

Certification of Products and Facilities

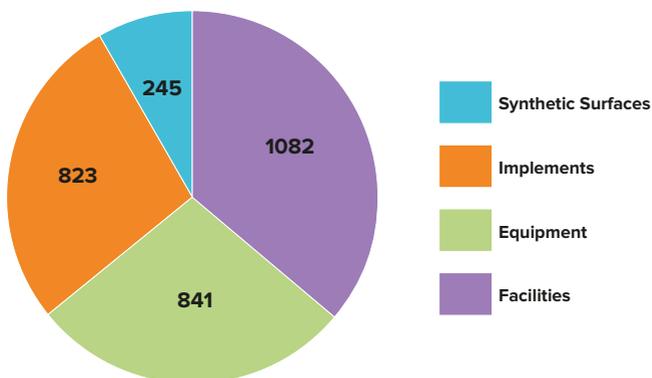
Introduction

The Certification System was introduced in 1999 to meet the following objectives:

- To provide better quality products and facilities
- To guarantee the validity and accuracy of performances
- To ensure integrity and comparability
- To serve and protect athletics manufacturers
- To support any initiative to improve athletics goods
- To encourage and support innovation
- To help and protect athletes

Over the past 20 years, nearly 3000 facilities, equipment, implements and surfaces have been tested as compliant with the Rules and Regulations of the sport of Athletics.

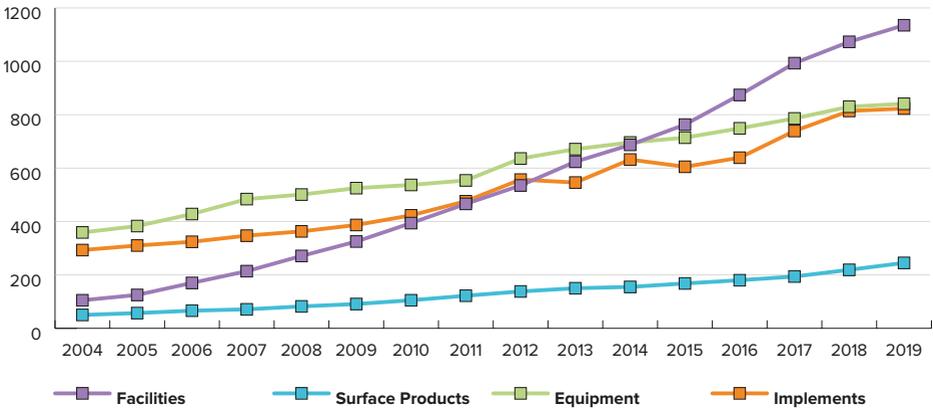
Chart 1: Number of certificates



Growing demand to support a growing sport

Since 2004, there has been a marked increase in the number of Certificates issued, with Asia achieving the biggest number of certified facilities and products.

Chart 2: How the System has grown



Types of Certification

There are two main types of Certification: Products, which includes implements, equipment and synthetic surfaces and Facilities, which includes tracks.

Products

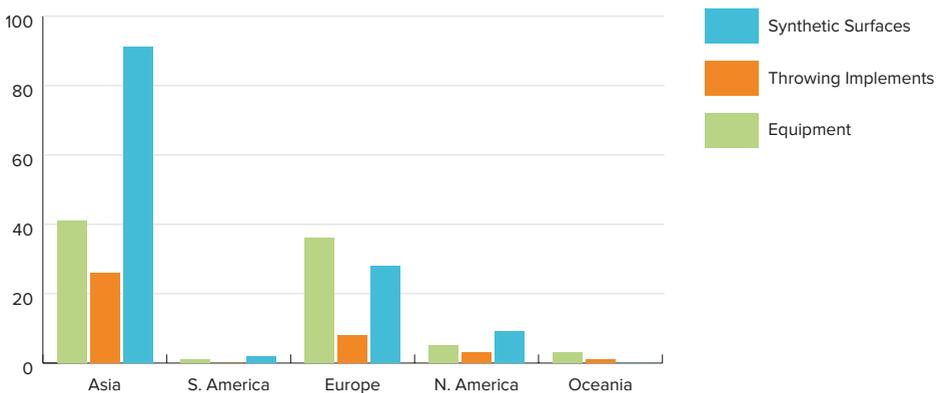
For implements, equipment and synthetic surfaces, the certification ensures products meet the technical requirements for use in all international athletics competitions.

