

The IBO Product Tests

Submission

Send us the products you want to have subjected to the building biology and ecology IBO product test with the enclosed application for preliminary testing. At the same time, send us all expert opinions and test certificates (such as fire prevention, statics, noise protection,...) that you already have and up-to-date advertising documents and user guidelines. On the basis of these documents, the IBO will prepare a list of questions that you as client answer within one month. Based on your list of answers, the IBO will assess the chances of the product passing the test.

When the decision is positive, the IBO will prepare a cost estimate for a comprehensive IBO product test. If a successful completion of the IBO product test is not likely, we will notify you of this without delay and give reasons for this. This procedure ensures the minimisation of your financial risk. Then you can decide whether an IBO product test is to be carried out or not.

Procedure

From the placing of the order onward, an IBO product test takes 3-6 months. Detailed research work and investigations over the entire life cycle of a product are carried out. When it becomes necessary, a second list of questions is prepared. When no up-to-date measuring results are available, the IBO carries out exhaust gas measurements, heavy metal analyses, material tests, radioactivity measurements and tests in connection with electrostatic properties – depending on the type of product. Furthermore a team of the IBO makes a visit to the manufacturer's works for the relevant product in order to see the products for themselves, on the one hand, and to discuss questions that may have come up face to face, in the course of a meeting.

When the result is positive, the product will be awarded the IBO test mark for two years. The comprehensive test report informs consumers and the client in detail about the result of the test.

When the decision is negative, the client gets a comprehensive report containing reasons for this as well as suggestions for the improvement of his product in order to enable a further development with a view to ecology and building biology. Should there be reasons that neither justify a wholly

positive decision nor a negative decision, the test mark may also be awarded for shorter periods of time until the defect that was identified has been removed.

Subsequent test

For the extension of the period of use of the IBO test mark, subsequent tests have to be carried out every year in addition. This serves to consider the latest developments and to guarantee a constant or better quality. With a view to quality assurance, the IBO reserves the right to carry out tests of the product quality without a previous announcement if this becomes necessary.

The subsequent tests carried out for the purpose of quality assurance involve considerably less work and expenses than the initial test as they are periodic additional tests.

Costs

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The application for the IBO product test is 900 Euro for the first product and 100 Euro for every further product. The amount has to be transferred with the enclosed remittance slip. It covers the expenses for the preparation of the product-specific list of questions, the execution of the preliminary test for finding out whether the product is eligible for testing or not and the preparation of the cost estimate for the comprehensive IBO product test.

Initial test

The costs that are incurred for the IBO product test mainly depend on the product and the work necessary for the collection of the data materials. Depending on the work involved for the IBO, the costs for the IBO product test are, as we know from experience, 2,500 to 7,300 Euro excl. VAT, and the costs are not considerably higher for the testing of several similar products.

When an order is placed, an advance payment to the amount of approx. 50% of the costs listed in the estimate becomes due. From the time of advance payment onwards, the IBO product test takes 3-6 months. When the decision is positive and the test report and the IBO test mark are handed over, the remaining amount becomes due.

User fee

The award of the IBO test mark for distinguished products is subject to payment of an annual user fee. The user fee is graded on the basis of the number of products tested:

1 st product	1,090 p.a. (excl. VAT)
2 nd product	730 p.a. (excl. VAT)
3 rd product	510 p.a. (excl. VAT)
4 th to 9 th products	290 p.a. (excl. VAT)
From 10 th product	15 p.a. (excl. VAT)

All prices in Euro, exclusive of value-added tax, version as of 1st April 2002

The user fees are used to finance the writing of articles, the sending of test reports, the maintenance of the Internet pages and the continuous updating of the criteria and their international coordination.

Subsequent test

The prospective costs of the subsequent tests are also considered in the cost estimate. In general, they are 20 to 30% of the initial test. The costs for material tests are invoiced separately in as far as they are not calculated in the framework of a subsequent test.

Execution

Österr. Institut für Baubiologie und -ökologie GmbH.

Product testing department

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Responsible head of department: Mag. Hildegund Mötzl

Staff: Barbara Bauer, master carpenter
DI Philipp Boogman, environmental scientist
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DI Thomas Zelger, physicist

We will be happy to provide you further information. Furthermore we refer to the General Terms and Conditions for IBO Product Tests.

The **IBO** - Österreichisches Institut für Baubiologie und -ökologie GmbH is your competent partner.

As a recognised and independent specialised institute active in the field of healthy and environmentally oriented building and living, we have carried out building biology and ecology product tests for years, and award the IBO test mark for valuable and recommendable products.

International cooperation ensures the consideration of standards that go beyond national borders. As a result, the IBO test mark is of significance for other countries too and improves your export prospects. Its international character ensures the continuous consideration of the latest developments for our range of services too. You can profit from the practical orientation and experience of our team of experts.

An overview of our services

- Formulating of building biology and ecology product requirements for building materials and furnishing materials
- Preparation of test plans
- Product testing of building materials and furnishing materials for their compatibility with building biology and ecology criteria
- Awarding of the IBO test mark for products that are valuable with a view to building biology and ecology
- Analysis of weak points and product development
- Identification and assessment of harmful substances
- Consulting in the course of construction measures
- Preparation of scientific studies
- Publishing of test reports and studies
- Distribution of specific literature
- Trainings for sales staff
- Assistance for dealers regarding the selection of product ranges on the basis of building biology and ecology criteria

see also www.ibo.at