General Conditions
Homologation, Functional Safety & IT Security

I. GENERAL

1.1 All “Services” and all resulting contractual relationship(s) (hereinafter “Contractual Relationships”) between SGS Holding Deutschland B. V. & Co. KG and the affiliated national enterprises within the meaning of Sect. 15 ff. of the German Stock Corporation Act (Aktiengesetz – AktG) (hereinafter each “SGS”) and the client (hereinafter “Customer”) shall be governed by these general conditions (hereinafter the “General Conditions”). Any general conditions of the Customer shall not apply unless expressly agreed in writing.

1.2 SGS shall retain its property and intellectual property rights without limitation in relation to any estimate, drawing and other documents (hereinafter called “Documentation”). Documentation shall only be made available to third parties with the prior agreement of SGS and the Documentation shall be returned to SGS on demand in the event that an order is not placed. Sentences 1 and 2 shall apply accordingly to the Documentation of the Customer. However, such Documentation may be made available to any third party, which SGS has commissioned with the performance of the Services.

1.3 SGS may assign subcontracts to third parties.

1.4 The written form as agreed between the Customer and SGS for the preparation and transfer of documents within the scope of the contractual relationships (i.a. offer, acceptance, side agreement, addendum) is also met in case of electronic data transfer. Transfer via internet per unencrypted e-mail or other digital transmission technology (e.g. Customer’s interface, online portal etc.) or per fax is sufficient.

1.5 SGS may mention for purposes of reference the cooperation with the Customer. Within four (4) weeks after the conclusion of the contractual arrangement, the Customer may object to such use.

1.6 The Customer accepts that unencrypted messages sent via internet may – through or without intervention of third parties – be lost, modified or falsified. Conventional e-mails are not protected against any third party’s access, and SGS therefore assumes no responsibility for the confidentiality and the integrity of e-mails that have left SGS’s sphere of responsibility. SGS assumes no liability either for data security during the transmission via internet or for data security while in the Customer’s sphere of responsibility. Malware appearing in connection with the electronic transfer of data and resulting possible damage for the Customer are herewith likewise excluded.

II. SERVICES OF SGS

2.1 SGS shall provide the Services in accordance with the recognized rules of technology at the time the order is placed and the reasonable standards of care of the industry. Testing shall take place exclusively on the basis of the agreed guidelines. The Customer shall bear the risk in relation to the suitability of the results for any application in particular in relation to any applications other than those indicated in the test results.

2.2 SGS shall base the agreed tests and analyses on the devices under test and materials made available by the Customer. SGS may work on the basis that the samples made available are representative and authentic in relation to all relevant criteria (e.g. amount of functionality, characteristics). There shall be no duty on the part of SGS to verify such.

2.3 The Customer shall be liable for any damage resulting from the devices under test unless SGS is responsible for the cause of such damage.

2.4 In the event that with the agreement of the Customer SGS accepts the work results of third parties as a basis or component of its Services, SGS may use such results as the basis for its further Services without further verification unless the Customer specifically provides written order for SGS to test the accepted work results.

2.5 SGS shall provide its Services according to the law applicable at the place of providing Services. In all other respects SGS shall have discretion to determine the method of performing the Services.

2.6 Part performance shall be allowed insofar as such is reasonable for the Customer.

2.7 In the event of culpable breach of any consulting or other duty related to services SGS shall first of all be entitled to rectify such unless any such rectification would not be reasonable for the Customer.

2.8 The above provisions do not constitute a reversal of the burden of proof.

2.9 The signed test report (hereinafter: “Report of Findings”, manually or electronically signed) is the only legally binding document (see Clause 2.10).

2.10 SGS shall provide the Report of Findings according to the agreement with the Customer either/or in electronic form or in paper form.

In absence of an agreement, it will be in SGS’s sole discretion if it will deliver in electronic or paper form. The Report of Findings in paper form is an original.

If the Report of Findings will be transmitted in electronic form, it will be regarded as an original according to Art. 3 and 17 b UCP 600 (Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits, ICC 2007 Revision).

