

# The IECEE Factory Surveillance Service (FSS)

**One factory surveillance/inspection report accepted worldwide**

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## In general...

The IECEE<sup>1</sup> is a Conformity Assessment System of the IEC, which operates the very successful Certification Body Scheme (IECEE CB Scheme) for international test certification of electrical products.

Further to the well-established service with testing and issuing of Certification Body Test Certificates/Reports (CBTCs/TRs) for the products, the IECEE has now also launched a Factory Surveillance Service (FSS).

The factory surveillance (sometimes denoted 'factory inspection') entails an initial visit and/or periodical follow-up visits to the manufacturer's factory(ies), to check that a particular type of product or products is being manufactured in accordance with applicable terms and requirements. The basic objective is to ensure compliance with the IEC International Standard(s) to which the products have been type tested. The FSS is offered as a fully self-standing service, or may be supplementary to the type testing and issuing of CBTC/TR, or may be associated with the CB Full Certification Scheme (CB FCS), where surveillance of the production of a CB-FCS-certified product is obligatory (as being a product certification system Type 5 according to the International Standard ISO/IEC 17067).



In all cases, the main advantage of the FSS is possible avoidance (and at least reduction) of multiple factory surveillance/inspection visits by different bodies having certified the product(s) and/or other parties, such as surveillance authorities, inspectors from buyers of the products etc.

The majority of National Certification Bodies (NCBs) within the IECEE CB Scheme will accept FSS reports for their own certification purposes.

## More specifically...

- The FSS is a worldwide service under control of the IECEE.
- The task of the FSS is to visit and evaluate a factory regarding its production methods and facilities, including measures for achieving quality, reliability and consistency of the manufactured products.

- The FSS may be done only once for getting a picture of the current production status.
- The FSS may be done periodically for getting ongoing information about production status.
- FSS rules and procedures are publically available on the IECEE website [www.iecee.org](http://www.iecee.org).

## Who can provide the IECEE FSS?

The FSS can be provided only by IECEE-recognized Factory Surveillance Bodies (FSBs).

The recognition relies on successful assessment of the applicant body in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures of the IECEE CB Scheme. A recognized FSB is either a part of or associated with an accepted NCB.

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<sup>1</sup> The IECEE is a multilateral certification system based on International Standards prepared by the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The IEC uses the acronym IECEE for its System for Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components.

### What is the outcome of FSS?

The result of FSS is a detailed Factory Surveillance Report (FSR) about a factory visit, whether being an initial or periodical visit. The FSR has a standardized format, which can be seen at [www.iecee.org](http://www.iecee.org) in the Operational Documents 4001 series.

### Use of a FSR

A positive FSR may be used for:

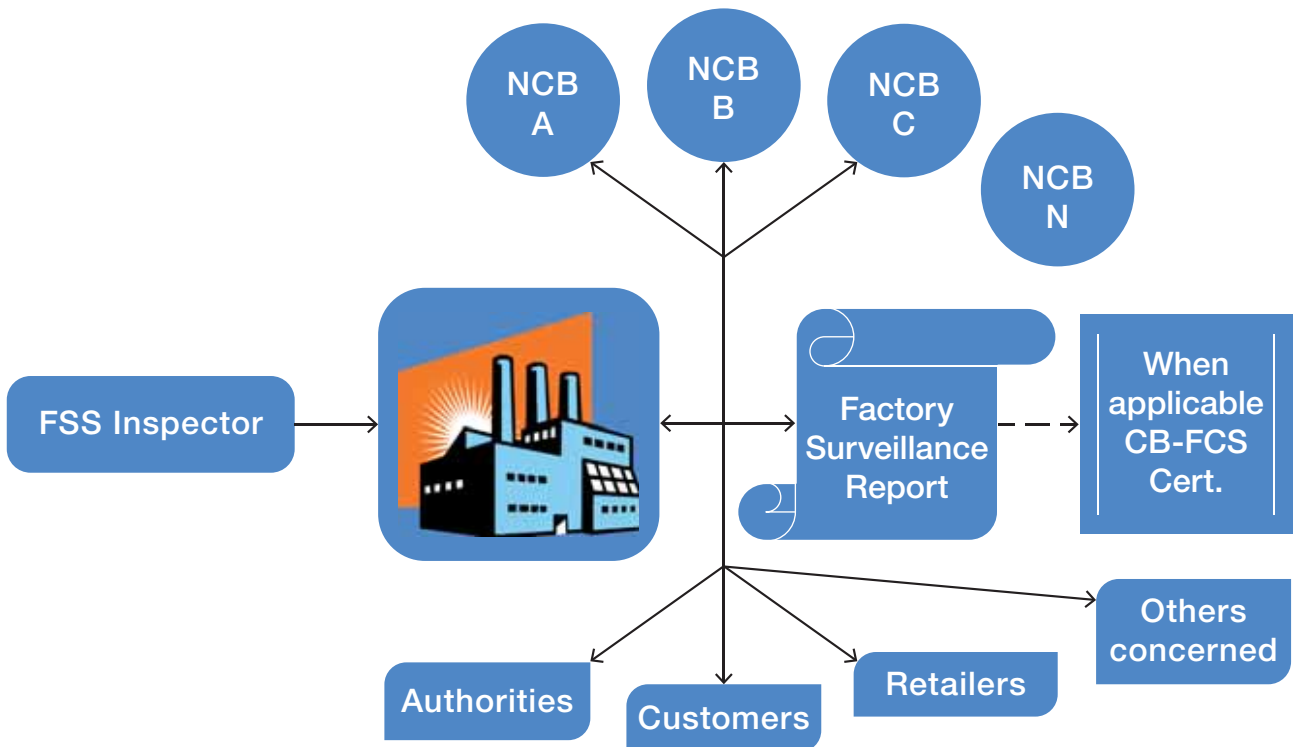
- presentation to other NCBs for their issuance or maintenance of certification of the concerned product(s)
- presentation to authorities asking for factory surveillance to obtain permission for importing goods
- presentation to customers as evidence of controlled and monitored production
- evidence about production line tests in case of complaints and claims

### Other benefits of the FSS

- Due to a worldwide presence of the IEC NCBs and related FSBs, the FSS can be provided by personnel stationed near the factory location.
- The requirements for the factories are publically accessible on the IECEE website, [www.iecee.org](http://www.iecee.org) in the Operational Documents 4003 series.
- The criteria for FSS are fixed and documented in procedures of the Operational Documents 4000 series as available on the IECEE website.
- For multiple certification marks on one product from different member NCBs, only one FSR from one participating certification body is sufficient.

### Why apply for FSB recognition?

- The worldwide demand for product certification is growing and consequently the need for a Factory Surveillance Service (FSS).
- Manufacturers often have to deal with multiple factory surveillance visits from different certification bodies for the same location and based on the same requirements. Significant costs may be saved when multiple visits are coordinated and merged to one visit accepted by the multiple certification bodies involved.
- The principal goal of the FSS is one visit and one FSR which is accepted by all parties concerned.





IEC System of Conformity  
Assessment Schemes  
for Electrotechnical Equipment  
and Components



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