

Lighting Global Policy for Renewing Test Results

Version 3

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Quality Test Method (QTM) tests are valid for a period of two years from the original test report date.¹ To ensure continued support for another two-year period, 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 Lighting Global staff regarding renewal testing; however, as a courtesy, Lighting Global will notify the product manufacturer that the product's test results will soon expire. Manufacturers should contact Lighting Global at least 4 months prior to 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 Lighting Global at least 6 months prior to the expiration date.

If a manufacturer signs an agreement for renewal testing prior to the product's original test results expiration date, and sampling occurs within 30 days, Lighting Global will continue to support the manufacturer throughout the renewal testing process, even if testing is not completed until after the expiration date of the original QTM results.

If a manufacturer allows the original QTM test results to expire prior to initiating the renewal process, 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 the Lighting Global website on the expiration date of the original results. If, once renewal testing is complete, results indicate that the product meets the Lighting Global Quality Standards, the product will be relisted on the website and retain its original program benefits.

¹ See the [Product Support Expiration Policy](#) for details.

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 Lighting Global may be willing to extend Program support 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 Lighting Global 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 Lighting Global Standards

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 in accordance with the [Product Sampling Policy](#). Samples will typically be selected by Lighting Global by random sampling at a warehouse specified by the manufacturer, but may be procured from the market, at Lighting Global's discretion. **The manufacturer is responsible for paying the Lighting Global 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

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 Lighting Global Standards.

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 Lighting Global at the time of the renewal.

Up to 18 samples of the product will be procured in accordance with the [Product Sampling Policy](#) to undergo QTM/MCM testing. Samples will typically be selected by Lighting Global by random sampling at a warehouse specified by the manufacturer, but may be procured from the market, at Lighting Global'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.^{2,3} The new QTM test results (or mix of QTM and MCM results) will be used to determine if the updated product or next-generation product meets the Lighting Global Standards. **The manufacturer is responsible for paying Lighting Global fees (which include the sampling costs), the cost to ship all product samples, and the cost for testing.**

² Pico-solar products, which are defined as products with peak power of 10 W or less, require 6-sample QTM tests, while solar home system (SHS) kits with peak power of greater than 10 W and up to 350 W, require 4-sample QTM tests.

³ See the [Similar Products Policy](#) for guidance regarding creation of a custom test plan.

Results

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

- If the test results indicate the product meets the Lighting Global Quality Standards, the results displayed on the Lighting Global 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 Lighting Global 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 Lighting Global Standardized Specification Sheet.
- Once the re-designed product has met the Quality Standards, the new product will replace the old product. If on-going 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, Lighting Global will require corrections, clarification or retesting. See the [Market Check Testing Policy](#) for details on 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.