When transmitted in electronic form, SGS assumes no responsibility as to whether the electronic form will suffice the purposes of the Customer. When transmitted in electronic form, the Report of Findings will be presented in a digitally signed pdf format. The Customer may check the authentication within the document itself. If generated and provided via SGSonSITE, the authentication may be made via SGSonSITE.

The transfer of the electronic Report of Findings will take place via internet, per unencrypted e-mail or via other digital transmission technology (e.g. via Customer’s interface, online portal etc.) or per fax.
III. PRICES AND CONDITIONS OF PAYMENT

3.1 The price for Services shall be calculated according to the price list of SGS valid at the time of providing the Services. Payment (only non-cash to bank account specified in invoice) shall be due without any deduction within 14 days of the date of the receipt of the invoice. Other methods of fulfilment shall only be granted if they have been agreed in writing.

3.2 The Customer shall reimburse any expenses e.g. for telephone and costs of necessary travel and any necessary accommodation.

3.3 Cancellation fees shall be made if the Customer does not utilise services (e.g. of test facilities) during a time in which such are made available in terms of the contract and the Customer has not cancelled in due time. When the length of occupancy exceeds 5 work days, a written cancellation must be submitted at least 4 weeks prior to the beginning of occupancy. When the length of occupancy is smaller than or equal to 5 work days, a time limit of 2 weeks is sufficient.

3.4 SGS is entitled but also obliged to adjust the prices at its reasonable discretion in accordance with § 315 BGB (entitled to increase and obliged to decrease). The reason for such a price adjustment is exclusively a change in the costs which are decisive for the price calculation, in particular costs for energy (e.g. electricity, gas, fuels), wage and material costs, costs for necessary preliminary services for the performance of the service. SGS continuously monitors the corresponding development of these costs. Increases in one type of cost may only be used for a price increase to the extent that they are not offset by possible decreases in other areas. When exercising its reasonable discretion, SGS will choose the respective points in time of a price adjustment in such a way that cost reductions are not taken into account according to standards that are less favourable for the customer than cost increases. A price reduction will have an effect on the price to at least the same extent as cost increases. The customer has the right according to § 315 para. 3 BGB (German Civil Code) to have the exercise of SGS's equitable discretion reviewed, i.e. courts. A price reduction on the part of SGS is possible at any time, a price increase, on the other hand, will only become effective if SGS notifies the customer of the price adjustment in text form at least six weeks before the planned effective date. In this case, the customer has the right to terminate the contract without notice at the time the price adjustment takes effect. The customer will be informed of this separately by SGS in the price adjustment notification. If it becomes apparent during the term of the contract that customer information relevant to costs has changed / will change or that the actual circumstances at the customer's premises do not correspond to the information previously communicated to SGS, SGS may adjust the prices to the relevant changed circumstances at any time.

3.5 The Customer may calculate in any set off only those claims of the Customer which are undisputed or sanctioned by a final court judgement.

3.6 Any breach of duty by the Customer, in particular in relation to late payment, shall entitle SGS to cancel the Contract and recover its property subject to the expiry of a reasonable period of notice. The legal provisions as to the dispensability of a period of notice shall remain unaffected hereby. The Customer shall be obliged to make available the work results.

IV. DEADLINES FOR PROVIDING OF SERVICES; DELAY

4.1 Dates and deadlines for providing of Services are only binding if such are agreed to in writing. Compliance with such dates and deadlines by SGS is subject to the timely receipt of all devices under test to be provided by the Customer as well as Documentation and any necessary permit and approval, in particular for planning, and is also subject to compliance with the agreed payment conditions and other duties such as the duty to assist on the part of the Customer. In the event that such preconditions are not fulfilled on time and deadline shall be extended accordingly. This shall not apply if SGS is responsible for the delay.

