

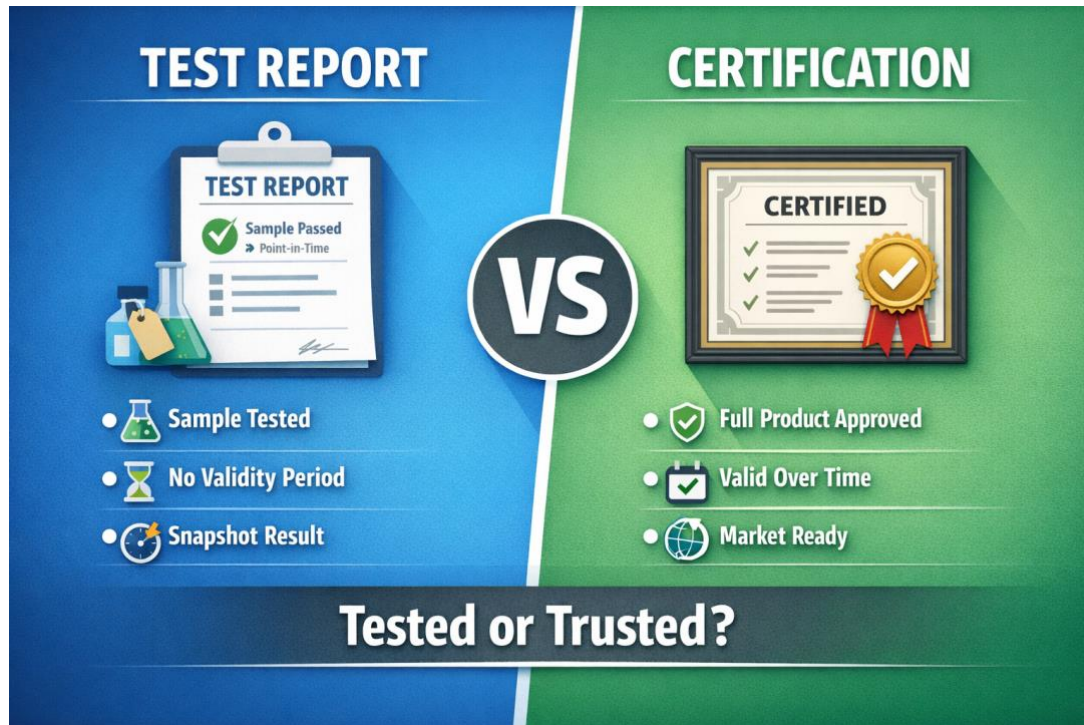


ARTICLE

Conformity Testing vs Certification: Understanding Scope,
Validity and Trust

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“We passed the tests... so we’re certified, right?”

This is one of the most common misunderstandings we see across **contactless, Public Transport, and digital identity ecosystems**. This is wrong. And it’s costing companies time, money... and market access.

The confusion usually comes from three key notions: **testing, certification... and validity** 🖱

🔍 **Conformity testing (ISO/IEC 17025)**

When your product is tested by an accredited laboratory, you receive a conformity test report.

It means:

- Specific samples of your product have been tested
- They conform to technical requirements or standards
- Results are objective, traceable, and reproducible

🖱 In simple terms:

“These samples passed the tests.”

⚠ Important limitations:

- The conclusion applies only to the tested samples
- The report is a snapshot at a given point in time

🕒 **What about validity?**

A test report:

- Has no formal validity period
- Reflects conformity at the time of testing only



- May become outdated if the product, specifications, or context evolve
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Certification (ISO/IEC 17065)

Certification bodies go one step further and issue a certificate.

They:

- Use test reports from accredited labs
- Evaluate the product as a whole (not just samples)
- Assess consistency and control (design, configuration, lifecycle, etc.)
- Apply scheme rules and governance

 In simple terms:

“This product is officially approved.”

What about validity?

- A certificate comes with a defined validity period
- It may require surveillance or re-certification
- It provides confidence over time, not just at one moment

The 3 key differences

Scope

Test report → Samples

Certificate → Product

Decision

Test report → Technical evidence

Certificate → Formal approval

Validity

Test report → No defined validity (point-in-time)

Certificate → Time-bound and maintained

Why this matters for your business ?

Stopping at the test report:

- You prove technical conformity on samples
- But you may still face questions, delays, or additional checks

Going to certification:

-  Your product is officially recognized
-  You gain trust from authorities and ecosystems
-  You accelerate market access
-  You reduce commercial and integration friction
-  You ensure confidence over time, not just at test execution

In practice

At ICUBE Testing Center, our test reports are used by certification bodies such as:

- **CNA-PayCERT** (Smart Ticketing Alliance, Calypso schemes)
- **PayCERT** (ICAO Doc 9303 scheme)
- **EMVCo** (global technical body managing interoperable specifications and product approval processes)



- 👉 We provide the technical evidence
- 👉 Certification bodies provide the formal recognition

🔗 This model is already well established in security evaluation schemes (e.g. Common Criteria), but it is still underused for functional certification, where it brings significant value.

🔗 At the European level, the direction is clear:

Regulation (EU) 2019/1157, together with implementing decisions such as **C(2018) 7767** and **C(2018) 7774**, establishes strong requirements for security and interoperability of identity documents — and explicitly requires the use of functional certificates to ensure trust and consistency across Member States.

⚠️ Yet, only a limited number of countries are fully embracing this approach today — notably Italy and Germany — while broader adoption across Europe would significantly improve interoperability and trust.

🤝 **A smooth path to certification**

Moving from testing to certification can seem complex — but it doesn't have to be.

👉 Since 2025, ICUBE Testing Center offers a dedicated certification support service, designed to:

- Guide you through scheme requirements
- Prepare the right evidence and documentation
- Ensure a smooth and efficient transition from testing to certification

✅ The result:

a seamless path to certification, with minimal effort on your side

This approach is already proving to be a real success with our clients.

💡 **A simple way to see it**

- The test report says: “It worked when tested.”
- The certificate says: “It is trusted to work and remain compliant over time.”

If your objective is not only to pass tests, but to deploy, scale, and gain trust in your ecosystem, certification is the natural next step.

Feel free to reach out if you want to move from tested samples to certified products — effortlessly.

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