Based on full technical documentation, equipment is checked for compliance before certification is granted to the supplier.

Even though equipment is certified, it is for the purchaser to determine the item's fitness for the purpose based on his knowledge of the local conditions and expected use.

There are manufacturers holding Product Certificates all over the world, Chart 3 shows the number of such manufacturers by Area.

Chart 3: Certified Product Manufacturers by Areas



Facilities (Tracks)

The Certification of the Facility guarantees the facility can be used to host international competitions and allows for globally comparable performances.

There are two types of certification for Tracks:

Class 2: Measurement survey to prove accuracy

Class 1: Measurement survey to prove accuracy and testing of the whole surface as laid to prove compliance with the performance requirements

For Class 1 Certificates, providers and installers of synthetic surfaces shall expect a strict quality control of the finished synthetic surface, providing confidence to the investors, owners and operators of the facility.

Rule 140 recommends Class 1 certification for all tracks for international competitions.

Changes to the Certification System from 2019

As at the 1 September 2019, there are 1082 Certified Outdoor Facilities with 589 of these over 5 years old.

Some of these facilities are not maintained properly or, in some cases, not well installed. The cheapest option is often preferred rather than a proper renovation, and the track can be damaged quickly.

As facilities deteriorate, the number of athletes using them declines, often resulting in other sports, such as football, coming in to make more use of the facility.

As the global governing body, we aim to ensure athletics is accessible to everyone, everywhere and need Member Federations and facility owners to ensure there is somewhere for these athletes to go.

Increased Quality Control

To ensure that the objectives of the certification system can still be fulfilled by Certified Tracks, quality control policy has been introduced in 2019.

- From 2019, certificates will have a limited 5-year validity
 - With an opportunity to extend for additional 3 years based on inspection report by surveyor

- All certificates issued before 2019 expire in 2023
- Facilities 8 or more years old will have to be completely re-certified from 2024
- Spot checks will be conducted to confirm condition of facility

Recommendations

From now on, maintaining the facility (and equipment) in good condition and working order will be key to ensuring validity of the certificate.

The following recommendations are made:

- On-going maintenance
 - Repair when required
 - Clean surfaces regularly as recommended by the installer
 - Ensure proper drainage of all event sites
- Develop a Plan
 - Check tracks regularly
 - Adjust planning of renewals to the validity of certificates
 - Plan usage of facilities for training and competitions according to the quality and suitability of the track
- Stakeholder Management
 - Cooperation with manufacturers, owners and governing bodies to develop and improve relationships that provides the best facilities for the athletes
- Innovation
 - Certification of temporary sites and facilities outside stadia

- Use social media to network with technical experts, member federations, manufacturers
- Commit to sustainable designs and more efficient use of resources

The Process

World Athletics is developing an online Technical and Certification Platform to be introduced in phases from 2020.

This will be used to manage the whole Certification System (applications, validation, certificates, etc.) The benefits and features will include:

- Full transparency of information
- Real-time information on certification matters
- Public access to the Certification System database to
 - search for Certified Products and corresponding manufacturers
 - find details of certified facilities through an interactive map and QR codes
 - leave and read reviews and comments on certified facilities
- Athletes' access to deliver "Personal Implement Passport": ability for athletes to register an implement they have bought
- Laboratories can register to receive certification
- Surveyors can register to be certified, after successfully completing the corresponding e-learning course

For more information: Please visit the technical area of our website or send your inquiries to technicalofficer@iaaf.org

