



SAFETY EQUIPMENT RE-HOMOLOGATION PROCESS – clarification note

1. Foreword

The homologation of a manufacturer's product requires the manufacturer to undertake not to modify the design, materials and fundamental method of production of the homologated product. Over the years, manufacturers often experience changes in organisation, production process and material suppliers that could potentially alter their products. It is necessary that the manufacturers define internal quality controls in order to ensure that the homologated product's stability is guaranteed.

For this reason, in 2012, the homologation validity was limited to five years in the FIA homologation regulations for safety equipment, available at <https://www.fia.com/regulation/category/762>. A homologation is valid only for five years; after that, manufacturers need to re-submit the homologation for assessment and obtain a re-homologation if they meet the established criteria.

2. Time frame for re-homologation requests

All homologations expire at the end of the calendar month, five years after the approval. Manufacturers are not authorised to manufacture the products after the expiration date unless they are granted a re-homologation.

The re-homologation shall be approved before the expiration date.

In order to get a product re-homologated, the ASN shall send the FIA a re-homologation application template (available upon request) on behalf of the manufacturer, together with a complete dossier with the information requested. An explanation of the information that is necessary to provide is included in section 5.1 of this document.

The FIA starts admitting re-homologation requests six months before the expiration date of the homologation. The FIA strongly recommends submitting the re-homologation requests as soon as it is possible to do so, in order to avoid any delay should additional information be required by the FIA, such as additional tests, additional documentation, or even the possibility of an audit.

Exceptionally, re-homologation requests will be admitted after the expiration date, but a penalty will apply. However, the limit for the extended period for the review and approval process will still be six months after the expiration date, and no approval will be issued beyond six months after the expiration date.

Example Homologation approved in August 2014

- Expiration date: 31.08.2019
- Re-homologation period: from 01.03.2019 to 31.08.2019
- Extended period (penalty applies): from 01.09.2019 to 29.02.2020

A manufacturer can request with a single dossier the re-homologation of all the



products of the same type, the homologations of which expire in the same calendar year.

3. Re-homologation of rebranded products

Those homologations that were approved based on a rebranding agreement are also affected by the re-homologation process.

Rebranded products obtain their homologation through a commercial agreement between a rebranding distributor and the manufacturer of an already homologated product. The rebranded product homologation is based on the original homologation (base homologation) and entirely linked to it.

The manufacturer of the base homologation is the only one authorised to produce the product and therefore the validity of the rebranded product homologation is dependent on the validity of the base homologation. This fact affects the re-homologation process of the rebranded products.

3.1 Homologation expiry date for rebranded products

The rebranded product homologations expire at the same time as the base homologation. Re-homologation must be granted before that date in order for the manufacturer to continue producing the products under the rebranded name.

3.2 Documentation required to request the re-homologation of a rebranded product

In order for a re-homologation of a rebranded product to be granted, the rebranding distributor will need to send its ASN a re-homologation application form (template available upon request), together with an original letter signed by the manufacturer and the rebranding distributor indicating that they both agree to continue with the product's rebranding agreement.

4. Costs

The re-homologation costs are approved during the FIA Annual General Assembly, and are available to ASNs upon request.

If the re-homologation has been requested after the expiration date, a penalty will apply. In this case, the fee will be double the normal re-homologation fee. For re-homologation requests arriving within the re-homologation period and which are complete, even if the approval is finalised after the expiration date, the FIA will not apply any penalty).

4.1 Costs for rebranded products

Since the homologation of the rebranded product expires at the same time as the base homologation, it could be possible that the rebranding distributor may need to request the first re-homologation in a period much shorter than the standard five



years. For this reason, the fees for the re-homologation of rebranded products are:

- First re-homologation requested for a rebranded product:
 - If the initial rebranding agreement is less than 2.5 years old, the re-homologation is free of charge.
 - If the initial rebranding agreement is more than 2.5 years old, the re-homologation is charged at the standard fee.
- Once the rebranded product homologation has already been re-homologated once, the subsequent re-homologations are charged at the standard fee.

5. Approval Criteria

The re-homologation assessment will be based on the manufacturer's declaration of its quality control (QC) system (option 1 below). An alternative process will be available for those manufacturers that do not have a quality control system in place capable of fulfilling option 1 below, based on a new complete set of homologation tests at an FIA-approved test house (option 2 below). The manufacturers will need to choose between one of the two following options:

5.1 *Option 1: Re-homologation based on manufacturer QC system*

In case the manufacturer chooses this option, it will need to send its ASN a re-homologation application form (template available upon request), together with a declaration and explanation of their internal quality control system using the templates provided by the FIA.

The FIA, jointly with a group of representative manufacturers and ASNs, has defined the minimum quality control requirements for each standard and each type of product. Those minimum requirements and the templates for the declaration and explanation of the internal quality control are included in the documents entitled MINIMUM QC REQUIREMENTS FOR RE-HOMOLOGATION PROCESS, available on the FIA web site <https://www.fia.com/regulation/category/762>

5.2 *Option 2: Re-homologation based on new test report*

In the event that the manufacturer does not has a QC system in place capable of fulfilling option 1 below, the manufacturer can choose this option and will be able to request a re-homologation by submitting the re-homologation application form (template available upon request) together with a new complete homologation test report from an FIA-approved test house.

The declaration and explanation of internal quality control is not necessary in this case.