4.2 SGS shall not be liable for impossibility of performance of the contract or for delay(s) in performance to the extent caused by force majeure or other events not foreseeable/avoidable at the time of conclusion of the contract (e.g. disruptions of operations of any kind, difficulties in procuring materials and/or energy, transport delays, strikes, lawful lock-outs, shortage of labour, shortage of energy (e.g. gas shortage) or raw materials, difficulties in obtaining necessary official permits, pandemics (e.g. Corona) or epidemics, official measures or the incorrect delivery or late delivery by suppliers despite a congruent hedging transaction concluded by SGS (if possible)) for which SGS is not responsible. SGS shall notify the customer thereof without undue delay. As soon as the impediments circumstances cease to exist, SGS shall notify the customer accordingly and resume the performance of the service without undue delay. If such aforementioned events make it substantially more difficult or impossible for SGS to perform the service and the impediment is not only of a temporary nature or the duration of the impediment exceeds 3 months, SGS is entitled at its own discretion to withdraw from the contract or to terminate it in whole or in part. If an aforementioned impediment is of temporary duration, the deadlines for the performance of the service(s) shall be extended or, in case of doubt, the performance dates shall be postponed by at least the duration of the impediment plus a reasonable restart period (e.g. after interruption of the gas supply). In the event of termination, the customer shall pay SGS for the services rendered up to the termination of the contract on a pro rata basis; otherwise SGS's claim to remuneration shall lapse. The customer shall not be entitled to any further claims for performance or damages in the event that SGS is prevented from performing in connection with the events referred to above.

4.3 In the event that SGS is delayed the Customer may demand damages for each completed week of delay at the rate of 0.5 % (but not exceeding in total more than 5 %) of the net price of the part of the Services in delay, provided that the Customer shall provide prima facie evidence of damage.

4.4 Any claims for damages by the Customer due to delay in Services as well as claims for damages instead of Services are excluded in all cases of delayed performance even after the expiry of any period of notice required. This shall not apply in cases of willful acts, gross negligence or cases involving injury to life, personal injury or injury to health for which liability is mandatory. The Customer may only cancel the Contract in terms of the law insofar as the delay in the performance is the fault of the Supplier. The above provisions do not constitute a
5.4 The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle any dispute arising from or connected with the Services. This shall also apply after the ending of the Contract. Disputes shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the rules of the Arbitration Institute of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the city of the state where the place of manufacture of the Services is located. The arbitration award shall be final and binding on both parties. The arbitral proceedings shall be in writing. The language of the arbitration proceedings shall be English. The costs of the arbitration proceedings shall be borne by the party败诉一方. The arbitration award shall be final and binding on both parties. The arbitral proceedings shall be in writing. The language of the arbitration proceedings shall be English. The costs of the arbitration proceedings shall be borne by the party败诉一方.

VI. TRANSFER OF RISK

The Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure that the risk of loss or damage to the Services shall be transferred from the Customer to SGS at the time and place specified in the Contract. If the risk of loss or damage to the Services is not transferred from the Customer to SGS, the Customer shall be liable for any loss or damage to the Services that occurs after the risk is transferred to SGS. The Customer shall be responsible for ensuring that the Services are properly packed, labeled, and prepared for transport.

VII. DUTY OF CUSTOMER TO ASSIST

6.1 The Customer shall assist SGS in the performance of the Services to a reasonable extent. The Customer shall provide SGS with all necessary information and materials related to the Services.

8.1 The know-how of SGS as well as all other commercial and operational secrets of SGS including the contents of contracts with the Customer (hereinafter called "Information") shall be treated as confidential by the Customer. The Customer shall take all necessary measures to protect the information from unauthorised access, unauthorised disclosure, copying, transmission as well as any other unauthorised use. Such shall not apply to Information that was already available or in relation to which the Customer can prove that after transmission it became generally available. Any further provisions of law shall not be affected hereby.

9.1 SGS shall grant to the Customer upon payment in full a non-exclusive, non-transferable right to use the work results derived from the Services by SGS as well as the related documentation made available to the Customer including software (collectively called “Work Results”) for the agreed contractual purpose or in accordance with the aim of the Contract. This shall also apply insofar as the Work Results are protected or are capable of being protected and shall include any confidential know how contained therein.

