

Rules of Use of the ABCERT Logo

1. Intended Purpose

This document contains the binding rules regulating the use of the ABCERT logo. In compliance with these rules the ABCERT logo may be used by companies, producers or businesses (hereinafter called companies), for which ABCERT has determined a conformity to legal or private standards.

There is no necessity or obligation to use the ABCERT logo to demonstrate the conformity with the respective standards, yet the ABCERT logo may be used solely in connection with a valid certificate of conformity issued by ABCERT.

In most cases the standards provide their own marks of conformity, e.g. the "European Organic Label" according to the EG Organic Production Regulation. These above mentioned rules have to be observed when using the ABCERT logo.

These rules of use have been set up to meet the wish of companies to use the ABCERT logo, e.g. for promotional purposes.

2. General Rules

The ABCERT logo is protected by trademark rights and may be used solely after authorization by ABCERT which determines the conformity to legal or private standards. Any distribution of the logo to third parties may be permissible only with the consent of ABCERT. By using the ABCERT logo the company commits to comply with the standards audited by ABCERT.

3. Use of the ABCERT Logo

The ABCERT logo may be used for example on invoices, delivery notes, stationary, promotional material, and product labels, if they directly refer to a process or to one or several products, for which a conformity to legal or private standards has been determined by ABCERT.

The use of the ABCERT logo must not be misleading about the scope of application of the respective standards or about ABCERT. The company is required to use the ABCERT logo in a correct manner.

4. Reproduction of the ABCERT Logo

4.1. ABCERT Logo – Black/White



4.2. ABCERT Logo - Colored



The ABCERT logo may only be used in the way determined by ABCERT (see examples above). The logo must not exceed the size of the company's own logo. The logo must appear separately, which means that it must not be integrated within the company's logo. An original print must be sent to ABCERT before the publication of the ABCERT logo. ABCERT must be notified of every modification.

5. Application Rules for Companies

5.1. Right of Use

A company wanting to use the ABCERT logo must be holding a valid certificate of conformity.

5.2. Right of Use in case of Suspension of the Conformity

In case of suspension of the conformity, the company must immediately stop handing over any documents containing the ABCERT logo.

5.3. Right of Use in case of Termination of the Conformity

In case of termination of the conformity (e.g. cancellation of contract), the company must immediately stop handing over any documents containing the ABCERT logo.

5.4. Right of Use in case of Non-Conformity of Scopes of Activities

The conformity must not be declared or implied, nor be referred to activities in a non-conform area. This applies in particular to the following:

- If a company holds a certificate of conformity for only parts of its activities, the ABCERT logo or other reference to the conformity may only be used when it doesn't mislead about the scope of application of the conformity.

- Whenever a company consists of several locations, of which at least one doesn't hold a certificate of conformity, then only the conform locations are allowed to use the ABCERT logo or refer to the conformity.
- When a common document is published, a statement must be imprinted close to the ABCERT logo, e.g. containing the following text: "List of the conform locations and scopes of activities available upon request".
- Whenever a subsidiary belonging to a group holds a certificate of conformity, there must not be any confusion regarding which part of the group holds the conformity. Notifications must not imply that other subsidiaries obtain conformity. A list of the conform subsidiaries must be attached especially when a common document shall be published.

6. Misuse

A misuse of the ABCERT logo or of the ABCERT name is inter alia present when a company refers in a wrong or misleading manner to the conformity.

Any infringement of these rules will be subject to the following sanctions, under consideration of the gravity of the infringement:

- written warning
- written warning with requirements
- revocation of authorization of using the ABCERT logo
- warning of termination of the contract
- termination of the contract

In certain situations, the application of legal sanctions in line with the copyright or with appropriate commercial laws may be considered.

ABCERT AG

Martinstraße 42-44

D-73728 Esslingen

Tel.: +49-711/ 35 17 92 - 0

Fax: +49-711/ 35 17 92 - 200

mail: info@abcert.de

www.abcert.de