

# White Paper

## What is Third Party Verification?



Third party verifications are an independent 'tick in the box', confirming either a product or a set of products' compliance with a particular standard. In the structured cabling industry, this verification testing is performed by a small number of expert test laboratories, and can incorporate testing of components for communication cabling, i.e. horizontal / backbone cables, connecting hardware, patch cords, and permanent links and channels consisting of these components.

Testing is carried out in laboratory conditions using highly sophisticated, extremely accurate network analyzers and test rigs.

### Who Carries Out The Verification Testing

There are a small number of well known verification organisations, each of which offer a range of test and certification services. Some of the most recognised service providers include , Force Technology (formerly Delta), 3P and ETL.

Excel has chosen to work closely with Delta and the majority of the products offered by Excel which hold third party verification are part of Force Technology's EC VERIFIED programme.

EC VERIFIED is a globally recognised approval programme for cables and connecting hardware. It confirms that the products have been tested to, and meet, the relevant standard by Force Technology, whose processes and model are approved by the Danish quality standards body DANAK, as an accredited independent third party testing laboratory.



### Are There Different Types of Certification programmes ?

Broadly speaking, there are two types of approval programmes available:

- Full Maintenance Approval
- Certificate of Compliance

The specific names for these approvals can be different from one test house to another, - for example attestation of conformance has the same general meaning as certificate of compliance but the details of them are very similar. The table opposite highlights the general difference between the two.

<b>Certification</b>	Certification of Compliance	Full Maintenance Approval
<b>Validity of Certificate</b>	One year	As long as the programme is running, renewed annually
<b>Branding</b>	Cannot use the official logo of the test house	Can use the official Logo of the test house
<b>Statement in Literature</b>	May state that the product has been tested by the test house	The product can be accompanied by the Official Logo (E.g.: 3P Verified / EC Verified)
<b>Listing on the website of the Test House</b>	N/A	Listed until the approval is discontinued
<b>Sample Approval</b>	One time testing of production sample	Initial approval of production samples
<b>Factory Inspection</b>	N/A	Factory inspection will be required before qualification can be granted
<b>Follow up Activities</b>	N/A	Factory inspection and sample approval every 6 or 12 months

### Factory Inspections:

It can be seen that a major difference between the approval processes, is the use of factory inspection as part of the full maintenance option.

