

# HMTc: finished-product certification

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## Give the finished-product claim a defined basis

Heavy Metal Tested & Certified, or HMTc, addresses finished-product certification against published numeric standards. This site is the route to the standards register, an application for certification, and verification of the certification record behind a mark claim.

Having a test report is not the same as having a settled purchasing decision. Having a qualified ingredient lot is not the same as having a certified finished product. Having certification is not the same as having authorization to use a mark.

Those distinctions matter wherever a brand, retailer, or consumer is asked to rely on a finished-product claim. The public statement should mean what the certification supports. It should stay within the scope of the finished-product determination.

## Published numeric standards come first

HMTc directs attention to certification against published numeric standards rather than an undefined statement that a product was “tested.” Its role is certification of the finished product, not merely confirmation that a laboratory report exists.

A certification claim needs the certification basis appropriate to that claim. The requirement needs to be identified, the supporting evidence needs to be checkable, and numeric claims need to remain within their supported scope.

The relevant distinction is the scope of the finished-product certification. It is not a general claim that metals are absent or that every possible product question has been answered. Read the [standards register](#) to identify the finished-product requirement before considering the public claim.

## Distinguish evidence, qualification, and certification

TECRID addresses the laboratory-evidence question. A result can be checked to its issuing laboratory, structured measurands, version history, and current status. TECRID does not certify products, prove representative sampling, or replace ISO 17025.

VLE addresses a bounded ingredient or product quantity against a frozen Compliance Profile. Nomination, a frozen profile, sampling, and TECRID-backed evidence precede a QUALIFIED decision. That decision applies only to the bounded quantity and profile before reservation or trade.

An authenticated result is not HMTc certification. A QUALIFIED ingredient lot is not HMTc certification. Neither should be presented as a substitute for the finished-product determination. Qualification should not become a finished-product claim merely because the ingredient was purchased through VLE.

HMI supplies public knowledge and standards context through DOI pathways, government floors, and occurrence evidence. Public evidence about a food category helps explain the basis for a requirement, but it cannot establish that a particular quantity satisfies it.

## Certification and mark authorization are separate

A certification decision must not be treated as automatic permission to display the mark. Certification and mark authorization are separate decisions, and the distinction should remain visible wherever the claim appears.

A brand may use authenticated evidence to assess an ingredient lot. The finished-product certification question still needs its own determination, and use of the mark still needs its own authorization. These boundaries prevent a narrow, supportable statement from becoming a broader, unsupported one.

Use the [verification route](#) when reviewing the certification record behind a claim. Use the [application route](#) when seeking finished-product certification against the published standards.

## Make the distinction useful to each reader

For brands, the distinction separates evidence used to buy an ingredient from evidence supporting a finished-product claim. Ingredient uncertainty can be addressed earlier without treating the purchasing decision as the certification decision.

For retailers and buyers, the relevant questions become explicit: which product or lot, which requirements, which evidence version, and which current status? HMTc addresses finished-product certification where that is the claim under review.

For laboratories, the issued result stays distinct from claims made about a product. For insurers, brokers, and counsel, authenticated evidence, bounded qualification, certification, and mark authorization provide distinct facts to examine. They do not determine insurance terms or legal outcomes.

For consumers, the task is to understand what the finished-product claim actually means. Published numeric standards give that claim a defined basis beyond the statement that testing occurred.

## Follow the decision you need to make

Freeze the decision basis. Establish checkable evidence. Keep numeric claims within their supported scope. Address mark authorization and marketing afterward.

Start with the [HMTc standards](#), [apply for finished-product certification](#), or [verify a certificate and mark claim](#). The [ecosystem overview](#) explains the separate jobs of the connected units.

HMTc program operator: Paleo Certified Inc.