English or French must be ordered separately

The Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification does not embrace a supplier assessment of the manufacturer.

3 Validity of the HPQ

The term of validity is 3 years.

The Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification can be extended once for a further 3 years if

- the prerequisites for qualifying have not altered and
- goods supplied during the term of validity of the qualification are validated by DB AG or an organisation it commissions for the purpose and no problems arise in respect of quality.

Observance of the above conditions shall be demonstrated by the ordering party. Extensions are only granted upon application.

If no extension is applied for or an order for a new qualification lodged, then the HPQ shall cease to be valid.

If, owing to serious problems of quality, the current status of a Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification is called into question or else the manufacturer contravenes key conditions of the qualification, then said manufacturer may be divested of same.

The manufacturer may apply to have the scope of their HPQ extended or altered as long as the prerequisites for a Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification still hold good. The measures required are to be determined from case to case.

In the event of a change of ownership, an existing qualification can, if a suitable application is made, be transferred to another enterprise. This presupposes that the corresponding content and the conditions that led to the qualification have not altered.

4 Cost

Before a Manufacturer-Related Product Qualification exercise is conducted, the ordering party is required to declare him-/herself willing to assume the cost of same. The foreseeable amount entailed will be set out in the relevant correspondence.

The overall cost is made up of the cost of conducting the exercise plus travel costs. Travel costs include outlay on hotels, flights, train journeys and road trips.

The ordering party is required to assume the cost of all tests.