Introduction to the concept of "Global Solar Certification Network"

**Aim**

The aim of "Global Solar Certification Network" (GSCN) is to facilitate cross-border trading for manufacturers and other suppliers of solar thermal products; its objective is to minimize the need for re-testing and re-certification in each new country where products are to be marketed and sold.

**Scope**

The concept of "Global Solar Certification" is being implemented for solar thermal collectors and is based on the test procedures given in ISO 9806. Other components as well as complete solar water heaters and solar heating/cooling systems could be included at a later stage.

**Concept**

The "Global Solar Certification Network" is a cooperation between solar certification bodies/schemes around the world. When a product has been certified by one of the participating certification bodies/schemes, the product can obtain certification from other participating certification schemes without re-testing of the product and without re-inspection of production facilities.

**Organisation**

The "Global Solar Certification Network" is made up by industry representatives and representatives from participating certification bodies, test labs and inspection bodies. The Global Solar Certification Network is governed by a board of directors and managed by a manager; the Network operates under the "Global Solar Certification Network - Working Rules".

**How does it work**

**How does it work for manufacturers**

A GSCN manufacturer having already a certificate from a certification body member of GSCN, applies directly to the "new" certification body (also member of GSCN) who issues the certificate he wants next for his product(s).

The manufacturer shows the existing certificate and ask the test lab and inspection body which did the testing and inspection already to provide the "new" certification body with existing test and inspection reports. Test lab and inspection body shall be recognized by the "old" as well as the "new" certification body.

The "new" certification body will then tell the manufacturer if any additional testing/inspection will needed.

If no additional testing is required - or when such additional testing has completed - the manufacturer is granted the license to mark his product with the "new" certificate too.