9.2 The Customer shall obtain the right to copy the Work Results including software made available for internal operational purposes. For such copying intellectual property and protection marks shall not be removed. Any granting of sublicenses requires the prior written approval of SGS.

9.3 Test reports, expert opinions and certificates including any related attachments thereto shall only be published in a complete form with details of the date of issue. Any part release of Work Results shall only be permitted with the written approval of the issuer.
X. LIABILITY FOR DEFECTS AS TO QUALITY ("SACHMÄNGEL") FOR WORK SERVICES

For defects as to quality SGS shall be liable as follows:

10.1 Any Services showing a defect within the period of limitation, without consideration of the period of operation, shall, at the discretion of SGS be rectified, replaced or performed again provided that the cause of the defect had already existed at the time of the transfer of risk.

10.2 Claims for defects as to quality are subject to a limitation period of 12 months. This provision shall not apply where longer periods are prescribed by law according to Sec. 438 para. 1 No. 2 (buildings and things used for a building), Sec. 445b para. 1 (right of recourse), and Sec. 634a para. 1 No. 2 (defects of a building) German Civil Code ("BGB"), as well as in cases of injury of life, body or health, or where SGS intentionally or grossly negligently fails to fulfill its obligation or fraudulently conceals a Defect. The legal provisions regarding suspension of expiration ("Ablaufhemmung"), suspension ("Hemmung") and recommencement of limitation periods remain unaffected.

10.3 The Customer shall notify SGS in writing without delay as to any defect.

10.4 In case of notification of defect the Customer may retain payments in reasonable proportion to the detected defect. The Customer may only retain payments if no doubt exists as to the justification for the notification of defect. In the event that such notification is incorrect SGS may require the Customer to pay any related expenses.

10.5 SGS shall first be given the opportunity to supplement its performance ("Nacherfüllung") within a reasonable period of time.

10.6 In the event that such supplement performance is not successful the Customer may, regardless of any Rights to Damages in accordance with Article XII, cancel the Contract or reduce payment.

10.7 Rights to claim in relation to defects shall not exist in cases of minor variations from the agreed quality, or in cases of minor limitations of use, in cases of natural wear and tear or for damage resulting from incorrect or negligent use after the transfer of risk, for excessive use, for unsuitable operation methods or defective construction work, for unsuitable construction, land or for any circumstances resulting from external influence which were not foreseen in the Contract as well as in cases of non-reproducible software defects.

10.8 Any claims by the Customer based on expenses related to supplementary performance, including costs of transport, travel, work and material costs are hereby excluded insofar as the expenses increased because the subject matter of the Services was later transported to a different place than the branch office of the Customer unless such transportation is in accordance with the use as intended.

10.9 Notices of defect in accordance with §§ 377, 381 II of the Commercial Code (HGB) shall be in writing.

10.10 Any further rights of the Customer other than those detailed in Article IX based on any area of law whatsoever and in relation to the Supplier or its agents on the basis of defects are hereby excluded except for those related to circumstances involving wilful acts or gross negligence in relation to a breach of duty or injury to life, personal injury or injury to health or a warranty as to the non-existence of defects. The above provisions do not constitute a change in the disadvantage of the Customer.

XI. INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS; DEFECTS OF TITLE

11.1 Unless otherwise agreed SGS shall provide the Services in the country of the place of the Services free from any industrial property rights and intellectual property rights of third parties (hereinafter called Property Rights). Insofar as any third party makes a valid claim against the Customer on the basis of an infringement of Property Rights for Services provided by the Supplier, SGS shall be liable to the Customer within the limitation period named in Article X No. 9.2 as follows:

a) At its choice SGS may either obtain at its own cost the right of use for the respective Services or so change such Services so that the Property Rights are not infringed or SGS may provide replacement. If such is not possible under reasonable conditions the Customer may utilise its legal rights to cancel the Contract or reduce the price.

b) The above duties of SGS are subject to the Customer having notified SGS of the claim by the third party in writing and without delay, the Customer having not admitted any infringements and SGS retaining all rights to arrange a defence and negotiate the settlement. If the Customer stops the use of the Services for reasons of mitigation of loss or for other important reasons the Customer shall be obliged to inform the third party that the ending of use does not constitute acknowledgement of any infringement of Property Rights.

