Des process maîtrisés, des eaux de qualité

Controlled processes for water quality

International Agency for the Development of Water & Health Certifications

with the cooperation of the French Ministry for Health and international consumer representatives
Aquacert International brings the relevant parties together to define and oversee quality and sanitary safety certifications in the areas of:

- water for health
- water for leisure and well-being
- water for consumption

An internationally registered certification trademark

The Aquacert sign is recognised internationally by consumers, professionals, experts, researchers and by sanitary authorities.
Developing standards and certifications at an international level

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) brings together national associations
- Certification standards are used by private organizations which certify other organizations through the process of auditing.

We have identified a number of flaws in this system

- True reinforcement of the system is needed to ensure that consumers and regulatory bodies connect with both the standardization and certification processes (a permanent exchange forum)
- Certification is entrusted exclusively to private organizations
  - Sparse contact with regulatory bodies and consumer or client representatives
  - Lack of regulatory system, technical support, auditor training or qualification, scientific or technological monitoring services or regulation specific to the health and water industries
Aquacert’s Development
International Agency for the Development of Health and Water Certifications

- Founded in 2003 → Aquacert is a French certification mark for the hydrotherapy industry.

- In 2011 relevant parties declared their commitment → Aquacert becomes an international association bringing together representatives of those involved in the sectors of water for health, leisure and/or human consumption.

It is also a registered trademark associated with certification practices.
Members of Aquacert
International Agency for the Development of Health and Water Certifications

• The Aquacert agency allows representatives
  • of the French Ministry for Health,
  • consumer affairs French Ministry,
  • professionals,
  • consumers,
  • consultation, expertise and research agencies,
  • academic scientists, and more,
  to come together and discuss the topics of water for health, leisure and consumption, in a global context

• Aquacert also brings together the voluntary certification bodies and regulates their activity in health and water certification (training and technical support)
Aquacert’s Mission
International Agency for the Development of Health and Water Certifications

• Regulatory, scientific, technical and normative monitoring in each of these industry sectors
• Coordinating development committees for Aquacert standards drawing from work on standardization at national and international levels → the relevant parties for each sector are united in a collegiate structure
• Developing schemes for certification and the recognition of Aquacert standards (notably accreditation bodies)
• Updating standards and certification schemes
• Representing professional, regulatory and consumer interests at ISO or AFNOR standardization sessions (e.g. for France) for the health and water sectors
Aquacert’s Mission
International Agency for the Development of Health and Water Certifications

- Supporting and regulating the activities of certification organizations (scientific and technical committee, impartiality committee)
- Managing and acknowledging the skills of Aquacert-qualified auditors and consultants (continuation of existing “health and water” systems)
- Benchmarking the performance of certified organizations
- International promotion and communication with consumers

Aquacert International is a permanent exchange platform for those involved in health and water issues in different sectors
Advantages of Aquacert certification

- Certification specific to the health and water industry
- A sign that can be recognized by consumers and understood across much of the world, benefiting from the positive reputation of French health and water expertise
- Explicit commitments with more intelligible standards
- Involvement of national agencies for sanitary safety, scientists, experts, and regulatory bodies in the sectors concerned, all through Aquacert committees
- Equivalents available almost immediately for operators already committed to an ISO 22000 certification (drinking and health water)
- Authorities for evaluating the relevance of certification systems and the need for update, as well as the impartiality and skills of the certification organizations using these standards
- Managing a platform for permanent exchange and benchmarking for certified organizations
Advantages of Aquacert certification

Improved control for sanitary authorities, improved transparency for consumers, a clear and endorsed framework for all of the parties involved.

Aquacert undergoing developments in North Africa and South America, and similar undertakings with consumers and appropriate ministerial departments are therefore being explored.
INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT OF STANDARDIZATION AND CERTIFICATION

- ISO
- Organismes d'accréditation
- Normes
- Organismes de Certification
- Audits
- Utilisateurs eau & santé certifiés
- Consommateurs et leurs représentants
- Ministères compétents eau et santé
- Fédérations et Syndicats professionnels eau et santé
- Experts, scientifiques eau et santé
- Normalisation certification
- Enregistrement / qualification
- Auditeurs
- Consultants
- Risk assessment authorities
- NGO
- Standardization organization
- Professional organizations
- Appropriated ministerial departments for health & water

CROSS-SECTOR BODY SPECIALIZED IN HEALTH & WATER

AQUACERT'S INTERNATIONAL SCOPE OF INTERVENTION IN THE HEALTH & WATER SECTORS

ANSES, EFSA, FAO, Codex, IAF, IAS, IGS, CIF, COFRAC, FDA

ONG (OMS par ex, conseil mondial de l'eau)
Aquacert Hydrotherapy Certification Standards have been approved by all of the relevant bodies. To formalize this now incontrovertible document, Dr. Jean-Yves Grall, Health General Director, penned the preface which was subsequently co-signed by Thierry Dubois, President of CNETh (French national council for operatives in the hydrotherapy industry), Jean-Pierre Grouzard, President of the FFCM (French federation for medical hydrotherapy clients), and Dominique Berthelot, President of the French association for insured-party protection and medical hydrotherapy.

In his preface, Jean-Yves Grall reminds us that this “collegial undertaking, from 2010 to 2011, has led to the development of the present standards which will allow hydrotherapy establishments – at least those who wish to do so – to seek certification for their managerial systems for sanitary safety, providing they meet the required standards and, if necessary, in stages.”

He goes on to remind us that “this procedure ought to allow us to move towards improved internal structuring and external recognition of the hydrotherapy industry, and to reinforce the systems for monitoring and controlling sanitary risk so as to guarantee sanitary safety for all of the products, derivatives and thermal treatments that hydrotherapy clients will receive. It is now crucial that operatives in the hydrotherapy industry commit, in the case of those who have not yet done so, or otherwise continue to consolidate this quality improvement process”.

Avène, Vichy, Vittel, Dax, La Roche-posay and many others… have chosen Aquacert
Work in the Aquacert Spa Standards Development Committee will begin in March 2012.

Aquacert Spas

with the cooperation of the French Ministry for Health and international consumer representatives
The Aquacert Thalassotherapy Standards Development Committee is currently being put together.

Aquacert Thalassotherapy

with the cooperation of the French Ministry for Health and international consumer representatives.
The Aquacert Drinking Water Standards Development Committee is currently being put together.
Des process maîtrisés, des eaux de qualité