

Automotive Parts Certification



Traceability; The NSF Automotive Parts Certification Program

NSF-Certified automotive parts meet strict quality, safety and performance standards. Through NSF's comprehensive program, manufacturing facilities are audited, parts are tested and the manufacturer's quality systems are reviewed to ensure that all NSF-Certified parts are fully traceable.

The Importance of Traceability

Traceability is a critical aspect of any part that has potential safety and/or liability implications. In the unlikely event of a part recall, the traceability requirements of the NSF Certification program assure the end user that the affected parts can be readily identified through required markings and traced back to the part manufacturer. An NSF Mark on a part ensures that it is fully traceable — from the point of final inspection back to the raw materials from which the part was made.

NSF-Certified parts are identified by the NSF Mark that appears on the part. In addition to the NSF Mark, certified parts are required to be marked with both the production lot number and the manufacturer's name/logo. Knowing the manufacturer and the unique lot number allows identification of all aspects of the processing and materials used in the manufacture of that part.

Quality Control

In-plant quality-control tests are required for each lot of NSF-Certified parts that pass through production, allowing NSF the ability to review test results on any NSF-Certified part. Tests conducted at this level can include:

- Product dimensions
- Tensile strength
- Material strength/thickness
- Coating application (if applicable)
- Adhesion
- Physical properties

Additionally, manufacturers are required to identify a material lot for each production lot, enabling NSF to determine exactly what raw materials were used in the part's production. The material manufacturer's certification sheet along with incoming material inspection records from the manufacturing facility are required for each NSF-Certified part.

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No Dual Lining

Those facilities approved to manufacture NSF-Certified structural parts have agreed to make only one quality level of part. By not having a lower quality part of the same part number in the same plant the possibility of low quality parts being mixed with high quality parts has been eliminated and the path to traceability has been significantly simplified and enhanced.

Why NSF International?

NSF is recognized globally as one of the premiere registrars of automotive manufacturing facilities. NSF is one of the top three ISO/TS registrars in the U.S., with more than 350 automotive-focused auditors supporting the program. NSF's 4,500 automotive clients include both OEMs such as Nissan and Honda as well as major part manufacturers including Federal-Mogul, Goodyear and Johnson Controls.

Contact Us

For more information on the NSF Automotive Parts Certification Program, please e-mail autocert@nsf.org or visit www.nsfautomotive.com.