11.2 Any rights and claims of the Customer are excluded insofar as the Customer is responsible for the infringement of Property Rights.

11.3 Any rights or claims of the Customer are also excluded insofar as the infringement of Property Rights results from special requirements of the Customer, from use not foreseeable by the Supplier or if the infringement of Property Rights results from any changes to the Services by the Customer or the utilisation in connection with products not provided by the Supplier.

11.4 In case of infringement of Property Rights the claims of the Customer allowed in 10.1 a) shall apply as well as the provisions of Article X No. 9.4 and 9.5 accordingly.

11.5 In case of defects as to title the provisions of Article X shall apply accordingly.

11.6 Any further rights of the ordering party other than those detailed in this article based on any area of law whatsoever and in relation to the Supplier or its agents on the basis of defects are hereby excluded except for those related to circumstances involving wilful acts or gross negligence in relation to a breach of duty or injury to life, personal injury or injury to health or a warranty as to the non-existence of defects. The above provisions do not constitute a change in the burden of proof to the disadvantage of the ordering party.
XII. LIABILITY OF SGS

12.1 SGS as a company is neither an insurer nor a guarantor and declines to assume any responsibility in connection therewith. Test reports are prepared on the basis of the information, documents and/or samples provided by or on behalf of the customer and are for the exclusive benefit of the customer. The Customer shall be responsible for drawing the necessary conclusions therefrom. Neither the Company nor its officers, employees or subcontractors shall be liable to the Customer or any third party for any action taken or not taken on the basis of such inspection reports. Likewise, no liability shall exist if the inspections are based on unclear, incorrect, incomplete or misleading information provided by the Customer.

12.2 The Company shall not be liable for delayed, partial or complete non-performance of services if this results directly or indirectly from events beyond the Company's control (e.g. in the event of a breach of the Customer's obligations specified in Section 4 of these GTC or in cases of force majeure). The Company shall be liable, subject to limitation to the foreseeable damage typical for the contract, for damages arising from a breach of material contractual obligations due to simple negligence; material contractual obligations are those whose performance characterizes the contract and on which the Customer may rely. The liability of the Company due to simple negligence in the case of breach of non-essential contractual obligations is excluded.

12.3 However, the liability of the Company pursuant to (c) above shall be limited to the typical and reasonably foreseeable damage resulting from transactions of this specific contractual type per damaging event to an amount of EUR 300,000 and per contractual year cumulative to an amount of EUR 1,000,000. The Company shall only be liable for indirect or consequential damage if and to the extent that such damage is typical for the contract and was foreseeable at the time of conclusion of the contract.

12.4 The limitations of liability in this clause 12 shall not apply to damages insofar as they are based on gross negligence or intent, or in cases of mandatory statutory liability (in particular under the Product Liability Act). The same applies to damages resulting from injury to life, body or health if the Company is responsible for the breach of duty.

12.5 The above provisions do not constitute a change in the burden of proof to the disadvantage of the ordering party.

XIII. PLACE OF JURISDICTION AND APPLICABLE LAW

All disputes arising out of or in connection with the contractual relationships hereunder shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the substantive laws of Germany exclusive of any rules under international private law. The exclusive place of jurisdiction for all these disputes shall be the registered office of SGS. SGS is, however, also entitled to sue the Customer at Customer's place of general jurisdiction.

XIV. VALIDITY OF CONTRACT

This Contract shall continue to be binding in the event that individual provisions become ineffective. Such shall not apply if compliance with the Contract would result in unreasonable hardship for a Party.

XV. MISCELLANEOUS

The customer agrees that SGS may also contact him, in particular to inform him of any new developments and products/services from SGS that may be of interest to him or to obtain feedback on the execution of the contract and existing products/services from SGS, this consent can be revoked at any time for the future.

SGS IS THE WORLD'S LEADING TESTING, INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION COMPANY.