

NFC Forum Certification Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NFC Forum Certification Program?

What is the purpose of the Certification Program?

The NFC Forum Certification Program provides consistency in the behavior of NFC devices by confirming that products conform to the NFC Forum specifications. It offers increased assurance that NFC-Forum-certified products will be interoperable with other NFC-Forum-certified devices.

When does the Certification Program start and what are the costs?

The 1st Certification Wave, open to NFC Forum members only, began in December 2010. The 2nd Certification Wave is scheduled to launch in 2012. You can find membership information and a list of fees for the 1st Certification Wave on the NFC Forum website (<http://www.nfc-forum.org/certification/>).

Does certification mean that all NFC-enabled devices will work together?

A certified device must comply with NFC Forum specifications, which ensures a level of interoperability among devices. The NFC Forum is not requiring interoperability testing at this point because it would be almost impossible with the anticipated number of devices and use cases worldwide. The NFC Forum encourages you to test your products for interoperability by participating in NFC Forum Plugfests.

Why Should We Certify Our Company's NFC Products?

What benefits will my company get from certification?

Benefits of product certification include:

- Listing your product on the certified product register on the public NFC Forum website
- Increased assurance that your product will interoperate with other NFC-Forum-certified devices
- Increased possibility that other NFC ecosystem players may put applications on your device
- Ability to display the NFC Forum Certification Mark on your website, sales material, and packaging
- Attracting customers who prefer to purchase a certified product over a non-certified product
- Differentiates your products from uncertified products, offering a potential commercial advantage

Do we have to certify our company's products?

Certification is optional, but you cannot claim that a product is NFC-Forum-compliant if you do not complete certification for that product. The NFC Forum strongly recommends that every NFC product go through certification testing because the Certification Program certifies products, not companies.

How will customers know that my company has certified products?

Certified products may use the NFC Forum Certification Mark on product packaging, instructional materials, and websites.

Plugfests

Are we required to attend Plugfests? How often will there be Plugfests?

The NFC Forum holds Plugfests several times each year. Members can find Plugfest dates on the NFC Forum member website. At this time, Plugfests are optional. The NFC Forum recommends that you attend Plugfests to test the interoperability of your product with other NFC devices.

What's Included in the Certification Program?

What's in the 1st Wave of the Certification Program? What's in the 2nd Wave?

The 1st Certification Wave includes testing for the lower level digital protocols, specifically tag operations, digital protocol, and activity specifications. The 2nd Certification Wave, scheduled for 2012, adds testing for the physical layer and selected upper level digital protocols, including RF analog and peer-to-peer. RF testing is being launched in the 2nd Wave to expedite launch of the program.

If your device is certified during the 1st Wave, you do not have to certify it again in the 2nd Wave. You will be required to sign a statement as part of the 1st Wave certification confirming that your product conforms with all existing (applicable) NFC Forum specifications required for device certification.

Who can certify a product during the 1st Wave of the Certification Program?

As of now, only NFC Forum members can certify products. We are offering existing and new members the opportunity to have the first NFC-Forum-Certified products. The NFC Forum has a lower-cost Implementer membership level for companies that plan to implement the standards and certify products.

Do tags have to be certified?

Tags do not have to be certified. The NFC Forum has mandated four tag types that can be used with NFC devices. This is key to interoperability between NFC tags and NFC devices. Tag providers may also get a free license (<http://www.nfc-forum.org/N-Mark>) to use the N-Mark today with these tags. The N-Mark Brand Guide is bundled with the license .

What does certification cost?

You can find the fees for the 1st Wave of the Certification Program on the NFC Forum website (<http://www.nfc-forum.org/certification/>).

Authorized Test Laboratories

Are there NFC Forum authorized test laboratories? Can my company get on the list?

Authorized test laboratories are listed on the NFC Forum Certification Program website (http://www.nfc-forum.org/certification/test_labs/), along with instructions for applying to be an authorized test laboratory.

What Does the Certification Mark Mean?

What does the Certification Mark mean?

The Certification Mark means that a product has passed NFC Forum certification. After your product is certified, the NFC Forum Certification Mark can be used at your discretion on product packaging, websites, sales materials, manuals, etc. to add credibility to your product.

What mark can I show on the device itself?

The N-Mark may be placed on a device as the touchpoint to indicate where users should touch for NFC services. The NFC Forum Certification Mark is not intended for use on the device.